

INTRODUCTION:

In this unit, students study the rock cycle including the three main types of rocks. Students collect 3 rocks samples of each type from their neighborhoods. At the end of this unit, students working in small groups, create and present a presentation of their choice to their class and families using their new knowledge of the rock cycle and the three types of rocks. The use of technology is fundamental in completing the unit. Technology includes; Ti 84 calculators, digital cameras, computers and the Internet, projectors, document cameras, and video conferencing equipment.

DAY 1 and 2

- Students are introduced to the rock cycle by watching a movie on the subject.
- Students gain an understanding of the three types of rocks by completing an interactive website and accompanying worksheet.
- Students select representative rock samples from around their neighborhoods.

DAY 3 and 4:

- Students use a computer and word processing software to create and print a note taking worksheet of their own design.
- Students study igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks.
- Students compose their notes on rocks while interacting with the various websites.

DAY 5:

- Students create a table using computers and related software to list the rocks they brought and including the following fields: type and number each rock, hardness, mass, volume, and density.
- Students use the Internet and other resources, to help with identification of their rocks.
- Students measure the mass, density, and hardness of each of their rocks they brought from home.

DAY 6:

- Students take the Rocks and Rock Cycle exam online.
- Students create an evaluation form to critique the classmate's presentations.
- Student groups prepare their presentations.

DAY 7 and 8:

- Students present their presentations to the class and family members.
- Students evaluate their classmate's presentations.
- Parents and Guardians are asked to fill out evaluations to aid in selecting the best presentation.
- Student group that is chosen will videoconference with another school and discuss what they discovered by doing this unit.