

## Teaching tips for trips and treats

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Teaching the Earth Sciences offers many opportunities to encourage students to pay attention to the natural world, learn to observe the dynamics of change on the topography, and learn to read the stories in the rocks. In the following sessions, I will offer suggestions on how to make the most of your local area for exploring aspects of geology, and how to make analogies of some geologic processes with food.

*Field Trips: the logistics and the search for meaning in your local area.* The process of taking a class or more out on a field trip can be a very fulfilling experience for all concerned, as long as proper preparation is taken. There are several liabilities to consider, forms to fill out, permissions to be granted and items to take with you, even before you consider, "What will the students be learning about on the trip?" I will present the issues to consider - from how to find a great location to managing large groups in the wilderness. I will share some interesting stories of the past and present that illustrate the importance of preparation and forethought relative to location and age of audience. If you have not taken a class outdoors for a trip, hopefully this will inspire you to get outside!

*The rock cycle: from mud cookies to toffee.* Food is always a great means of getting people's attention, and in this session I will explain and demonstrate several activities that are engaging and tasty, while also teaching some key concepts about rock formation relative to the rock cycle. I will also slide a bit into Plate Tectonics, Folding/Faulting, and stack up some correlation ideas with the help of food...yum...