OUR
SHARED GEOHERITAGE

Earth Science Week

www.earthscienceweek.org
This year’s theme encourages us to value the collection of natural wonders, landforms, and resources that have formed over eons and come to this generation to manage, understand, appreciate, and make use of. This year’s theme is an invitation to leadership, an opportunity to be part of an energetic educational and public engagement event—Earth Science Week.

CELEBRATING GEOHERITAGE EVERYWHERE
Wherever you are, the Earth science of geoheritage can be learned, taught, investigated, experienced, and shared. You can:
• Schools and classrooms can host classroom activities and invite guest geoscientists to give presentations. Students can do projects, compete in program contests, watch webcasts, and go on field trips to museums or local parks.
• Colleges and universities can encourage Earth science departments, professors, and students to host an open house or conduct an event that educates the public about the geosciences.
• Geoscience companies and other organizations can reach out to communities by obtaining Earth Science Week Toolkits for local classrooms, hosting an open house, or sending a geoscientist to a local school.
• Museums and science centers can shine a spotlight on geoscience-related exhibits or create a program especially for Earth Science Week.
• Families and team groups can participate by planning an event or activity for their communities, youth groups, or schools.

3. Consider the elements of geoheritage in relation to the places you can visit, like a pond, rock outcrop, or wooded area.
4. Create a Geoheritage map of the site. Include the features that you have been considering. Make a key that relates those features to the elements of geoheritage.

There are many places where people go to experience nature, and many reasons why people may go to them. Some are particularly beautiful, or were formed in unusual ways. Other places are attractive for their history, such as sites where people settled or made use of resources. The connections people make with natural places are at the heart of the concept of geoheritage.

Geoheritage is our shared experience that comes about through human interactions with natural places. All the places on the front of this poster have value as natural heritage and are in one way or another significant (8 Big Ideas sidebar). By recognizing the geoheritage elements of various sites, we become more attuned to our relationships with Earth, its interacting systems, and people of the past. These relationships are often considered valuable enough that we decide to protect the site and the geoheritage it represents.

MATERIALS
• Earth Science Week 2018 poster front
• Large paper
• Posters with Google Maps and Street View available

PROCEDURE
Part 1: Identify geoheritage elements using images of different places
1. Look at the front of this poster. Consider one of the places shown. Describe what you can observe about the place.
   - What can you infer about the place based on the photo? For example, if you can observe snow, can you infer that it would be cold there?
   - Consider reasons people might go to the place. For fun? To see impressive sights? To do work? To learn something about the planet? Other reasons? Often there are several reasons to visit a place. How might the reasons of people today differ from those of people in the past?
2. Using the key that tells where each photo was taken, research one clue about the place. Consider how the themes of geoheritage relate to what you learn about that place.
3. Create a brief description of the place that might go in a travel brochure. Include details about the place that strengthen its status as a geoheritage site.

Part 2: Create a geoheritage map of a place in your community
1. Choose a place that is special in your community, such as a schoolyard, local park, or the grounds around a museum. Try to pick a place you know well or can visit.
2. Think about the natural features of the site that a visitor could see. Can you visit, like a pond, rock outcrop, or wooded area?
3. Consider the elements of geoheritage in relation to the places you can visit, like a pond, rock outcrop, or wooded area.
4. How can you use the key that relates those features to the elements of geoheritage?