

Middle School Earth Science

Lava Canyon and Ape Cave Activities

- ??:?? to 9:15 Gather Chaperones and define your expectations for them during the field trip. Chaperones are responsible for helping students complete their assigned activities and for supervising their student groups' behavior at all times. Leave your school and drive on I-5 to the Woodland exit #21.
- 9:15 to 10:30 From Woodland, drive on State Route 503 through the town of Cougar. There the road changes to Forest Road 90. Follow Forest Road 90 seven miles and take a left turn on Forest Road 83. Follow Forest Road 83 eleven miles. Drive about ½ mile past the Lahar Viewpoint. Park in the oversized vehicle pullout on the right side of the road, just past the Moss Springs Viewpoint sign. Do NOT attempt to park in the Moss Spring parking lot. It cannot accommodate a bus.
- 10:30 to 10:40 On the bus, explain the lahar component of the "Lava Flow or Lava Flows?" in the pullout.
- 10:40 to 10:55 Drive the bus to the Lava Canyon Trailhead. Unload bus and take a bathroom break.
- 10:55 to 11:00 Gather students at the Lava Canyon trailhead and explain that they will be conducting an activity near a fast-moving, cold river and cliff faces. It is imperative that students stay on the trail and remain with their adult chaperone at all times. Fatal accidents have occurred in Lava Canyon when people got off the trail. Set clear expectations for student conduct along the trail—anyone caught off trail or who does not listen to their chaperone will be sent back to the bus and receive a failing grade.
- 11:00 to 12:00 Walk ½ mile on the paved section of the trail to the intermediate trail intersection. Turn right and proceed 50-feet down the intermediate trail and stop at the waterfall viewpoint with the metal fence. Students will make observations about the lava flow visible down canyon then complete the worksheet "Lava Flow or Lava Flows?" Then return to the parking lot on the paved trail.
- 12:00 to 12:35 Lunch break in the Lava Canyon picnic area then load up and depart for Ape Cave
- 12:35 to 12:55 Drive to Ape Cave. Follow Forest Road 83 eight miles then turn right onto Forest Road 8303. Follow Forest Road 8303 ¾ mile and turn right at the Ape Cave entrance sign.
- 12:55 to 1:15 As students exit the bus conduct the "lava tube simulation" component of the "Hot Lava Frozen in Time" activity. Make sure students are comfortable with the cave formation model.
- 1:15 to 2:30 Put on warm clothes, check flashlights and light lanterns. Walk the lower section of Ape Cave. Students will observe cave features, and use information gained from participating in the eruption simulation to complete the worksheet "Hot Lava Frozen in Time"
- 2:30 to ???? Bathroom break, load up bus and depart for your school.