

Steve Kidder
2nd grade class visit
About Rocks and Minerals
March 22, 2010
Willard Elementary
Teacher: Lilian DeGroot

I visited a second grade classroom at Willard Elementary school for about an hour. The kids had been studying rocks and minerals, so they had a lot of questions. I showed up in my field gear and explained to them what a graduate student was and what I do on a typical day. I brought along a number of rock samples as well. The kids knew enough to identify many of them as igneous, metamorphic or sedimentary. I also gave the teacher a stack of discarded topo maps from the library. The teacher and students were very enthusiastic to have the maps. They had written down their questions and others off the top of their heads: "how are minerals named?", "what's the difference between a crystal, a gem and a mineral?", "have you found a fossil?", "why do some minerals have many different colors, and others just one?" They also asked me if I knew where the Arc of the Covenant is.