

ROCK OBITUARY

Suggested grades: 3-8

INTRODUCTION:

Rocks undergo changes on the Earth's surface and below. See, for example the Rock Cycle.

OBJECTIVE:

Students will be able to exhibit their knowledge of the rock cycle in a creative manner using language arts.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have students form a team of at least three. Have enough rocks for each team, making sure that you use each type, i.e., igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic. Igneous can include either or both, intrusive and extrusive.
2. Students will need to know the rock cycles about ways different types of rocks are formed before they will be able to do this activity.
3. You could invite a local geologist into the classroom to talk to the students about ways various rocks are formed and how weathering, faulting and other natural occurrences can either form or change a rock.
4. Once the students have the information about rock formation, and you have given them a rock, allow them about 10 minutes to write an obituary for their rock. The obituary should include a name of the rock, how the rock was originally formed and something about its existence.
5. Examples are included that can be read to the class before this activity.
6. Once the students have finished, read the obituaries to the entire class, then open up a discussion period to discuss the cycles of a rock. Could other rocks have been formed by a different type of natural occurrence? What other causes could be the demise of a particular rock?
7. Have the students do some research on different rocks to determine what type of natural occurrence formed them or contributed to their present form.

ROCKHAVEN GAZETTE

(Examples of an Obituary)

PETROVICH PUMICE

As a young, light and frothy mass of foam, Petrovich always dreamed of reaching the stars. At his first opportunity, he escaped his momma's grasp and sibling rivalry by joining the Magma Traveling Volcanic Circus. The only position open was to be shot out of the volcanic cannon. Our extroverted Petrovich enjoyed his fifteen seconds of glory. His momma, knowing, all, fed him his last meal of Russian Borsch to propel him to greater heights. In his afterlife, he is abrasive to the likes of Shirley McLain.

MR. SCHIST

Today we mourn the loss of Mr. Schist, a longtime resident of Clark County, Nevada. He was immortalized in building stone at schools and local hotels. Many school children cradled him fondly as they caressed their pencils.

He was born 2 miles underground to an extremely warm and affectionate family, who gave him encouraging pressure bear hugs on a regular basis.

Mr. Schist was thought by many to be flaky but developed a sparkling personality as he approached adulthood.

He is survived by many brothers and sisters in local hotels.

SANDY SANDSTONE

Sandy Sandstone was part of a lofty family of mountains. Dr. Erosion was assisted by Nurse Windy Weathering at his birth. Sandy and his friends were carried along the birth canal canyons to the alluvial fan at the base of the mountain. Under intense pressure and heat from those above him, Sandy developed into a hardened, rough individual surviving on Earth for millions of years. Dr. Jack Erosion assisted at Sandy's death. He is survived by his son, Sammy who is following in his father's footsteps.

ROCKHAVEN GAZETTE

LIFE STORY OF _____
