Fossil Fun for Pre-School Students
A collaboration with “The Children’s Hour Pre-School.”

An EMPACTS Independent Study Project

Kourtney Bouchard
C. Dianne Phillips, Instructor
Where to start.... My experience..

“My EAST/EMPACTS experience began with having to “problem solve” finding a project that would both fit my personal academic objectives and also be of a valuable service to the community. I went through tons of ideas, before finding one I could actually run with.”

- I wanted to find a project that would help young mothers in our area. I made community contacts and talked to many people, but no project solidly came from the research.
- My second attempt was to collaborate with another EMPACTS team on campus, but they were far enough in that they didn’t need my assistance.
- My final try was to collaborate with another student, who I based my project off.
- Basically I found a middle, I’m making a poster for younger children about the fossils in NWA.
My Project is..

A poster for pre-school children.

- Pre-school children frequently bring fossils in rocks found in NW Arkansas and want to understand what they have found.

- I researched the rocks and the more familiar fossils found in the rocks of NW Arkansas and put that information in a poster for pre-school children and their teachers.
Project Objectives

- My kids always come up to me at work and show me their treasures, usually a rock, with indentions on it.

- I want to be able to explain what they are seeing and do so in terms that will help them to understand about the creatures that once lived on the ocean floor and formed these fossils.

- I want the poster, so I can hang it up in my classroom. That way when they bring me the fossil I can identify it and explain it to them.
Community

- This poster will be a guide, of fossils, for classrooms at The Children’s Hour.

- I believe that this poster will better the little minds of our community.

- The kids will learn and have a better understanding of where fossils come from and that there are even fossils.
Methodology

- This was put together kind of quickly because I was having problems finding a project I could do. But this is how I did it.
  - Meeting with Professor Phillips.
  - Collaboration with a student, which is where I got the idea for my project.
  - Research on Fossils, because I didn’t really know anything about them.
  - Then sitting down to put together my poster, then my power point.
Technology

- Basic technology was used for this assignment
  - Microsoft Power Point
  - Printer
  - Computer
What they will learn...

- They will learn about the different types of fossils frequently found in rocks of NW Arkansas:
  - Bryozoans
  - Brachiopods
  - Crinoids
  - Ammonites
  - Trilobites
Project Results

Poster of Common Fossils in NW Arkansas

- Rock Types
- Ages of Rocks
- Fossils
Bryozoans are also called “Moss Animals.” They live by filtering sea water for microscopic organisms. There are many different kinds of bryozoans. Lots are extinct but many are living today.

Ammonoids began life as tiny planktonic creatures less than 1mm in diameter. In their infancy they would have been vulnerable to attack from other predators, including fish.

Trilobites were among the early arthropods, a phylum of hard-shelled creatures with multiple body segments and jointed legs (although the legs, antennae and other finer structures of trilobites only rarely are preserved).

The crinoids are a breed apart however, they resemble an underwater flower. Some even have parts that look and act like roots anchoring them to the ocean floor. They are commonly called sea lilies.

Brachiopods are shellfish. There are a few brachiopods still surviving. A brachiopod attaches itself to a rock using a foot or pedicle. It has arms to catch its food.
What did I learn?

• About the geologic history of NW Arkansas.
• Animals who lived in the shallow oceans 260 million years ago.
• The rock types of NW Arkansas.
• Types of fossils and how they formed.
• How to be self directed in my learning.
• How to complete a project that includes information from another project and integrating that material into my own.
Skills I developed

- What I’ve learned is that I can’t give up. **Perseverance**
- Basically I had a lot of trial and error, and it was very frustrating and got very stressful. **Problem solving**
- I do consider it to be a very good lesson for myself. Something I should live by would be “Success doesn't come to you…you go to it.” By Marva Collins
Future Project Ideas

- I would still really love to do some type of baby needs drive for young mothers in our area. I think it would benefit the community as large. There are so many young mothers these days who could use some help, and generosity.

- Someone else could produce an age appropriate poster that shows how fossils are formed.
Acknowledges

• Janita Corzine, Intro to Physical Science
  “The Rock Cycle” Activity for grades K-8

• C. Dianne Phillips, EAST/EMPACTS
  Instructor, Facilitator

Thank YOU!
References

- http://www.discoveringfossils.co.uk/ammonites.htm
- http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/Jo/fossils/brachiopod.htm