BEFORE WE BEGIN:

- We want to know who is here! Please introduce yourself in the chat: Name. School.
- Please mute your microphone to reduce background noise.
- We will leave time for Q & A. Please submit your questions via the Google form that will be shared in the chat.
- This presentation, along with the questions and answers, will be posted on the WESO website.

DISCLAIMER

- At the tournament, the event will be executed according to the published final Event Description and subsequent clarifications posted on the WESO blog. If comments made during this presentation contradict that which is found in the final Event Description or blog posts, please contact us at weso.events@gmail.com.

GEOLOGY ROCKS!

WESO 2026

EVENT SUPERVISORS:

CHRISTINE CLARK

LINDSAY KOLBUS

GOALS FOR THE EVENT

- Observational Skills
  - Learning to notice relevant details in samples to distinguish materials for identification
- Knowledge of the Discipline
  - Learning the basic processes and concepts behind geology, including plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, minerals and rocks
- Teamwork
  - Working together to solve problems

EVENT FORMAT

- Grades: 4 and 5
- Team Size: 1-2 participants (per grade)
- Duration: 40 minutes
- Two portions:
  - Written test
  - Sample Identification

- The detailed event description can be found at: https://wesoscience.org/events/

EVENT FORMAT OVERVIEW

- Written test
  - Questions will be based upon a wide variety of knowledge including theory and interpretation of images and/or short video clips.
  - Questions will be familiar formats: multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank, short answers, etc.
  - A word bank of terms will be available.
  - Time allotted: 15 minutes

EVENT FORMAT OVERVIEW

- Sample Identification
  - Teams will be given samples to identify using physical properties
  - Testing materials and identification guide will be provided on-site
  - Samples will be identified as a mineral or a rock; differentiation between categories of rocks will not be provided
  - Emphasis is placed on the process of identification, so students may be asked to identify physical properties of samples as well as sample identification.

SCORING

- Highest score wins.
- Points are awarded for accuracy of responses.
- Students may reference the spelling of mineral/rock names and terms on the information provided during the test.
- Spelling should be close enough that it is recognizable.
- Tie-breaking criteria:
  - All students will be asked tie-breaker questions.
  - These will cover more challenging geologic concepts, and/or more accurate observations of mineral/rock characteristics or images.
  - Spelling may also be used for tie-breaking.

EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

- Coarse-grained gabbro is most similar in mineral composition to fine-grained _____.

  a.) andesite b.) rhyolite c.) granite d.) basalt

- The lithosphere is composed of the _____.

  a.) crust only

  b.) top 100 meters of sedimentary rocks

  c.) crust, mantle, and outer core

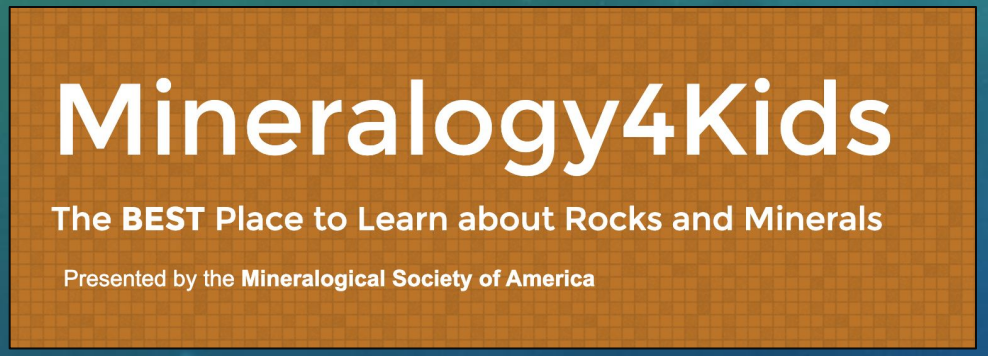
  d.) crust and uppermost part of the mantle

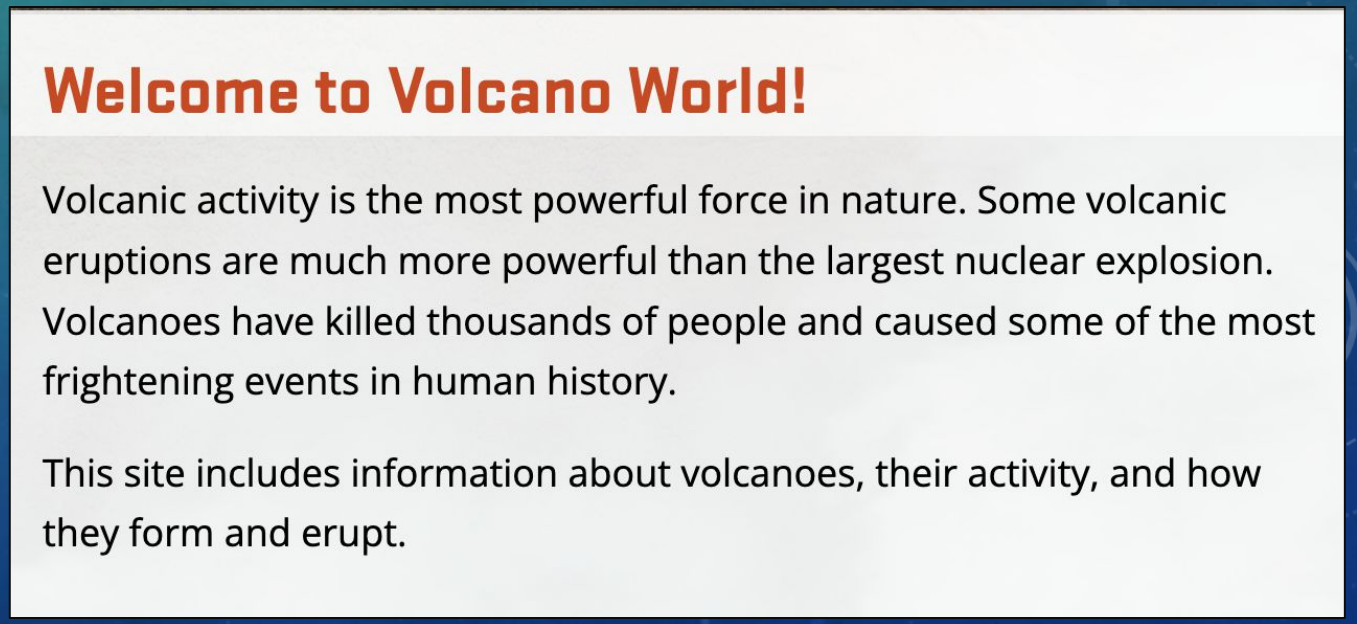
EVENT MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED BY WESO

- Mineral sample kit
- Rock sample kit
- Sample testing kit (steak plate, glass plate, etc.)
- Mineral identification guide
- Rock identification guide

SUGGESTED WEBSITES

- Minerals for Kids - https://min4kids.org/
- Volcano World - http://volcano.oregonstate.edu/
- Earthquakes - https://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/kids/
- Google Earth - https://www.google.com/earth/





MINERAL AND ROCK IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

- Partly led by the event organizers with support from Eastern Michigan University's GeoClub
- Workshops will go over the processes of mineral and rock identification
  - Groups do NOT need to bring their materials; materials will be provided on site
- More details to come on the WESO site; date is April 11, 2026.

QUESTIONS AFTER TONIGHT

- WESO Discord Server
  - Every WESO event will have its own channel
  - Join the WESO server to submit your questions to the event chat
  - Event supervisors and/or WESO board members will monitor the discussion and answer questions
  - Event coaches can use the chat to exchange coaching ideas
  - Go to wesoscience.org/events/ for details on how to join the WESO server and guidelines for its use

QUESTIONS NOW?

- Please submit your questions now using the Google form that was shared with you in the chat.
- We will answer live and post all questions and written answers to the website following the meeting.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING AS AN EVENT COACH

AND HELPING US BRING WESO TO OUR COMMUNITY!!

COACHING ADVICE

- Encourage team to work quickly but carefully in mineral and rock identification
- Roughly half of the score will be based on information other than identification; don’t spend time only on this
- Make sure they know how to triangulate for an earthquake
- Make sure they support each other
- Most importantly, make it fun!!