

Mary Ann Ruden
Hinton High School
Hinton, IA
Geology of Iowa Workshop

a) DESCRIPTION: During this Geology of Iowa course I hope to create a collection of fossils found in Iowa for use in my freshman earth science class.

b) OBJECTIVE: My goal in creating the collection is to help both myself and my students recognize different fossil groups. I also want them to recognize the prevalence of these fossils in parts of Iowa.

c) IMPLEMENTATION: During the unit on Geologic Time, my students study the diversity of life forms present during the different eras. This particular project will focus on the Devonian Period in the Paleozoic Era. The fossils I have collected will be used - hopefully in conjunction with other fossils I can acquire - to create a collection for students to pick from. Each student will select 4 different fossils and create a "trading card" for it. The "vital stats" on the trading card would include:

name (include common name and scientific name if possible)

picture

age range of specimen

characteristic features

where on earth it lived

living conditions

favorites (food, other organisms it lived with)

earth process that preserved it

So far I have the following fossils - corals (favosites, hexagonaria, horn), stromatoporoids, brachiopods, crinoid parts, gastropods, and branching bryozoans. I would like to find a representation (either true fossil or cast of one) of a few species of trilobites also.

Once the kids have created the trading cards, I am considering putting them (or have students work on this also☺) into their respective groups, then hanging them up in a type of timeline around my room. I have these same students the following year in biology, so I may pull these back out when we look at evolutionary trends.

D) EVALUATION: The students' work will be graded on the quantity of criteria met, the quality of the work, and use of classroom time. All this will need to be laid out in more detail in a rubric.