

Geology of Iowa
“Rockin’ Rock Cycle Role-play”

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Schools: Lowell Elementary/Kingsley Elementary
Subject: K-5 Gifted and Talented
Grades: Lesson for grades 4-5
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This project will be part of a unit. The unit will begin with a pre-assessment of the rock cycle. Based on pre-assessment results, students will explore both the rock cycle as well as the three major types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.

A. Project Description

Students will act out the rock cycle using only their bodies.

B. Objective/Goal

Students will be able to recall the different steps of the rock cycle and be able to explain how rocks move between each stage.

C. Project Description

Students will be asked to work together and use their bodies to act out the various stages of the rock cycle. *(I work with small groups of students – no more than 10 students at a time – so one class of students will work together.)*

No props will be able to be used, so all movement and rock material must be created using the students’ bodies.

Students will be given a worksheet of the rock cycle to aide them in their creation of their rock cycle performance.

Students must include each stage of the rock cycle in their performance.

Students must keep in mind that not all rocks at each stage will make it onto the next stage right away, and that some rocks will make it to different stages multiple times.

D. Assessments

Pre-Assessment: Students will be tested on their current knowledge of the rock cycle and its stages.

Formative Assessment: Students will be informally assessed during their creation of their performance of the rock cycle based on participation and accuracy of the cycle.

Post-Assessment: Students will be assessed on the accuracy of their performance and how well they worked together with their group. Students will be given a written test over the rock cycle at the completion of this unit.