

2006 Geology of Iowa for Teachers Project Statements

Jason Steffen – To develop a picture, rock, mineral, and fossil collection for use in my Geology class at Cedar Falls High School.

Ronald Parker – Taking my 8th grade Earth Science class on a one day field trip to Mason City to see a cement plant, landfill, sewage treatment facility and water plant.

Hannah Haarhues – To develop a collection of soils, rocks, minerals, and fossils found in Iowa. Students will utilize the soil collection and apply it directly to a field trip analyzing soil characteristics. Based on the characteristics they will learn, students will recognize landforms and problems associated with the area.

Carolyn White – To prepare a field trip for first and second grade students to the Devonian Fossil Gorge. This will include pre/post field trip activities to enhance the experience.

Angie Breitbach – Name that aquifer. Examines the porosity of rocks, aquifers, and aquitards along with an application of digging a well.

Melisa Reilly – To develop a mini unit on water. This unit will help students learn basic water and groundwater terminology. It will also include IOWATER activities to facilitate an inquiry approach to teaching and a better understanding of process skills.

Rachel Vespestad – To begin to understand fossil identification. I will use my fossil collection to assist students in basic fossil identification and encourage the use of compare/contrast skills.

Kathy Schultz – Working in groups of two, students will research the geologic time periods and prepare a presentation for the class.

Ann Rigdon – To collect rocks/fossils from each formation of the Devonian stratigraphy of Buchanan County. These will be used in my geology classroom.

Ed Brown – To use a collection of fossils as the subject for classification. The students will be allowed to classify a group of fossils in any way they wish and to give reasons for their classification scheme.

Pat Schoellen – I have a collection of a few different minerals, rocks, and fossils. As we study different topics in our unit, I will use these to demonstrate physical properties, etc. Students will use a microscope to observe samples of calcite, fluorite, pyrite and quartz to see the shapes of the crystals.

Amanda Schiller – Iowa rock identification project which will allow students to classify rocks that are common and found in Iowa.

Carrie Weber – Life in the Past: What was Iowa like? A lesson plan on Iowa's fossil record will help students to understand that Iowa was once covered by a warm shallow sea and the fossils of those organisms form much of the limestone of Iowa.

Richard Long – My project will consist of “grab bags” of rocks and fossils that I have collected at quarries as well as rocks and fossils I already have on hand. I will put an assortment of six rocks and fossils in each bag and have pairs of students work together and figure out a system of classification, as well as try to determine rock type and possible ways of formation.

Tim Sheeley – Two of the overarching concepts in my 9th Grade Physical Science Course are Matter and Energy. Geology provides an appropriate context to introduce both of these ‘big ideas’ in a real way to students. Through this project students will become familiar with the major rock types and the processes that create them.

Mandi Benson – To use my fossils to illustrate Iowa's environment during the Devonian Period and to expose my students to fossils in their neighborhood.

Jane Suiter – to have students start their own rock collection. We will take some “field trips” in the neighborhood of Kennedy High School looking for different rocks. The students will bring them back and we will try to identify and classify them.

Patrick Donovan – The students will discover the effects of weathering on craters and how we can discover when certain events happened by looking at the surrounding geology.

Jennifer Hancock – Collect a set of representative rocks to help students understand the processes that create rocks and to practice identifying the basic rock types: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.

Jim Herzog – To develop a collection of rocks found in Iowa for use in the chemistry and Physical Science curricula.

Jodi Weber – Involve educating students about limestone formation and fossils. It will include classroom education, a power point presentation and a field trip to Wendling Quarry and the Devonian Fossil Gorge.

Bart Witte – Rock collection Key

Tanya Conrad – Involve students in comparing the geohydrological characteristics of both a freshwater and marine environment.