



Family Fun Activities and Investigations

The following are sites where families can participate in programs or interact with exhibits to learn more about landforms and geology. Please contact the sites specifically to learn about their current exhibits and calendar of events.

Assateague Island National Seashore
(be sure to check out how wind and water are constantly changing this landform)
(410-641-1443 ext.232) <http://www.nps.gov/asis/>

Crystal Grottoes Cavern
(301-432-6336) <http://www.mgs.md.gov/esic/features/cave/crystal.html>

Luray Caverns
(540-743-6551) <http://www.luraycaverns.com/>

National Aquarium in Baltimore
(be sure to check out the Maryland: Mountains to the Sea exhibit)
(410-576-3800) <http://www.aqua.org/index.html>

Sideling Hill Visitor Center
(301-842-2702) <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/sidelinghill.html>

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History
(202-633-1000) <http://www.mnh.si.edu/>

Career Connections



Take a few minutes to discuss with your child these different career opportunities for people interested in earth science.

Cartographer

A person who creates maps

Geologist

A scientist that studies solid earth, rocks, and minerals

Land Surveyor

A person who measures the height and slope of land

Marine Geology Oceanographer

A scientist who studies land on the floor of the oceans and seas

Museum Curator

A person in charge of a museum

Oceanographer

A scientist who studies oceans and seas

Prepared by

Office Of Science, Pre K -12

George Newberry, Director

A Parent's Informational Guide to:

Moving Mountains



Grade 3



Moving Mountains

Moving Mountains is a unit of study in which students will investigate landforms, water features, weathering, and erosion. The students will explore concepts using hands on methods and explain those concepts orally, in diagrams, with models, and in written format. Throughout this unit, students utilize a variety of scientific and mathematical skills to extend their understanding of plate tectonics. The Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum addressed in this unit are listed below.

Indicator: C. Plate Tectonics

1. Gather information and provide evidence about the physical environment, becoming familiar with the details of geological features, observing and mapping locations of hills, valleys, rivers, and canyons.

- A. Identify and describe some natural features of continents.
- Mountains
 - Valleys
 - Rivers
 - Canyons
- B. Describe the natural features in their immediate outdoor environment, and compare the features with those of another region in Maryland..
- C. Identify and describe some features of the ocean floor.
- Mountains
 - Valleys
 - Canyons
- D. Recognize and explain that an ocean floor is land covered by water.



Unit Vocabulary

Encourage your children to use the vocabulary listed below when telling you about what they are learning during this science unit.

canyon- deep, narrow valley with steep sides

erosion- the carrying away of weathered soil, rock, and other materials on the Earth's surface by gravity, water, and wind

landforms- features made of land

natural features of Earth- the landforms and water features found on Earth's surface

valley- a depression on Earth's surface between ranges of hills or mountains

water features- features made of water

weathering- process in which rocks exposed to the weather are worn down by water, wind, or ice



Books to Read

Take some time to read a few books about landforms and how they are formed with your child. Books about landforms, rocks, and minerals can be found in the non-fiction section of the library (call letters 550-578). The non-fiction section of your school and public library also has books on this topic. To find books in the catalogue, use the search terms: landforms, erosion, and/or weathering. Possible books are listed below:

Caves, Larry Dane Brimmer

Children of the Dust Days, Karen Mueller Coombs

The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor, Joanna Cole

Sand, Ellen J. Prager

The Visual Dictionary of the Earth, Eyewitness Visual Dictionaries

Internet Sites



Go to on-line website at www.bcps.org/offices/lis. Select "Databases" link to open the Database Portal. Use the following login protocols for databases you wish to use.

SIRS Discoverer/ SIRS Discoverer WebFind

User Name: bcps

Password: sirs

BrainPop

User Name: bcps

Password: brainpop