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Mediapolis Middle School
8th Grade Rocks and Minerals Unit

This unit is an introduction to rocks and minerals which is expanded upon in the semester long 9th grade Earth Science class.

The purpose of my unit is to introduce vocabulary, basic concepts and show examples of minerals and their characteristics and igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rock and examples for hands on examination.

Project:

- 1a. Description: My plan is to collect samples of rocks, minerals and fossils specifically from Iowa to use in my 8th grade Rocks and Minerals unit. These will be added to my purchased samples for student examination.
- 1b. Objective/Goal: My samples will be used to create a more personal meaning to my students when we discuss rocks, minerals and fossils, and what it would have been like in Iowa through Earth history.
- 1c. Implementation: The samples of rocks, minerals and fossils collected will be examined when we discuss these topics during the unit to allow the students to look for features and characteristics discussed during class. The fossils will be used to study Earth history and a fossil will be chosen by each student for them to write a diary entry about a day in the life of that organism.
- 1d. Evaluation: The specimens will be available during the unit for student examination and study, and will be included for identification on the unit test. The diary entry assignment will be graded using a rubric for accuracy of information, creativity, grammar, spelling and punctuation as per Mediapolis cross-curricular standards.