

A. Description of Project

I would like to take my sixth grade students on a field trip to the Rockford Fossil and Prairie Center during a geology unit.

B. Objectives

My students will be able to collect and identify a variety of Devonian fossils, after a unit learning about the geological history of Iowa.

C. Implementation

Students will participate in a variety of activities to introduce and help them learn about the geological history of Iowa. Examples of some of these activities include:

- Students would participate in activities to learn what a fossil is and is not, and what types of things may become fossils. For example, they could create “fossilized” footprints with sand and plaster of paris.
- We would discuss the type of environment that Iowa had during different time periods, and an activity similar to Dr. Brant’s wooden block activity could help the students understand that scientists have used a similar process to describe the geological events that have happened in Iowa.
- After learning about the creatures that were present in the Devonian ocean that covered Iowa, students could collect and identify their own fossils at the Rockford fossil beds.

D. Evaluation

Students would be evaluated in a variety of ways, including their collection, organization and identification of the fossils that they collected, creating a detailed model of the Devonian sea floor community, or creating a timeline of the geological history of Iowa.