



Geology Merit Badge Workbook - Earth History

SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

Scouts participating in a Scoutmaster Bucky merit badge opportunity, whether online or in person, should consider using the Geology merit badge pamphlet for discovery and knowledge, along with the class preparation pages for clarifications, insights, and expectations.

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/geology/geology-pamphlet.pdf>

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/geology/geology-cpp.pdf>

REQUIREMENTS 4a and 6a REQUIRE COUNSELOR APPROVAL.

REQUIREMENTS 4a and 6a REQUIRE PARENT / GUARDIAN APPROVAL.

REQUIREMENT 1: Define geology.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Discuss how geologists learn about rock formations.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: In geology, explain why the study of the present is important to understanding the past.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2: Pick three resources that can be extracted or mined from Earth for commercial use. Discuss with your counselor how each product is discovered and processed.

RESOURCE #1:

Resource:

How is this resource discovered:

How is this resource processed:

RESOURCE #2:

Resource:

How is this resource discovered:

How is this resource processed:



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RESOURCE #3:

Resource:

How is this resource discovered:

How is this resource processed:

REQUIREMENT 3: Review a geologic map of your area or an area selected by your counselor, and discuss the different rock types and estimated ages of rocks represented. Determine whether the rocks are horizontal, folded, or faulted, and explain how you arrived at your conclusion.

Consider using the [Geology Merit Badge Pamphlet](#) for preparation information

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

Notes:



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DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (4A or 4B) FOR REQUIREMENT 4

REQUIREMENT 4a: With your parent or guardian's and counselor's approval, visit with a geologist, land use planner, or civil engineer. Discuss this professional's work and the tools required in this line of work. Learn about a project that this person is now working on, and ask to see reports and maps created for this project. Discuss with your counselor what you have learned.

PARENT/GUARDIAN APPROVAL: IS REQUIRED.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Phone or Email

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date ☐ *approved*

COUNSELOR APPROVAL: IS REQUIRED.

Counselor's Name

Phone or Email

Counselor's Signature

Date ☐ *approved*

Person's Name, Title, and Profession to Visit:

Date and Location of Visit:

Current Project Reviewed:



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Tools required for this person's work:

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 4b: Find out about three career opportunities available in geology.

Career Opportunity #1:

Career Opportunity #2:

Career Opportunity #3:

REQUIREMENT 4b: Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor.

Selected Career Opportunity:

Education Requirements:

Training Requirements:

Experience Requirements:

REQUIREMENT 4b: Explain why this profession might interest you.

Notes:



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Requirement 5d - Earth History Option

REQUIREMENT 5d1: Create a chart showing suggested geological eras and periods. Determine which period the rocks in your region might have been formed.



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REQUIREMENT 5d2: Explain the theory of plate tectonics.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5d2: Make a chart explaining, or discuss with your counselor, how the processes of plate tectonics work.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 5d2: Discuss how plate tectonics determines the distribution of most of the Earth's volcanoes, earthquakes, and mountain belts.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5d3: Explain to your counselor the processes of burial and fossilization.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 5d3: Discuss the concept of extinction.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5d4: Explain to your counselor how fossils provide information about ancient life, environment, climate, and geography.

Ancient Life:



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Environment:

Climate:

Geography:



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REQUIREMENT 5d4: Discuss the following terms and explain how animals from each habitat obtain food: benthonic, pelagic, littoral, lacustrine, open marine, brackish, fluvial, eolian, protected reef.

BENTHONIC:

Definition / Meaning:

How animals obtained food in this habitat:

PELAGIC:

Definition / Meaning:

How animals obtained food in this habitat:

LITTORAL:

Definition / Meaning:

How animals obtained food in this habitat:



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LACUSTRINE:

Definition / Meaning:

How animals obtained food in this habitat:

OPEN MARINE:

Definition / Meaning:

How animals obtained food in this habitat:

BRACKISH:

Definition / Meaning:

How animals obtained food in this habitat:



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FLUVIAL:

Definition / Meaning:

How animals obtained food in this habitat:

EOLIAN:

Definition / Meaning:

How animals obtained food in this habitat:

PROTECTED REEF:

Definition / Meaning:

How animals obtained food in this habitat:



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REQUIREMENT 5d5: Collect 10 different fossil plants or animals OR (with your counselor's assistance) identify 15 different fossil plants or animals. Record in a notebook where you obtained (found, bought, traded) each one. Classify each specimen to the best of your ability, and explain how each one might have survived and obtained food. Tell what else you can learn from these fossils.

Be sure to bring your collected fossils and notebook to share with your counselor

Consider using the [Geology Merit Badge Pamphlet](#) for preparation information

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

Notes:



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DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (6A, 6B, 6C, or 6D) FOR REQUIREMENT 6

REQUIREMENT 6a: Visit a science museum or the geology department of a local university that has fossils on display. With your parent or guardian's and counselor's approval, before you go, make an appointment with a curator or guide who can show you how the fossils are preserved and prepared for display.

Place to Visit:

PARENT / GUARDIAN APPROVAL: IS REQUIRED.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Phone or Email

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date ☐ *approved*

COUNSELOR APPROVAL: IS REQUIRED.

Counselor's Name

Phone or Email

Counselor's Signature

Date ☐ *approved*

Place to Visit:

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 6b: Visit a structure in your area that was built using fossiliferous rocks. Determine what kind of rock was used and tell your counselor the kinds of fossil evidence you found there.

Place and Location to Visit:

Rock Used:

Fossil Evidence:



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REQUIREMENT 6c: Visit a rock outcrop that contains fossils. Determine what kind of rock contains the fossils, and tell your counselor the kinds of fossil evidence you found at the outcrop.

Place and Location to Visit:

Rock that fossils are contained in:

Fossil Evidence:

REQUIREMENT 6d: Prepare a display or presentation on your state fossil. Include an image of the fossil, the age of the fossil, and its classification. You may use maps, books, articles from periodicals, and research found on the internet (with your parent or guardian's permission). Share the display with your counselor or a small group (such as your class at school). If your state does not have a state fossil, you may select a state fossil from a neighboring state.

Consider using the [Geology Merit Badge Pamphlet](#) for preparation information
Be sure to bring your display, or evidence of, to share with your merit badge counselor

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

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PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: IS REQUIRED.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Phone or Email

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date

☐

permission



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State	Age	Common name	Binomial nomenclature
Alabama	Eocene	Basilosaurus whale	<i>Basilosaurus cetoides</i>
Alaska	Pleistocene	Woolly Mammoth	<i>Mammuthus primigenius</i>
Arizona	Triassic	petrified wood	<i>Araucarioxylon arizonicum</i>
Arkansas	N/A	N/A	N/A
California	Pleistocene	Saber-toothed cat	<i>Smilodon fatalis</i>
Colorado	Jurassic	Stegosaurus	<i>Stegosaurus stenops</i>
Connecticut	Jurassic	dinosaur tracks	<i>Eubrontes giganteus</i>
Delaware	Cretaceous	Belemnite	<i>Belemnitella americana</i>
Washington, D.C.	Cretaceous	Capitalsaurus	<i>nomen nudum only</i>
Florida	Oligocene - Miocene	agatized coral	<i>Cnidaria, Anthozoa</i>
Georgia	Cretaceous - Miocene	shark tooth	undetermined
Hawaii	N/A	N/A	N/A
Idaho	Pliocene	Hagerman horse	<i>Equus simplicidens</i>
Illinois	Pennsylvanian	Tully Monster	<i>Tullimonstrum gregarium</i>
Indiana	Pleistocene	Jefferson's ground sloth	<i>Megalonyx jeffersonii</i>
Iowa	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kansas	Cretaceous	Flying reptile	<i>Pteranodon</i>
Kentucky	Mississippian	brachiopod	undetermined
Louisiana	Oligocene	petrified palmwood	<i>Palmoxylon</i>
Maine	Devonian	Pertica plant	<i>Pertica quadrifaria</i>
Maryland	Miocene	murex snail / gastropod	<i>Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae</i>
Massachusetts	Jurassic	dinosaur tracks	undetermined
Michigan	Pliocene - Pleistocene	American mastodon	<i>Mammut americanum</i>
Minnesota	Pleistocene	Giant Beaver	<i>Castoroides ohioensis</i>
Mississippi	Eocene	Basilosaurus and Zygorhiza whales	<i>Basilosaurus cetoides</i> <i>Zygorhiza kochii</i>
Missouri	Pennsylvanian	Sea lily	<i>Delocrinus missouriensis</i>



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State	Age	Common name	Binomial nomenclature
Montana	Cretaceous	Duck-billed dinosaur	<i>Maiaasaura peeblesorum</i>
Nebraska	Pleistocene	Woolly Mammoth Columbian Mammoth Imperial Mammoth	<i>Mammuthus primigenius</i> <i>Mammuthus columbi</i> <i>Mammuthus imperator</i>
Nevada	Triassic	Shonisaurus	<i>Shonisaurus popularis</i>
New Hampshire	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Jersey	Cretaceous	duck-billed dinosaur	<i>Hadrosaurus foulkii</i>
New Mexico	Triassic	Coelophysis	<i>Coelophysis bauri</i>
New York	Silurian	sea scorpion	<i>Eurypterus remipes</i>
North Carolina	Oligocene - Pleistocene	Megalodon Shark tooth	undetermined
North Dakota	Paleocene	shipworm-bored petrified wood	<i>Teredo</i> petrified wood
Ohio	Ordovician	trilobite	<i>Isotelus maximus</i>
Oklahoma	Jurassic	Saurophaganax	<i>Saurophaganax maximus</i>
Oregon	Eocene	Dawn redwood	<i>Metasequoia occidentalis</i>
Pennsylvania	Devonian	trilobite	<i>Phacops rana</i>
Rhode Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Carolina	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Dakota	Cretaceous	Triceratops	<i>Triceratops horridus</i>
Tennessee	Cretaceous	bivalve	<i>Pterotrigonia thoracica</i>
Texas	Cretaceous	Pleurocoelus	<i>Pleurocoelus nanus</i>
Utah	Jurassic	Allosaurus	<i>Allosaurus fragilis</i>
Vermont	Pleistocene	Beluga whale	<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>
Virginia	Miocene - Pliocene	scallop	<i>Chesapecten jeffersonius</i>
Washington	Pleistocene	Columbian Mammoth	<i>Mammuthus columbi</i>
West Virginia	Pleistocene	Jefferson's ground sloth	<i>Megalonyx jeffersonii</i>
Wisconsin	Ordovician - Silurian	trilobite	<i>Calymene celebra</i>
Wyoming	Eocene	Knightia	<i>Knightia</i>

This list is not meant to be complete and may not reflect all current or variable fossils for each state
N/A simply implies either unknown or unofficial / proposed may exist