

Alicia D. Schiller
Geology of Iowa
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- a.) My project that will be implemented into my classroom will be a trip to the local Lee County rock quarry. In Advanced Biology the students spend the most of first quarter learning about Ecology. Part of the Ecology unit includes a small unit on soil. Some small scale Geology and a Quarry visit for collecting and identification would fit nicely into this small Ecology unit.
- b.) The main objectives and learning goals of this project will serve mostly as exposure of Geological concepts to my students. This quarry visit will also give them a chance to see the different soil and rock layers without having to dig deep into the earth. They will also have a chance to see our local quarry that really gets a tremendous amount of business for being in small town Donnellson, Iowa.
- c.) Besides being a fun field trip out of the classroom, I plan on using this collection activity as a way to tie Geology to the study of soil. The students at Central Lee seem to know quite a bit about soil, but I do not really get the feeling that they understand Geology or how to identify any specimens. They also do not understand the relationship between rocks and soil for the most part. This would also lend the opportunity to share with students about the ocean and glacier's role in forming our landscape and how our top soil has been formed here in Iowa as well as in Southeast Iowa where I teach.
- d.) The simplest form of evaluation will be, "Did they make any collections while we were at the quarry"? The students will then need to do a lab write up in their lab notebook reflecting on their quarry/rock collecting experience. I will have them try to make some rock ID attempts, and then see how close they were to making the correct ID of their specimens. Then they will be asked to make a comparison between soil and rocks using the information that they have learned throughout the unit of study.