



ROCK CYCLE WALKWAY

Gerald E. Eddy Discovery Center
17030 Bush Rd.
Chelsea, MI 48118
(734) 475-3170
www.michigan.gov/dnr/eddycenter

LOCATION	SEASON	AGE RANGE	DURATION	# OF VISITORS
DC	All Year	3 rd -6 th grade	1 hours	30 max.

Description:

Students will follow the Rock Walkway exploring the cycle of rock formation and break down. Using boulders from the three main rock types, participants will learn about deposition, metamorphism, melting, lithification, and erosion. Students will study many different types of rocks and minerals that are part of our everyday lives. Glaciers and glacial features will also be discussed. The Discovery Center features the interactive geology room with an ice cave, fossil replicas, rock samples, a Geiger counter, and microscopes for up close viewing.

Goals:

Develop an understanding of the properties of earth materials and how those properties make materials useful.

Objectives:

- Recognize and describe different types of earth materials.
- Recognize that rocks are made up of minerals.
- Identify and describe natural causes of change in the Earth's surface.
- Identify Earth materials used to construct some common objects.
- Explain how physical and chemical weathering lead to erosion and the formation of soils and sediment.
- Explain how waves, wind, water, and glacier movement, shape and reshape the land surface of the Earth by eroding rock in some areas and depositing sediments in other areas.
- Describe how soil is a mixture, made up of weather-eroded rock and decomposed organic material
- Compare and contrast the formation of rock types (igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary) and demonstrate the similarities and differences using the rock cycle model.
- Explain plate tectonic movement and how the lithospheric plates move centimeters each year.
- Describe how fossils provide important evidence of how life and environmental conditions have changed.

The following grade level content expectations will be emphasized as determined by the grade level attending: E.ES.03.41; E.ES.03.51; E.SE.03.13-14; E.SE.03.22; E.SE.03.31-32; E.ST.04.31; E.EV.05.13; E.SE.06.11-.13; E.SE.06.41; E.SE.06.52; E.ST.06.31-.41