



Grade 4 Unit Letter: Rockhounds

April 28, 2011

Unit: *Rockhounds*

Central Idea

Human use of rocks and minerals impacts our society, environment and economy.

Transdisciplinary Theme

An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

Curriculum Connections:

This unit connects to the Ontario Science Curriculum Unit, *Rocks & Minerals*.

Lines of Inquiry

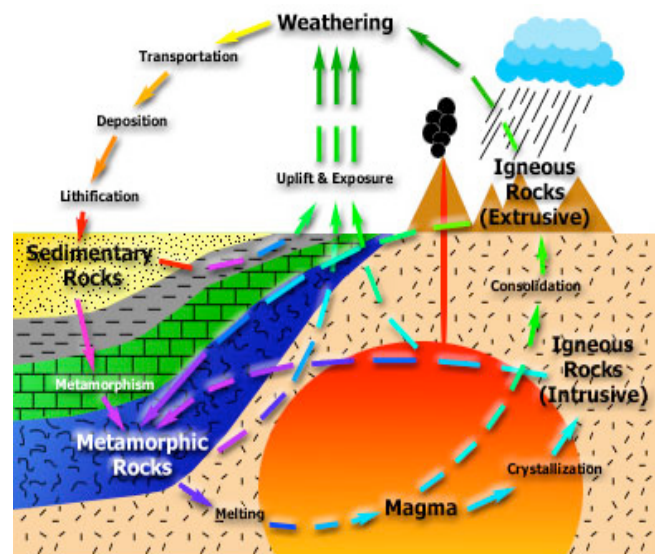
- Classification and formation of rocks and minerals
- Use of rocks and minerals by humans
- The impact of our use of rocks and minerals
- Our role and responsibilities as we interact with Earth's natural landscape

Online Resources for *Rock Hounds*

www.rocksforkids.com, www.ontariominerals.com, www.rockhoundskids.com

Calling All Rocks & Minerals!

If you have a unique rock or mineral at home, please bring it into the classroom for further investigation. All rocks and minerals will be returned at the end of the unit.



Upcoming U.O.I. Events:

Trip to MacSkimming Outdoor Recreation Centre on Thursday, May 5th, 2011

This trip connects to our previous unit of inquiry: *I Will Survive*. The girls will be enjoying a full day outdoor workshop to explore habitats. Please remember to have your daughter dress in weather-appropriate civvies and to pack a bag lunch.

Rocks & Minerals Scientist in the School on Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Morning Workshop: Don't Take Rocks for Granite!

Igneous! Sedimentary! Metamorphic! Through engaging hands-on experiments, students will be introduced to fundamental geological concepts including the formation of the three groups (or classes) of rock. Observation and classification skills will be developed through examination of real rock specimens, minerals and fossils. Students will record physical properties of minerals such as colour, lustre and hardness. They will also examine fossils, make a fossil replica and solve a current environmental soil problem.

Canadian Museum of Nature on Wednesday, June 8, 9:00 – 11:55 a.m.

This trip connects with our last two units of inquiry: *I Will Survive* & *Rockhounds* and to the Ontario Curriculum Science Units: *Habitats* and *Rocks & Minerals*.

Mark your calendars:

- May 5th ~ Trip to MacSkimming
- May 11th~ Rocks & Minerals Science Morning
- May 14th~ "A Spring Luncheon" (organized by PFAC)
- May 16th ~ Whole School Photo
- May 27th~ Spirit Afternoon
- June 8th ~ Trip to Museum of Nature
- June 10th ~ Parting Picnic
- June 14th ~ Last Day of School!
- June 15th ~ Junior School Closing Ceremony

Details on each event will be outlined in the *Junior School Scanner* and on the school website:

www.elmwood.ca.

If you have knowledge or expertise relating to Rocks & Minerals that you would like to share with the Grade 4 class, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

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