

Geology Project

Description –

This project will have students look beyond the Ordovician and Silurian fossils that are present in northern Illinois. Using fossil plate keys, students will identify fossils collected in Iowa.

Objective / Goal –

Students will come to an understanding that the *shallow* marine paleoenvironment of the early Paleozoic was an extensive expanse of today's Mid-West. To this end, students will attain a special understanding of Illinois and Iowa's place in this *early* environment using various geologic maps at different scales. As previously noted, they will see and identify fossils of the invertebrate animals that were present.

Implementation –

This project will be used in my geology classes in the Paleozoic portion of the earth history unit. After identifying fossil types, students will use the "*Fossil Hunters Guide*" handout to answer questions about the particular invertebrates identified.

Evaluation –

Working with a partner, students will make a Power Point of one of the life forms (invertebrates) found in Illinois / Iowa during the Ordovician, Silurian, or Devonian time period. It will be evaluated based on how well information is incorporated that was covered and discussed during the Paleozoic era unit which includes the fossil labs and *Fossil Hunters Guide* questions.