

2006 IESTA/IGS Lake Pend Orielle Workshop

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Rock Identification Activity

Concepts discussed prior to this activity:

- Topographic maps
 - Making a topographic profile
 - Locating oneself on a topographic map by triangulation and sight

1. Sedimentary, Metamorphic, and Igneous sample lab

In a lab activity, students learn to identify rock samples from the identification charts using texture, composition, and descriptions.

2. Vocabulary practice – give about 5-8 minutes (can be done numerous times after changing rock names)

After writing the various rock names on individual strips of poster paper, the teacher then tapes one strip of paper with one rock name to the back of each student, without the student knowing which name has been taped to his/her back. Students then must figure out which rock they are by asking questions of a student who can answer only yes or no. Questions should help the student figure out the rock type and name from the texture, mineral composition, and the environment the rock is found.

3. What types of rocks do we have?

- a. Over a period of two weeks students are to collect 10 different rock samples from the area, labeling on a map the location where they took the sample. Each sample needs to be given a number using whiteout.
- b. In class, students write up a one page description of each sample, identifying:
 - i. Minerals present
 - ii. Texture
 - iii. Sedimentary structures (if present)
 - iv. Description of rock
 - v. Rock type
 - vi. Rock name
- c. Students turn in for assessment their descriptions and a small sample of each rock collected.