Colorado Teacher-Authored Instructional Unit Sample

Unit Title: Earth Materials and Rock Cycles

INSTRUCTIONAL UNIT AUTHORS
Holyoke School District
Yesenia Bencomo
Nichole Churchwell
Wendy Grothman

Julesburg School District
Michelle Kimberly-Rhodes

BASED ON A CURRICULUM
OVERVIEW SAMPLE AUTHORED BY
Douglas County School District
Judy Swanson

Mesa County School District
Kim Smith

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The template provided one example of unit design that enabled teacher-authors to organize possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students.

DATE POSTED: MARCH 31, 2014
## Colorado Teacher-Authorced Sample Instructional Unit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Grade Level Expectations (GLE)</th>
<th>GLE Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Physical Science</td>
<td>1. Matter exists in different states such as solids, liquids, and gases and can change from one state to another by heating and cooling</td>
<td>SC09-GR.3-S.1-GLE.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Life Science</td>
<td>1. The duration and timing of life cycle events such as reproduction and longevity vary across organisms and species</td>
<td>SC09-GR.3-S.2-GLE.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Earth Systems Science</td>
<td>1. Earth's materials can be broken down and/or combined into different materials such as rocks, minerals, rock cycle, formation of soil, and sand – some of which are usable resources for human activity</td>
<td>SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Colorado 21st Century Skills

- **Critical Thinking and Reasoning:** Thinking Deeply, Thinking Differently
- **Information Literacy:** Untangling the Web
- **Collaboration:** Working Together, Learning Together
- **Self-Direction:** Own Your Learning
- **Invention:** Creating Solutions

### Intragrated Curriculum Design

This intradisciplinary approach matches basic elements in each of the science strands – physical, life, earth systems sciences - forming overlaps in instruction of certain topics and concepts in an authentic integrated model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Titles</th>
<th>Length of Unit/Contact Hours</th>
<th>Unit Number/Sequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earth Materials and Rock Cycles</td>
<td>3–5 weeks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Unit Title: Earth Materials and Rock Cycles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focusing Lens(es)</th>
<th>Change / Cause/Effect</th>
<th>Standards and Grade Level Expectations Addressed in this Unit</th>
<th>Length of Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1</td>
<td>3 – 5 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Inquiry Questions
(Engaging - Debatable):
- What would the world look like if the Earth’s surface never changed? (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1; IQ.3)
- If there was only one type of rock would the Earth still be round and have layers?

### Unit Strands
- Earth Systems Science

### Concepts
- materials, erosion, weathering, change, rock cycle,

### Generalizations
**My students will Understand that...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Factual</th>
<th>Guiding Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.a,b; IQ.1,4; N.2)</td>
<td>What ways can Earth’s materials be broken down or combined? (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.a,b; IQ.1,4)</td>
<td>How does the type of material determine how it is broken down or combined? (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.a,b; IQ.1,4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What are some of the ways Earth’s materials are formed? (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1; IQ.1)</td>
<td>How do rocks “cycle”? (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1; IQ.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weathering and erosion brought about by wind and water result in continual changes to the Earth’s surface (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.b; IQ.3; N.2)</td>
<td>Where do materials such as soil, sand, and rocks come from? (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.b; IQ.2; N.2)</td>
<td>How are the processes similar and different? How can weathering be applied to objects (i.e. rusty nail, new/old wood, car paint)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is the process by which the materials were formed? (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1; IQ.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Critical Content:

**My students will Know...**

- The ways in which Earth’s materials can be broken down and/or combined in different ways (such as minerals, rocks, soil, and sand). (SC09-GR.3.S.3-GLE.1-EO.a)
- The consequences and effects of water and wind on Earth’s materials (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.b)
- A variety of tools and media sources that could be used to collect and analyze data around earth’s materials (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.c)
- The rock cycle (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1; N.1)
- Processes that breakdown and/or combine Earth materials (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.b)

### Key Skills:

**My students will be able to (Do)...**

- Investigate and identify two or more ways that Earth’s material can be broken down and/or combined in different ways such as minerals into rocks, formation or soil, and sand (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.a)
- Use evidence to develop a scientific explanation about one or more processes that breakdown and/or combine Earth material (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.b)
- Utilize a variety of media sources to collect and analyze data around Earth’s materials and the processes by which they are formed (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1-EO.c)
- Ask testable questions about the composition and formation of rocks (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1; N.1)
- Use models to demonstrate the rock cycle or other ways Earth’s materials are broken down or combined (SC09-GR.3-S.3-GLE.1; N.2)

### Critical Language:

Involves the Academic and Technical vocabulary, semantics, and discourse which are particular to and necessary for accessing a given discipline.

*EXAMPLE:* A student in Language Arts can demonstrate the ability to apply and comprehend critical language through the following statement: "Mark Twain exposes the hypocrisy of slavery through the use of satire."

A student in ____________ can demonstrate the ability to apply and comprehend critical language through the following statement(s):

- The rock cycle is the process of the formation of rocks
- Fossil fuels are resources that develop over time into useful materials

### Academic Vocabulary:

- investigate, identify, evidence, develop, scientific explanation, processes, demonstrate

### Technical Vocabulary:

- combined, minerals, rocks, rock cycle, formation, soil, sand, earth materials, surface, resources, fossil fuels, composition, water, wind, sedimentary, metamorphic, igneous
# Unit Description:

This unit focuses on the factors that cause continual change of the Earth surface and the features that can change suddenly because of earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, floods, or slowly because of weathering and erosion. Some of Earth’s resources include minerals, rocks (sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic), and soil. The unit includes the rock cycle and how rocks transform due to the effects of changes in pressure and temperature. Beginning with the layers of the Earth, across the unit students investigate physical features of the Earth’s surface, different types of rocks, components and the formation of soil, minerals, resources, and weathering. The unit culminates in a performance assessment that asks students to captures images of Colorado landscapes that document how the earth is continually changing (Glaciers, landslides, floods, earthquakes, river formation, holes in rocks, cliffs, canyons, rocky mountains, plains, sand dunes, etc.).

# Considerations

Teachers need to consider timing of the unit based on how often science in taught during a week and the length of time for each science block.

# Key Generalization:

Weathering and erosion brought about by wind and water result in continual changes to the Earth’s surface.

# Supporting Generalizations:

The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways.

# Performance Assessment: The capstone/summative assessment for this unit.

**Claims:**

(Key generalization[s] to be mastered and demonstrated through the capstone assessment.)

Weathering and erosion brought about by wind and water result in continual changes to the Earth’s surface.

**Stimulus Material:**

(Engaging scenario that includes role, audience, goal/outcome and explicitly connects the key generalization)

You are a photographer capturing Colorado images (magazine pictures, internet photos, your own photos, post cards, etc.) of how the Earth is continually changing. You need to compile these images into a photo presentation and include labels of the types of weathering and/or erosion that is occurring or has occurred, as well as labels for the types of rocks found in the images. Then you must explain how the landform may have been created in order to look the way it is. You must present your findings through an oral report.

**Product/Evidence:**

(Expected product from students)

Students must create a photo presentation (photo album, Power Point, visual/video diary, etc.) that captures images of how the earth is continually changing (Glaciers, landslides, floods, earthquakes, river formation, holes in rocks, cliffs, canyons, rocky mountains, plains, sand dunes, etc.) in Colorado. They must label the types of weathering and/or erosion that is occurring or has occurred, as well as label the types of rocks found in the images. Then they must explain how the landform may have been created in order to look the way it is and present their findings through an oral report.

**Differentiation:**

(Multiple modes for student expression)

- The teacher may allow students to match weathering and/or erosion and types of rocks labels with pictures
- The teacher may provide a vocabulary bank with definitions
- The teacher may provide visual representation of vocabulary
- The teacher may provide sentence frames
- The teacher may allow for one-on-one presentation with teacher
- The teacher may allow use of voice-activated presentation
- The teacher may allow presentation in native language
Colorado Teacher-Authored Sample Instructional Unit

- The teacher may allow for the use of “Speech Journal” application with iPads
- The teacher may reduce the number of landforms examined
- The teacher may provide the landform that the student will investigate
- To extend this work, students could identify the implications for weathering and erosion within their local context (agriculture, mountains, etc.) OR students could write a descriptive paragraph detailing their experiences and observations related to a geographic landmark (they must include concepts of continual change related to weathering and/or erosion).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Texts for independent reading or for class read aloud to support the content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Informational/Non-Fiction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minerals - Jenna Dunlop &amp; Adrianna Morganelli [Lexile level 1020]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rock Cycle - Patricia Brinkman [Lexile level 320]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is a Landform - Rebecca Rissman [Lexile level 310]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigating Landforms - Lynn van Gorp [Lexile level 690]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Magic School Bus: Inside the Earth - Joanna Cole &amp; Bruce Degen [Lexile level 500]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiments with Rocks and Minerals - Carol Hand [Lexile level 670]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incredible Earth - Richard Northcott [Lexile level 640]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Big Rock - Bruce Hiscock [Lexile 890]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jump Into Rocks &amp; Minerals - Steve Tomecek [Lexile 860]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jump Into Science: Dirt - Steve Tomecek [Lexile 840]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If You Find a Rock - Peggy Christian [Lexile 930]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirt: Scoop On Soil - Natalie Rosinsky [Lexile 200-900]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El suelo: Tierra y arena (Dirt: The Scoop on Soil) - Natalie M. Rosinsky [Lexile 200-900]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Geographic Kids Everything Rocks and Minerals: Dazzling gems of photos and info that will rock your world... - Steve Tomecek [Lexile 230-500]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Ongoing Discipline-Specific Learning Experiences |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| **1.** Description: | Communicating like a scientist: Use academic language and recognize root words |
| Teacher Resources: | http://www.learnthat.org/pages/view/roots.html (Root words and affix dictionary-medical) |
| | http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/common-latin-and-greek-roots-in-biology-vocabulary.html (Biography vocabulary builder website) |
Colorado Teacher-Authored Sample Instructional Unit

| Student Resources: | http://www.learnthat.org/pages/view/roots.html (Root words and affix dictionary-medical)  
| | http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/common-latin-and-greek-roots-in-biology-vocabulary.html (Biology vocabulary builder website) |

Skills:  
- Identify prefixes and suffixes  
- Identify and use cognates  
- Comprehension of academic vocabulary  
Assessment:  
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of key scientific language through white board checks, quizzes, Pictionary, charades, etc.

Prior Knowledge and Experiences

Students must have an understanding of basic land formations, basic types of weather, types of catastrophic events, and an understanding of how to compare and contrast.

Vertical Articulation: Students have last seen concepts related to this unit (through weather and seasons) in 2nd grade. This is the first time they have been introduced to the rock cycle.

Learning Experiences # 1 – 2  
Instructional Timeframe: Weeks 1-2

Learning Experience # 1

The teacher may use reading material, videos, activities, or technology to introduce the different layers of the Earth so that students can begin identifying the layers of the earth and understanding the composition of the Earth.

Generalization Connection(s):  
The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways  
Weathering and erosion brought about by wind and water result in continual changes to the Earth’s surface

Teacher Resources:  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAHY6965o08 (Video on layers of the Earth)  
http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/investigate/3/inv_3c_6_1.pdf (Worksheet for Earth’s surface)  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B4nRGFHzXs (Bill Nye the Science Guy-Earth’s Crust video)  
http://science.lotsoflessons.com/layers.html (Contains a variety of resources for the layers of Earth)  
http://www.brainpop.com/science/earthsystem/earthsstructure/ (Brain Pop Earth’s Structure video)  
http://www.superteacherworksheets.com/rocks.html (Super Teacher Worksheets; contains worksheets with informational articles with comprehension questions, Label Layers of Earth, and Layers of Earth booklet; Membership required)
## Student Resources:


## Assessment:

Students will use a graphic organizer to identify and explain the difference among the layers of the Earth by producing a model.


## Differentiation:

**Access** (Resources and/or Process)


**Expression** (Products and/or Performance)

- The teacher may allow students to produce a visual where they colored in the layers of the Earth.

**Access** (Resources and/or Process)

- The teacher may allow students to work either a partner or small group.

**Expression** (Products and/or Performance)

- The teacher may provide the student with pictures of the Earth that they can color in the layers.

## Extensions for depth and complexity:

**Access** (Resources and/or Process)

- The teacher may allow students to investigate the different temperatures within the layers of the Earth.

**Expression** (Products and/or Performance)

- The student may compile their findings (in a chart, graph, or paragraph) around the temperatures of the layers of the Earth and present it to the class.

## Critical Content:

- Layers of the Earth (crust, mantle, core)
- Earth’s surface

## Key Skills:

- Identify layer of the Earth
- Explain the differences between the layers of the Earth

## Critical Language:

- Earth, crust, core, mantle, temperature, identify, explain, layers, surface, model

## Learning Experience # 2

The teacher may present physical features of the Earth’s surface (visuals, models, informational booklet, etc.) so that students can describe Earth’s landforms and features.

## Generalization Connection(s):

Weathering and erosion brought about by wind and water result in continual changes to the Earth’s surface. The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways.

## Teacher Resources:

- [http://www.edu.pe.ca/southernkings/landforms.htm](http://www.edu.pe.ca/southernkings/landforms.htm) (Examples of landforms)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNc8NTiisUM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNc8NTiisUM) (Introduction to feature of the Earth)
- [http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/investigate/3/inv_3c_6_2.pdf](http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/investigate/3/inv_3c_6_2.pdf) (Lab activity)
### Student Resources:
- [http://volcano.oregonstate.edu/education/vwlessons/lessons/Ch1CMB/Handson1.html](http://volcano.oregonstate.edu/education/vwlessons/lessons/Ch1CMB/Handson1.html) (Hands on representation of the Earth's layers using an apple)

### Assessment:
The student will complete a graphic organizer (cluster web) to demonstrate their understanding of the features of the Earth's surface and different landforms.

### Differentiation:
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

**Access (Resources and/or Process)**
- The teacher may provide a graphic organizer to describe features of Earth’s surface
- The teacher may allow students to work with a partner or small group
- The teacher may provide students with images of land features

**Expression (Products and/or Performance)**
- The student may verbally describe land features
- The student may create a picture of a specific land feature

### Extensions for depth and complexity:

**Access (Resources and/or Process)**
- The teacher may allow students to investigate different landforms using internet, encyclopedia, and other resources to gain deeper understanding of an individual landform
- The teacher may allow students to compare and contrast Earth’s water features (rivers, streams, ponds, and glaciers that contain fresh water) to understand the similarities and differences of water features

**Expression (Products and/or Performance)**
- The students may create a visual representation of the features of the Earth (Diorama, Power Point, Model, etc.)
- The students may write a descriptive paragraph about the landform
- The students may create and/or present visuals, posters, or a paragraph that demonstrate the differences between the Earth’s water features

### Critical Content:
- Features of the Earth (Oceans, Mountains, Valleys, Plains, Plateaus etc.)

### Key Skills:
- Describe Earth’s land features

### Critical Language:
- Features, landform, ocean, continent, investigate, model, mountains, valleys, plains, plateaus, describe
### Learning Experience # 3

The teacher may present videos, a rock chart, or rock samples of different types of rocks (metamorphic, igneous, and sedimentary) so that the students can begin categorizing and classifying them.

#### Generalization Connection(s):
- The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways

#### Teacher Resources:
- [http://www.cliffshade.com/colorado/rocks.htm#types](http://www.cliffshade.com/colorado/rocks.htm#types) (Background information about igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic)
- [https://sites.google.com/site/3rdgradesciencedeleclessions/types-of-rocks](https://sites.google.com/site/3rdgradesciencedeleclessions/types-of-rocks) (Uncovering the rock types)
- [http://prezi.com/8hkggq5p8giu/rocks-and-minerals-3rd-grade-science/](http://prezi.com/8hkggq5p8giu/rocks-and-minerals-3rd-grade-science/) (This Prezi describes the properties of rocks and minerals and how we use rocks and minerals daily includes a YouTube video.)
- [http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/BBandy/study.cfm](http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/BBandy/study.cfm) (Smorgasbord of science activities including Rock Jeopardy, Rocks & Minerals Guess the Word PP game, and a mineral PowerPoint to list only a few of the resources available)
- [http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/printouts/Venn3Circles.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/printouts/Venn3Circles.pdf) (Link to a Venn diagram with 3 circles)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xv1DoqkARQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xv1DoqkARQ) (Bill Nye video on Rocks)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mfpmUNMtNc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mfpmUNMtNc) (World of Rock song video)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53lMdHzvGCQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53lMdHzvGCQ) (Rock Cycle song video)

#### Student Resources:
- [https://sites.google.com/site/3rdgradesciencedeleclessions/hands-on-project](https://sites.google.com/site/3rdgradesciencedeleclessions/hands-on-project) (Rock hunt activity)
### Assessment:
Students will categorize visuals of rocks as sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic using a T-chart.

### Differentiation:
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may present the student with 3 real rocks from each category and the definitions. The teacher may allow students to write vocabulary terms which are associated with types of rock with the definitions.</td>
<td>The student may verbally describe the differences between the types of rocks. The student may match pictures of the different types of rocks to labels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Extensions for depth and complexity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide a topographic map, books or internet access for the student to use to research and create a map of Colorado landscape.</td>
<td>The student may develop a map of Colorado depicting where the different types of rocks are located.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Critical Content:
- Metamorphic, igneous, sedimentary

### Key Skills:
- Categorize, classifying

### Critical Language:
- Metamorphic, igneous, sedimentary, topographic, depicting, Venn diagram, categorize

### Learning Experience # 4
The teacher may explain how temperature and pressure effect the rock cycle so that student can model the continual process of rock formation.

### Generalization Connection(s):
The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways

### Teacher Resources:
- [http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Video.aspx?VideoID=22732&CategoryID=4761](http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Video.aspx?VideoID=22732&CategoryID=4761) (Rock cycle video includes how rocks brought to Earth by Apollo astronauts have helped scientists understand rocks on Earth)
- [http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/msese/earthsysflr/rock.html](http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/msese/earthsysflr/rock.html) (Basic diagram of rock cycle - colorful)
- [http://www.mineralogy4kids.org/rock-cycle](http://www.mineralogy4kids.org/rock-cycle) (Detailed rock cycle picture)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxoSUgIgQF0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxoSUgIgQF0) (Types of rocks and rock cycle)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mfpmUNMfNc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mfpmUNMfNc) (World of Rock song video)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53IMdfHvYGCQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53IMdfHvYGCQ) (Rock Cycle song video)

### Student Resources:
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxoSUgIgQF0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxoSUgIgQF0) (Types of rocks and rock cycle)
## Colorado Teacher-Authored Sample Instructional Unit

### Assessment:
The student will create an informational brochure or a rock cycle wheel to demonstrate the rock cycle.

- [Rock cycle brochure](https://sites.google.com/a/lakeviewlocal.org/mrs-mazur-s-classroom-website/rock-cycle-brochure)

### Differentiation:
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide the pictures, labels and/or partially finished flow chart</td>
<td>The student may create a visual dictionary with pictures and a flow chart around the rock cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student may match pictures and/or labels of the different types of rocks and their placement within the rock cycle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Extensions for depth and complexity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may allow students to design “Extreme Makeover” brochures featuring a rock going through the rock cycle. Each brochure needs to advertise three “treatments” where the rock will change during the cycle. Students may start with a rock from a rock collection or select a different one</td>
<td>The student may present their brochures (construction paper, electronic, etc.) to the class and discuss how the rock was formed and changed through the cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.rocksforkids.com/RFK/howrocks.html#Cycle">Rock cycle</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Critical Content:
- Temperature, pressure, rock cycle, continual process, rock formation

### Key Skills:
- Model, organize, expression, dialogue

### Critical Language:
- Model, temperature, pressure, rock cycle, continual process, rock formation, model, organize, express, dialogue

### Learning Experiences # 5 – 6
**Instructional Timeframe: Week 4**

#### Learning Experience # 5

The teacher may lead discussions to introduce the various types of Earth’s materials so the students can understand that there are multiple resources on the Earth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generalization Connection(s):</th>
<th>The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Resources:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/">Graphic organizers</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/organizer/1/org_1c_6_2.pdf">Worksheet for Rocks and Minerals</a></td>
<td>(Song about gems and rocks that explains about minerals in rocks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.kidsknowit.com/educational-songs/play-educational-song.php?song=Rocks%20And%20Gems%20And%20Minerals">Song about gems and rocks</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.kidsloverocks.com/html/activity_books.html">Great website with minerals and activities books to make, great pictures</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.brainpop.com/science/earthsystem/soil/">Video-how soil is made</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Colorado Teacher-Authored Sample Instructional Unit

(Song about gems and rocks that explains about minerals in rocks)  
(Video- how soil is made) |
| --- | --- |
| Assessment: | Students will create a visual word wall for various resources on Earth.  
(Site to create word-wall flash cards) |
| Differentiation:  
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.) | **Access (Resources and/or Process)**  
The teacher may group or pair students  
N/A  
| **Expression (Products and/or Performance)** | |
| Extensions for depth and complexity: | **Access (Resources and/or Process)**  
N/A  
| **Expression (Products and/or Performance)** | N/A |
| Critical Content: |  
- Materials, minerals, sand, oil, soil, rocks, resources |
| Key Skills: |  
- Present information(resources related to the Earth)  
- Create visuals |
| Critical Language: | Materials, minerals, sand, oil, soil, rocks, resources, create, present, construct |

#### Learning Experience # 6

The teacher may present minerals so the students can compare and contrast them by their properties (luster, streak, hardness, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generalization Connection(s):</th>
<th>The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
(K-5 Hands-On Science and Literacy Activities about Rocks and Minerals)  
(Graphic organizers)  
[http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/organizer/1/org_1c_6_2.pdf](http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/organizer/1/org_1c_6_2.pdf)  
(Worksheet for Rocks and Minerals)  
[http://science.lotsoflessons.com/rocks.html](http://science.lotsoflessons.com/rocks.html)  
(Rock resources for teachers) |
(Mystery Mineral Lab activity)  
(Science Games for Kids by Topic) |
| Assessment: | Students will use a graphic organizer (chart, Venn diagram, etc.) to compare and contrast the different properties of minerals.  
(Graphic organizers) |
| Differentiation:  
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.) | **Access (Resources and/or Process)**  
The teacher may partner students to work on the construction of the Venn diagram  
N/A  
| **Expression (Products and/or Performance)** | |
### Extensions for depth and complexity:

**Access (Resources and/or Process):**
The teacher may provide lists of national monuments and the student will research the type of mineral(rock) contained in the monument and the rationale used in picking that rock.

**Expression (Products and/or Performance):**
The student may present their research to the class through a presentation (oral, voice thread, power point, etc.).

### Critical Content:
- Resources, minerals, materials, soil, sand, rocks, oil

### Key Skills:
- Present information (resources related to the Earth)
- Create visuals

### Critical Language:
Resources, minerals, materials, soil, sand, rocks, oil, create, present

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## Learning Experiences # 7 – 8

### Instructional Timeframe: Week 5

#### Learning Experience # 7

The teacher may create activities centered on the types and components of soil so that students can recognize what soil is and its composition.

**Generalization Connection(s):**
- Weathering and erosion brought about by wind and water result in continual changes to the Earth’s surface
- The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways

**Teacher Resources:**
- [Soil activity sheets](http://www.soil-net.com/dev/page.cfm?pageid=activities_sheets)
- [What is the difference between soil & dirt](http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schooladventures/soil/down_dirty.html)
- [Video- about how soil is formed](http://www.brainpop.com/science/earthsystem/soil/)
- [Good informational site on soil](http://www.kidsgeo.com/geology-for-kids/0009-components-of-soil.php)
- [Soil experiments, games and information](http://www.soils4kids.org/experiments)

**Student Resources:**
- [Video/game for students around the formation and importance of soil](http://www.soil-net.com/primary/)
- [Types of soil investigation](http://thirdgradethinkers8.blogspot.com/2012/05/types-of-soil-investigation-and.html)
- [Video- about how soil is formed](http://www.brainpop.com/science/earthsystem/soil/)
- [Games on soil](http://www.soils4kids.org/games)

**Assessment:**
The students will compare and contrast soil and dirt and categorize the different types of soil.

**Differentiation:**
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

**Access (Resources and/or Process):**
The teacher may use illustrations to show soil sequences
The teacher may offer sentence frames, word banks, etc.

**Expression (Products and/or Performance):**
Students may draw and label a picture of soil layers
Students may make a foldable guide that summarizes what he/she learned about soil
**Extensions for depth and complexity:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may allow students to research the formation and uses of soil using Internet, encyclopedias and other informational text to increase knowledge on soil concepts</td>
<td>Students may create a concept map that summarizes the formation and uses of soil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Critical Content:**

- Soil is made up of broken down rocks, minerals, and once-living things
- Topsoil, subsoil, bedrock, humus

**Key Skills:**
- Explore soil and its components

**Critical Language:**
- Soil, topsoil, subsoil, bedrock, humus, texture, weathered, sequence, summarize, formation, sand, explore

**Learning Experience # 8**

The teacher may lead discussions around the amount of time it takes soil and other materials to develop into usable resources so that students can deepen their understanding that Earth’s materials are continually changing.

**Generalization Connection(s):**
- The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways

**Teacher Resources:**
- [http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/organizer/1/org_1c_6.pdf](http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/organizer/1/org_1c_6.pdf) (Natural Resources worksheet)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_6M3CNZKkU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_6M3CNZKkU) (Video for natural resources- renewable and non-renewable)
- [http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/energy/ecostats/](http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/energy/ecostats/) (Fossil games, activities, and worksheets)

**Student Resources:**
- [http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/energy/ecostats/](http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/energy/ecostats/) (Fossil games activities)

**Assessment:**
- The student will create a brochure that provides information on the development and the formation of usable soil.

**Differentiation:**

(If students need assistance accessing the content or expressing understanding, provide the following)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide word banks, visuals, sentence frames, dictionaries, T-Charts, etc</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may allow small group, one-one, or partner work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Extensions for depth and complexity:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may allow students to start and maintain a compost pile</td>
<td>The student may keep a composting journal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Critical Content:**
- Time in relation to earth changes, soil formation, compost

**Key Skills:**
- Identify the formation and development of soil

**Critical Language:**
- Resources, recognize, create loam, clay, silt, sand, formation compost
## Learning Experience # 9

The teacher may lead discussions on natural disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes, landslides and floods, so that students can recognize how these disasters continually change the Earth’s surface.

| Generalization Connection(s): | Weathering and erosion brought about by wind and water result in continual changes to the Earth’s surface. The rock cycle breaks down and/or combines Earth’s materials in different ways. |
[http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/investigate/3/inv_3c_6_2.pdf](http://www.eduplace.com/science/hmsc/content/investigate/3/inv_3c_6_2.pdf) (Lab activity for natural disasters) |
| Student Resources: | [http://www.instructorscorner.org/media/resources/schools/Masters/EDU_Earthquakes/k-2%20Plate%20Tectonics.pdf](http://www.instructorscorner.org/media/resources/schools/Masters/EDU_Earthquakes/k-2%20Plate%20Tectonics.pdf) (Hands on activities looking at changes in the Earth’s surface)  
[http://www.neok12.com/diagram/Natural-Disasters-01.htm](http://www.neok12.com/diagram/Natural-Disasters-01.htm) (Online game to identify natural disasters)  
| Assessment: | The student will describe in their science notebooks what an earthquake, a volcano, a flood, and a landslide are and how the Earth’s surface changes due to the outcome of natural disasters. |
| Differentiation: | **Access** (Resources and/or Process)  
The teacher may provide visuals, multiple choice, vocabulary words and definitions to list and explain natural disasters  
The teacher may allow small group or partner  

**Expression** (Products and/or Performance)  
Students may list and/or explain four natural disasters that can cause sudden changes to the Earth’s surface. (verbal, written, matching activity)  
Students may use images to identify and label natural disasters |
| Extensions for depth and complexity: | **Access** (Resources and/or Process)  
The teacher may allow students to research a recent natural disaster using internet, news reports, etc. to apply information to real-world situations  
[http://moodle.urbandale.k12.ia.us/pluginfile.php/69739/mod_resource/content/1/News%20Article%20Organizer.pdf](http://moodle.urbandale.k12.ia.us/pluginfile.php/69739/mod_resource/content/1/News%20Article%20Organizer.pdf) (News article template)  

**Expression** (Products and/or Performance)  
Students may write a newspaper article on a recent natural disaster and present to the class |
### Critical Content:
- Natural occurrences change the Earth’s surface (earthquake, landslide, volcano)

### Key Skills:
- Recognize how natural disasters continually change the Earth’s surface

### Critical Language:
- Natural disasters, Earth’s surface, volcano, earthquakes, landslides, floods, demonstrate, recognize

### Learning Experience # 10

The teacher may design labs/activities around concepts of weathering and erosion so that students can understand the consequences and effects of water and wind on Earth’s materials.

#### Generalization Connection(s):
- Weathering and erosion brought about by wind and water result in continual changes to the Earth’s surface

#### Teacher Resources:
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xv1DqkARQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xv1DqkARQ) (Bill Nye video on weathering)
- [http://www.brainpop.com/science/weather/weathering/](http://www.brainpop.com/science/weather/weathering/) (Brain Pop; Weathering video)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xv1DqkARQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xv1DqkARQ) (Bill Nye the Science Guy Rocks and Weathering video)

#### Student Resources:
- [http://www.onegeology.org/eXtra/kids/earthProcesses/weathering.html](http://www.onegeology.org/eXtra/kids/earthProcesses/weathering.html) (NE Geology Kids; contains visuals and informational text regarding weathering and erosion)

#### Assessment:
- The student will compare and contrast weathering and erosion and explain the implications of both on the Earth’s materials.

#### Differentiation:
(Multiple means for students to access content and multiple modes for student to express understanding.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
<th>Expression (Products and/or Performance)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide magazines, newspapers, Internet</td>
<td>Students may use images to describe one example of weathering and erosion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may allow partner work, small group or one-one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may provide sentence frames and necessary vocabulary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may allow students to find examples of weathering around the school or their homes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3rd Grade, Science  
Unit Title: Earth Materials and Rock Cycles  
Page 16 of 17
## Extensions for depth and complexity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access (Resources and/or Process)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The teacher may allow students to research how the Rocky Mountains were formed using internet, informational texts, etc. to gain knowledge of Colorado’s land formations</td>
<td>Students may create a poster that represents the formation of the Rocky Mountains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Critical Content:
- Effects of Weathering and Erosion on the Earth’s surface (glacier, etc.)

### Key Skills:
- Identify how weathering and erosion have continually changed the Earth’s surface

### Critical Language:
- Weathering, erosion, materials, glacier, consequences, effect, materials, identify, create, describe