

Once upon a time, long, long ago . . . A geological fairytale



Once upon a time, long, long ago, before geological time was even invented, a geologist was in disgrace due to his unconformity. He was locked away in the highest cell of the highest turret of the highest tower of the highest castle in the land, and began to pine for bare rocks beneath his feet. But then he had an idea. He gripped the bars of his window until his hands were sore, and then used the saw to cut through the bars. It was a very long way down to the ground, but luckily the rain suddenly came down in sheets - so he tied the sheets together and they almost reached the ground - but not quite. Fortunately a blanket of fog descended, so he tied the blanket to the end and slid down into the courtyard.

Then he had to get past the outer castle wall. He found some grains of calcite, feldspar and quartz and thought, "I can make a Mohs Scale to scale the wall." ... and so he did.

He had to get away from the castle, so he shouted himself until he was hoarse and then rode the horse away until he came to a huge plate boundary. In front of the boundary was a small piece of slate and, you know how two halves make a whole, well, he broke the slate in half, put them together, and climbed through the hole - but, sadly, it wasn't big enough for the horse too.

As he surveyed the scene on the other side, he realised that he could see all the elements of the rock cycle, so he got on the cycle and cycled on until he was suddenly deposited on the road.

He spotted some graded bedding and, using this to weigh up the options, realised that all he could do was walk. So he walked until he came to a fault in the story

So he walked until he came to a fault in the story, and walked and walked until he became very hot and thirsty. Being a thinking geologist, he took the back off his watch and had a drink from the spring. The spring overflowed and formed a mighty river in front of him but, he was a thinking geologist, so he just waited until 4 o'clock when the banks close and walked across.



He walked even further and became really lost so he saw a man and asked the way home. "That's easy" said the man, "You go straight down the crooked lane and all round the square." So he tried and became even more lost. Then he visited the 'Lost and found' and found himself all over again.

After many more adventures he eventually got back to his own country, where he married a lady geologist, had lots of little geologists and lived rockily ever after.

The End

- or a new beginning?

The back up

Title: Once upon a time, long, long ago . . .

Subtitle: A geological fairytale

Topic: A once a pun a time geological tale

Age range of pupils: 5 - 500 years

Time needed to complete activity: 5 minutes.

Pupil learning outcomes: Pupils can:
groan loudly at every 'joke'.

Context:
A geological fairyland.

Following up the activity:

Can you make up a better story?

Underlying principles:

Geologists should not mess with prose.

Thinking skill development:

A strange imagination.

Resource list:

A stranger imagination

Source: Chris King, who used to be a welcome member of the Earthlearningidea Team - with thanks to Donald Davidson for the cartoons.

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