

Rock Hound Kids



Quarry

The Place for Kids
who love Rocks!

Newsletter



Pebbles

Volume 1 • August 2006

Welcome to our Newsletter



Hey everyone, welcome to the premiere of the Rock Hound Kids newsletter! First off, I'd like to thank all those who signed up for my humble newsletter. There are quite a lot of people who signed up, I think it's almost a hundred. Let me see real quick... (double checks sign up list) I was right, almost a hundred. Wow, that sure is a lot, who knew there were so many of us rock lovers out there! Now that the thank you is done, I guess I have to write the rest of the article. Mom said that since this is the first issue of my newsletter, I should talk about myself and the reason I got into rocks and such. She's probably right, she is a Mom after all. I just don't like to write about myself. But you might wonder about me, so just bear with me.

My name is Jessy Chekal, if you didn't know, I'm sixteen, live in Michigan, my favorite rock is a mineral called Howlite, and I'm home schooled. That's how my love of geology came to be. My sister and I were studying it for school, one thing led to another and soon enough, here I am writing a newsletter. This newsletter came to be because my Mom thought it would be fun and it is. It is often hard to get into the swing of things, but I'm sure I will soon. So for now, the newsletter's going to be a bit small but hopefully it'll grow. Until then, I hope you enjoy it.



Here I am with my Dad digging for Devon period fossils at the Sylvania Fossil Park in Ohio.

When I was thirteen, I started my rock and mineral company called Dragon Mountain Treasures. I was frustrated by the lack of good rock and mineral starter kits for kids who want to get into rock collecting. Everything was just little chips glued to a cardboard or little cheap specimens in a box. It just didn't seem right and I began to work with my Mom to develop a great set of kits for kids. Now I have a website, www.RockHoundKids.com and produce over seven rock and mineral products for all ages! It's a lot of fun!

I plan to bring to you information about rocks, minerals, fossils, collecting, and geology in general. I hope you will want to share with me articles, tips and ideas that you have found about your rockhound love! You can email me with questions or comments about the newsletter. I hope this will become a welcome addition to your email box and that it will help you to learn more about geology. I'll be learning with you, too!

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Rock of the Month

MALACHITE



Chemical Composition: $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_3$

Hardness: 3-4

This mineral has varying shades of green, and is used as a decorative stone, since it is easily cut and polished. Because it is a very soft mineral, it is not used as a gemstone often, however, its beauty is hard to resist. Malachite was very popular in Czarist Russia, where it was used to make the columns of St. Isaac's Cathedral in Leningrad and many other decorative items such as boxes, furniture inlays and much more. Malachite rarely occurs in prismatic crystals, and is a well known secondary copper mineral. This means that it is formed when copper minerals are altered by other chemicals. It is often seen paired with azurite and the blue/green color combination is very beautiful.



Malachite is created when carbonated water interacts with copper minerals, or when a solution of copper interacts with limestone. When you see crystals of this stone, it is often as little needles, fanning out from the matrix rock it is embedded in. More often, malachite forms as a mass with concentric bands of light and dark green, almost like bubbles and this is the reason it is so beautiful and decorative when polished and cut.

This stunning mineral can be found in Russia, Zaire, Australia, and Namibia. A bit closer to home, specimens have been found in the copper mines of Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.

Did you know???

The name Malachite comes from the Greek *moloche*, meaning mallow. Which is an allusion to the mineral's leaf-green color.

Also, sanding Malachite can cause it to give off a poisonous dust. So, better watch out when you're working with this mineral!



Ask Jessy

QUESTIONS ABOUT GEOLOGY

Send your questions about geology, rocks, minerals and collecting to Jessy and she'll pick one or two questions a month to answer for you! And stay tuned... everyone that submits a question will be eligible for our monthly drawing for some neat rock goodies!

Email Jessy Questions at Jessy@Rockhoundkids.com

This is the part of the newsletter where I'll be answering the readers questions, so if you have any please send them in. Luckily, even though I didn't expect to have a question to answer for this first issue, I did get one from some one who signed up for the newsletter.



Alison, of Minnesota, was wondering where most gold is found.

Well, Alison, nearly 40 percent of all gold mined during recorded history has come in the past 120 years from "the Rand", the Witwatersrand Basin in South Africa. Scientists think that roughly a third of the world's gold resources still lie unmined in the nine million acres of this ancient lake or sea bed, whose name means "ridge of white waters" in Afrikaans.

Also, the Hollinger and Dome mines of the Porcupine district (not joking, there is a Porcupine District!) of Ontario, Canada have fine gold specimens, as well as being among the most productive mines in the world, and their a bit closer than South Africa.

So, I hope that I have answered your question, if not please tell me and I'll see what I can do.

Email Jessy Questions at
Jessy@Rockhoundkids.com



Cool Web Links



www.rocks-rock.com

This is a nice informational website for those just starting their exploration into the world of rocks, and you seasoned geologists may just learn a thing or two as well.

www.mcrocks.com

A fellow rock hound, Guri mention this site in an e-mail so I decided to check it out. It includes a picture tour of 13 counties in western North Carolina, and a nice message board with people who truly enjoy rocks.

www.earthsciweek.org

In October 1998, the American Geological Institute started this national and international event, to help the public gain a better understanding and appreciation for the Earth Sciences. This year it's being held October 8 through the 14, so mark your calendars!

www.minerals.si.edu

Going here takes you to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Department of Mineral Sciences. And if you're looking for pictures of beautiful minerals this is the place. After all the Hope Diamond and the Star of Asia Sapphire aren't the kind of rocks you pick up in your backyard.

www.geocites.com/missneill/

Now here is a website that I really enjoyed. This site is more about geology in general than rocks, but that's why I felt it should be added. There is even a geology contest to test your knowledge of the earth sciences.

If you find or have any websites you think should be added tell us, and we'll be sure to mention them.

SubmitALink@Rockhoundkids.com

New Home Study Rock & Mineral Kit

If you are just starting an Earth Science unit or study in your homeschool, then our Homeschool Study Rock and Mineral Kit is the perfect compliment.

A nice mixture of both rocks and minerals, great to hold and examine. Each specimen is bagged and identified so that you can learn the difference between slate and granite or tiger-eye! Rather than start with a larger collection, the Homeschool Study Kit has 15 specimens.

What a great way to study rocks and minerals without a large investment yet with high quality mineral and rock specimens.

Homeschool Study Kit

15 mineral specimens, all individually bagged and identified, a brochure basically describing the specimens in the collection.

\$15.00 each - Free Shipping in the USA



**They are graded into 5 categories,
3 samples each category.**

Igneous has Lava • Pumice • Obsidian

Metamorphic has Slate • Marble • Quartzite

Sedimentary has Sandstone • Fossil Limestone • Jasper

Organic has Bituminous Coal • Amber • Petrified Wood

Minerals has Optical Calcite • Desert Rose • Tiger's Eye

Click below to visit

www.TheHomeschoolShop.com