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Geology of Iowa Project
Summer 2008

A. Description: My project is to and use a collection of rocks commonly found in Iowa with my elementary students.

B. Objective/Goal: The collection will provide my students the opportunity to first classify, and to then identify the rocks.

C. Implementation: We study rocks and minerals in fourth grade science, so this collection will add to the understanding my students develop on this topic. Groups of students will be given a number of rocks. Their first task will be to sort the rocks into igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic groups. After the groups have had an opportunity to do this sorting, we will stop and discuss. Next, the groups will use available resources to identify as many of the rocks in their groups as possible.

D. Assessment: During the activity, I will use an observation checklist to assess the students. After additional activities, students will be given several of the same rocks to classify and identify on their own.

E. I will use the actual rocks I have collected this week to make up the sets that will be used in my classroom.