

What was it like to be there - in the rocky world? Bringing the formation of solid rock to life - by imagining yourself there when it formed

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In my opinion, this activity is really suitable for the students who think rocks and minerals are boring. In this process, students can use their imaginations, creativity, the experiences of the world today and the evidence preserved in the rocks to travel back to the time when the rocks formed. Students can learn the information related to solid rock just like watching an adventure movie. This activity not only increases student's motivation to learn, but also helps teachers design the traditional "boring rock" curriculum more easily and make it interesting.

Although this activity seems really perfect for all the students (from ages 8-80), I still want to bring up some **suggestions** to make it more suitable for class teaching in Taiwan.

- I suggest that students could preview some information about the rocks in the activity before the class starts. In this way, students will have appropriate prior knowledge about the rocks, so that they can use this knowledge to picture themselves more easily when and where the rocks formed. It would also help students to answer the series of questions in a complete way.
- Furthermore, teachers should summarize all the information about the formation of solid rock which students mentioned in the class, by comparing the difference between the rocks. Students would be impressed by this systematic framework and then integrate the observation and the past experiences into some unified scientific concept.

It is really an interesting and meaningful activity to develop students' scientific knowledge and knowledge about the nature of science. I just can't wait to share this teaching activity with all my classmates.

I am a graduate student; my major is science education.