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**Geology Activities–Inspiring Life–Long Learning With Fun**

**By Claudia Mann**

Do you need geology activities? For a classroom? Homeschooling? Something different for an after school program? Maybe you don't know how much you need them.

If you've ever taken a walk in the woods with a young child, you've probably observed a natural love of rocks and minerals. Shape, color, texture...any of these can warrant special notice, a quick pick–up and a drop in the pocket. Once home, those same rocks can spark a memory or an imagination of how it came to be there at just that spot in the path.

A love for the natural world is so universal that if you drop "rocks and minerals" into a Google search you'll find over 9 million websites from countries all around the world—and lots of these are directed to children or made by children. On a short search, I encountered sites by teachers for students, by avid rock hounds for aspiring rock hounds, by colleges, universities, and museums, and by folks who just LOVE rocks!

That's why we recommend starting a geology club.

**Geology Club In Ohio**

Last year, Kathy Koenig of Cincinnati started a geology club for 7 and 8 year–olds. Being a teacher, she wanted to inspire kids in a subject she knew would be lots of fun. She also wanted to give the students plenty of opportunities for some genuine science work. She planned out a years worth of geology activities and lessons.

**The Basic Plan**

The club met for eight sessions monthly throughout the school year. Students paid \$25 for the year–long club, all of which was to be used to purchase specimens, experimental materials, and geology activities, that could then be owned by the students. Kathy searched hard to find resources who would give her a lot for her money. (That's how she found us at

www.fossilicious.com

!)

### Attendance

Would you be surprised if you found out that this geology club had nearly 100% attendance, even on Friday afternoons after school? That's what happened! Even on the last day of the week, kids were thrilled to spend time LEARNING!

The students worked with:

crystals and crystal growing classification of minerals the practical uses of minerals around the house the rock cycle and the events that lead to different formations

how fossils are formed how to identify and dig for fossils and, of course, starting their own fossil, rock and mineral collections.

### Careful Planning And a Little Help

While Kathy planned the sessions and led the meetings, parent volunteers were there to support the students in their geology activities. Most of the meeting time was spent in hands on geology activities with real specimens. The extra adult support allowed more of the children to be engaged and successful.

### The Results

By the end of the year, students had not only learned a great deal, they had also begun personal collections, nicely labeled and ready for display. These budding paleontologists and geologists were becoming well–versed in the process of excavation and labeling...and they'd had a first–hand experience with creating good field notes.

Find out how you can get everything Kathy used to create a successful geology Club. Check out

[http://www.fossils–facts–and–finds.com/geology\\_activities.html](http://www.fossils–facts–and–finds.com/geology_activities.html)

for info and

<http://www.fossilicious.com>

for wholesale fossils, rocks, and minerals.

### How Inspiring Dog Tales Can Be

**By Jack Russell**

There could be no better way of inspiring people than to use some of the inspiring dog tales. In this way, people will realize how dogs are so important in a man's life and how reliable dogs can be especially if they are well trained.

In reality, dogs are marvelous canine mammals because they are endowed with remarkable senses and skills. They can almost do anything especially if they are properly trained to do such a thing.

In fact, dogs are considered to be intelligent species. Anecdotal facts implied that dogs have a rationally high rate of intelligence.

Dog intelligence refers to the ability of the dog to do certain things that cannot be done by other animals. Dogs have the innate ability to think, learn some tricks, and the ability to solve some problems like rescuing a person who is in danger.

This dog intelligence is, in fact, the main reason why people are fond of reading some inspiring dog tales. They used to think that these canine mammals are only animals and are not capable of thinking what to do in case somebody is in trouble. Now that a lot of inspiring dog tales have emerged to prove the reality of a dog's intelligence, many people now believe how dogs can really be reliable enough to trust our lives to them.

Take for example the guide dogs. These dogs are trained to help other people who have impairments such as visual and hearing.

Learning a lot of skills to be able to take such great responsibility takes a certain amount of intelligence just to obtain the skills. Moreover, there are dogs that were able to serve their masters even up to the time that they need to rescue them from imminent danger.

An example of this is the tale of the two guide dogs that rescued their masters as they were trapped inside the building of the World Trade Center Towers during the September 11 attack.

This is an inspiring tale of two guide dogs that remarkably guided their masters out from the fury of the blazed trade center and were able to save their lives.

Another great example is about a black and white English Pointer who had been donating blood for almost 11 years of his dog life. The donated blood is to be used on dogs that were seriously injured and need blood transfusion.

These inspiring dog tales will not only touch the hearts of the most dog lovers but everybody who realizes that dogs know how to help others too.

Jack Russell is a a long time dog fancier, visit his Dog Resources Blog and download his Free Dog Owners Handbook – it's Dog Gone Good!

<http://www.daveshealthbuzz.com/dogcare/>



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