



## Fernbank Science Center

**Title:** Stone Mountain Field Trip (4638)

**Type:** Single Visit

**Level:** 3rd Grade

**Length:** 3 hours

**Location:** Confederate Hall & Stone Mountain Walk-Up Trail

**Limit:** One class

### Program Description

Students and teacher will meet the instructor outside the Confederate Hall Building (near the west gate and walk up trail) in Stone Mountain Park. Students will visit the natural history exhibit, examine the local rocks, minerals, soil, plants, and animals, and learn how Stone Mountain formed. They will hike one to two miles round trip on the trail that leads up the mountain. The agenda is flexible to accommodate most weather conditions.

### Notes

- 1) Students should be suitably dressed (comfortable clothes and comfortable walking shoes).
- 2) The teacher should meet the Fernbank instructor outside Confederate Hall at the start of the walk-up trail.
- 3) This class is taught outdoors and requires a good amount of walking.
- 4) Additional adult chaperones are highly recommended.
- 5) It is recommended that students wear nametags.
- 6) *For safety reasons this trip is limited to one class.* Any exceptions must be discussed with the instructor.

### Standards/Objectives

The students will:

- 1) S3E1. Investigate the physical attributes of rocks and soils.
  - (a) Explain the difference between a rock and a mineral.
  - (b) Recognize the physical attributes of rocks and minerals using observation (shape, color, texture), measurement, and simple tests (hardness).
  - (d) Determine how water and wind can change rocks and soil over time using observation and research.
- 2) S3E2. Investigate fossils as evidence of organisms that lived long ago.
  - (a) Investigate fossils by observing authentic fossils or models of fossils or view information resources about fossils as evidence of organisms that lived long ago.
- 3) S3L1. Investigate the habitats of different organisms and the dependence of organisms on their habitat.
  - (a) Differentiate between habitats of Georgia (mountains, marsh/swamp, coast, Piedmont, Atlantic Ocean) and the organisms that live there.

RS Harris 10/28/15

**Vocabulary**

|             |             |          |            |           |
|-------------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| magma       | dike        | joint    | granite    | igneous   |
| sedimentary | metamorphic | erosion  | weathering | rock      |
| mineral     | fossil      | producer | food chain | ecosystem |

**Pre-Visit Activity**

View Stone Mountain from Google Earth and highlight Confederate Hall and the Walk-Up Trail. Discuss ideas about how Stone Mountain formed and continues to change. Discuss how the exposed rock is different than the forested area at the base. Discuss what different habitats you can see and what the wildlife might be there.

**Post-Visit Activities**

For Earth Science Emphasis: Illustrate a cartoon with at least three panels showing the formation of Stone Mountain from 300 million years ago until today.

For Ecology Emphasis: Draw picture of one of the habitats you investigated on Stone Mountain.

Label each plant, animal, or other type of organism that you saw living in the habitat.

List at least three ways each organism is specially adapted to live in that environment.

**Resources**

HSP Georgia Science III, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3