

# **CALIFORNIA GEOLOGISTS - IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND**

A California Council of Geoscience Organizations Project

**Purpose:** To provide a 20-minute informative presentation to elementary school students on California Geologists - In the Classroom and Beyond. This is a voluntary program sponsored by the California Council of Geoscience Organizations. This public outreach mini program is designed to promote the profession of geology and to increase awareness of the local environment. This presentation is perfect for the Earth Day programs in April and Earth Science Week in October.

## **Introduction**

**2 minutes**

Thank you Mr./Ms./Mrs. (Teacher's last name), I am delighted to be able to visit your classroom today and share some information on California Geology. I am a California Geologist specializing in (field, etc....). That means I .... How many of you know that this is (Earth Science Week)? What is Earth Science? What is Geology? Do you have any evidence of geology around here?

## **What is a Geologist?**

**4 minutes**

A Geologist is a scientist who studies

- the earth materials and processes to develop an understanding of the past (dinosaurs and other fossils),
- our natural resources (minerals, ground water, oil and gas), and
- impacts (geologic hazards like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and human environmental pollution).

Have props including fossils, books such as the Geologic Hazards Guide and maps to introduce each facet of geology. Handouts might include a word search sheet and coloring books depending on the age of the students.

Conduct a brief show-and-tell of typical tools used by geologists. Pass around a compass, a hand lens, field book, other special tools and rocks and fossils to examine.

## **California Rocks & Minerals**

**8 minutes**

Bring in some California rocks to show the students. Hold up each hand specimen and describe its physical properties, source location, and let them guess what it is. Show the students examples of products containing the rock or mineral. Pass around each specimen.

**Where in the world?**

**2 minutes**

Display the topographic map for the area. Point out the school location and general features. Explain what a topographic line is and provide an example of how these lines are used on the map. Identify any unique features evident on the map. Present this map to the classroom teacher.

**Conclusion**

**4 minutes**

Encourage each child to actively investigate their surroundings by asking questions and exploring. Ask if the students or teacher have any questions and try to answer their questions. Suggest that if they want to learn more about geology, that they visit their school/community library. You may also direct them to geology websites, including:

Resources:

- California Division of Mines and Geology; (CDMG) website: [www.consrv.ca.gov/dmg](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dmg)
- CCGO website, [www.ccgo.org](http://www.ccgo.org)
- AIPG National website, [www.aipg.org](http://www.aipg.org)
- American Geological Institute website, [www.agiweb.org](http://www.agiweb.org)
- The National Parks website, [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Thank the classroom teacher or group leader for allowing a California Geologist to share his/her love of geology with these students.

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