

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

Unit 3 Newsletter

Rock Transformations



Students have demonstrated their learning in Plate Motion and we are starting our 3rd unit this week. In this unit, students take on the role of student geologists as they investigate different ways rocks form and change. Using physical models, a digital simulation, and hands-on activities as well as information gathered from data and science texts, students investigate the cycling of matter (rock material) on Earth and how energy from the sun and from Earth's interior drive different rock transformation processes. Students use their new understanding to explain how these processes caused rock material from the Rocky Mountains to eventually become part of the Great Plains.

Q: How can I support my student in their learning?

A: The beginning of a new unit is a great time for a reset in grades and mentality. Encourage your student to start or maintain healthy routines for completing work and staying organized. Most assignments in this class have opportunities for revision, so if they receive a low score, ask them about it. Please support your students in staying caught up by:

1. Checking PowerSchool with your student on a regular basis that works for your family schedule.
2. Encouraging organization **and** assisting with ideas to stay organized, but making it their responsibility to follow through with staying organized. Please check in with your student on how they are doing with class supplies. Do they have enough pencils? Do they need a new notebook for science?
3. Ask your student each day to tell you what they worked on in science class and if they have any homework. I do accept late work with no penalty, but only for one week after the unit ends. You can always view the daily homework/classwork calendar on my teacher webpage https://staff.helenaschools.org/staff_page/KBerry/

Contact Me:

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I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours.

Opportunities in Rock Transformations

As we study the rock cycle, encourage your student to explore local rock formations.

Go on a hike, notice rock types and practice making detailed observations with your student. Ask them how they think each rock was formed.

Want to know more about the unit and standards?

1) You can visit www.nextgenscience.org and search the middle school grade level standards.

2) Take a look at this summary for our current unit:

Students obtain information by reading articles and use digital and physical models to investigate how rock transforms from one type to another due to processes driven by energy from the sun and from Earth's interior (energy and matter). They construct explanations about how rock formations of the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains formed.

3. Give me a call or email for further information!