

# Home-School Connection #27

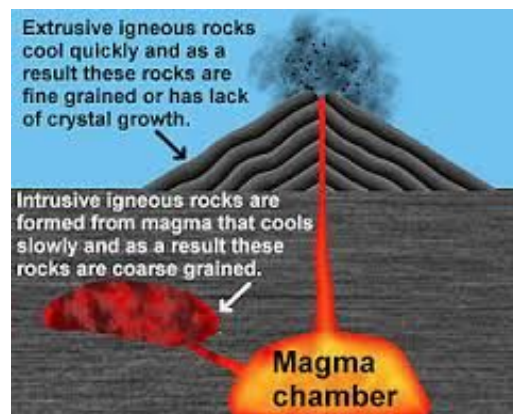
5/4/17

You must write at least THREE thought provoking, discussion questions



**GEOLOGY - STILL ROCKIN' with ROCKS:** We focused more on igneous rocks like obsidian (extrusive) and granite (intrusive). Can you say what is different about those two? You saw the

three minerals that make up granite (quartz, mica and feldspar) and you found out that feldspar is a 6 and quartz is a 7 on Moh's scale of hardness, so that is why it is used for things like counter tops or gravestones. You also looked at gypsum, which is pretty but it is only a 2 on Moh's scale of hardness, so it would not be a good countertop. We reviewed some of the different ways to identify properties of minerals: hardness, density (heaviness), magnetism (like lodestone), lustre (how much shine) and crystalline structure (like halite). You saw that you can use color, but it is unreliable. For example, you saw how clear calcite and halite look similar but halite is cubic. Have you looked more closely at salt yet?



**CAP PROGRAM:** On Thursday we had the CAP workshop. CAP stands for Child Assault Prevention. Please show your parents the 'Family Access' packet and talk about some of the scenarios you experienced and the strategies you learned. I (Ms. Stark) was once again so impressed with your thoughtful ideas. Your families would be happy to know how much you already knew about how to deal with peers, strangers or people you know who don't make you feel safe.

**RIVER TABLE AND FAMILY SKITS:** When 5S returned from the Farm School, even though many of you were pretty pooped, you were still focused and helpful after Mrs. Brown showed you some of the ways to build using the tools she brought in. American Dream is getting better looking each day. Your farms, fences and buildings are starting to emerge.

**READ ALOUD & CULTURE DIFFERENCES AROUND DEATH & FUNERALS:** The main character in our book, *Absolutely Normal Chaos*, is named Mary Lou Finney. One of Mary Lou's neighbors, Mr. Furtz, died suddenly from a heart attack. This led our interesting class to discuss heart attacks and how most people live through them now because medicine has improved so much. It also led to many discussions around how different cultures and religions deal with death. We discussed how not everyone uses a coffin and how some cultures have a viewing and some don't. Ask your family about their experiences with different religions and/or cultural differences with death and why they think these differences developed. Share your thoughts too.

**FARM SCHOOL OR VISITING CLASSES:** Before you sit and talk with our parents, please draw a picture and write a caption describing the picture of either Farm School or visiting classes while 5S was away. After that, show your parent(s) what you drew and wrote. By Saturday evening, I hope to have more photos up on our webpage to share. Talk about what was most fun, memorable and meaningful to you.



**SOME FARM SCHOOL QUESTIONS:** Do you remember how different farmers focused on the garden, the barn, the kitchen or forestry? If you were asked to be a sub for one of the farmers, which job would you do and why? Would you like to do more farming or do you feel you have had enough? What is something that surprised you, what is something you learned about yourself from being there? Ask your parents to describe any farm experiences or questions they have.

**IF YOU WERE NOT AT FARM SCHOOL:** Talk about what it was like to spend time in two different classes. What did you find interesting or surprising.

**ANYTHING ELSE?** What did you talk about? \_\_\_\_\_

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Due: **Monday:** We made a time to do this on: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature & Comments

Student rating (1-5) Please say why and which topics lead to the most in-depth discussions.