

Geology of Iowa

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Unit: Weather/Geology

Grade: 5

Overview: During the weather unit we discuss weathering and the types of rocks. After reading the text and sharing the life cycle of a rock, students will participate in a variety of activities using geology skills.

Objective: Students will properly identify various rocks. Students will use sediments to create a metamorphic rock. Students will learn the job of a geologist.

Implementation: This project will be used to allow students to act as a geologist.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on how well they grouped/identified the rocks and how well they worked together. A formal assessment will be given after finishing both the chapter and the unit.

Projects:

- 1) **Identifying rocks:** Students will be given a variety of rocks and will be asked to identify them by type of rock and name if possible.

- 2) **Creating a metamorphic rock:** Students will use two sedimentary rocks (two different colored starbursts), apply heat and pressure (rubbing hands together and pressing the starburst) to create a metamorphic rock.
- 3) **Chip mining:** Students will dig for fossils (chocolate chips) using a toothpick and chocolate chip cookie after learning about the job of a geologist.
- 4) **Geode hunting:** Students will participate in a field trip to Jacob's Geode's in Hamilton, IL where they will uncover their own geodes to bring back to school for further experiments.
- 5) **Geode breaking:** Students will break their geodes by placing them in a sock and carefully hitting them with a hammer. They will then observe their findings and look at the crystals under a microscope or magnifying glass.