



Teacher Samples for Using Humor in the Classroom

Rocks & Minerals



Source: Pages excerpted from:

Bache, Ben. *Step Away from the Textbook!* Greenville, SC. Homecourt Publishers, 2010.

Original Poem

Rock Types

Description: A poem to review the **different types of rocks**.

Instructions: Use to introduce the subject, and also as a review tool.

Three Types of Rocks

When I look at rocks
I divide them by their kind
There are 3 types altogether
So I have to use my mind

Igneous is the first
It once was very hot
It melted and it cooled
And now is called granite rock

Sedimentary is a rock
With granules pressed in strata
Fossils lay inside
From which scientists collect data

Metamorphic rock
Is a type that went through change
Heat and ground pressure
Caused it to rearrange

Our great planet earth
Has 3 different types of rock
If you classify them right
You won't have a mental block!

Call & Response

Earth's Surface Cheer

Description: An interactive cheer about the **changes to the earth's surface**

Instructions: The teacher shouts out the question lines and students respond to the call in a cheer format. Enthusiasm is important in this exercise!

Teacher and students say these very **SLOWLY**
to show that they are examples of ***slow processes***.

When rocks crack & break over time...

IT'S WEATHERING!!!

When water & wind carry away rock & soil...

IT'S EROSION!!!

When rock & soil pile up in one place...

IT'S DEPOSITION!!!

Teacher and students say these very **QUICKLY**
to show that they are examples of ***rapid processes***.

When rock & soil slide down a slope or a cliff...

IT'S A LANDSLIDE !!!

When a volcano shoots from the earth & becomes new rock...

IT'S A VOLCANIC ERUPTION !!!

When water overflows its banks & covers the surrounding land...

IT'S A FLOOD !!!

When the earth's surface shakes, rolls, opens, & cracks...

IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE !!!



A Little Humor

Earth's Materials & Changes

Q: Why did the sedimentary rock become a metamorphic rock while taking a test in the classroom?

A: Because there was too much pressure.

(a great joke to review the three types of rock—sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous)

"True" definition of a Volcano - *A mountain with hiccups*

(it's worth a sympathy laugh, and you can use this joke when reviewing land features)

Q: What's a geologist's favorite type of music?

A: Rock music, of course.

(it's predictable, but it will help your students remember that geologists study the earth's surface)

A man wants to become a farmer, but things aren't going as he planned.

One day, he is in a local agricultural store, and he asks the owner, "What am I doing wrong?"

The owner inquires, "Have you taken into account the soil type? Maybe there are too many rocks, or you're not getting the correct drainage. It's very important to consider all of the geological features of the land."

The farmer shakes his head and says, "No, that's not it."

"Well, what are you trying to grow?" asks the bewildered store owner.

To this, the farmer replies, "I'm trying to grow chickens. Maybe I'm just planting them too close to one another."

(there's not too much instructional value in this one, but it will lighten the mood)

Several scientists are working together to drill a deep hole into the surface of the earth.

After drilling down 50 meters, they discover bits of copper. "That's strange," says one of the scientists, "I wonder if there was a civilization over 25,000 years ago that had copper telephone lines."

After drilling down another 50 meters, they come upon bits of glass. "Wow," says another scientist, "I think this glass was part of a fiber optics network from 50,000 years ago."

They continue down another 50 meters and come upon absolutely nothing. This prompts one scientist to exclaim, "Can you believe it? Over 100,000 years ago they must have been using cell phones!"

(very silly, but it can be used when you are preparing to discuss the layers of the earth)