

**Class visit to 6th grade  
Iris Hao's class at Burbank Elementary, 33 kids  
Kristel Chanard, Marion Thomas, Thomas Ader  
Feb 4, 2010**

**Description:**

Before the three TO scientists visited, the teacher had the students draw a scientist and write what they do.

Then Kristel, Marion, and Thomas A. visited the class. They discussed mountain building, showed the pangaea animation and had the kids pick a place and follow it over 1 million years. They brought ammonite in and some rock samples. They also discussed geologic time scale, volcanoes and GPS.

The kids liked the rocks but passing the rocks around did not work well, as it took the kids' attention away from the scientists. The visit was too long, 1 hour and 15 minutes. Next time divide the class into 3 groups, more interaction, play a game with the rocks. Spend 15 minutes at each station. Example, have sedimentary at one station, igneous at another, metamorphic at the third.

The kids knew earthquake safety, but did not know what the San Andreas fault is, nor did they know how close Haiti is. There was one kid who knew a LOT.

**Kristel:**

I would say that in order to keep the kids's attention, it would have been great to have them do small experiments, easy to realise (even have them draw something) and if possible, have the class divided in groups at some point to show them rocks samples cause it was not easy to have them look at a rock while we were talking. It was good I think to ask them a lot of questions because it kept them listening and we knew exactly what to explain or not !

**Thomas A.:**

I think one of the great goals of this outreach is to show them [the students] that anyone can be a scientist, especially them. I really enjoyed doing this, and hope I'll be able to do it again soon. I've learnt a lot from this first visit, and would do a few things differently next time, like trying to make some quiz for instance.