

Mount St Helens National Volcanic Monument – Teacher's Corner 2003 Gifford Pinchot National Forest USDA Forest Service

Elementary School Earth Science Ape Cave & Trail of Two Forests Activities

Time	Description				
??:?? 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 10:15	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 two miles and turn left on Forest Road 8303. Follow Forest Road 8303 one mile and turn right at "Ape Cave Geologic Site" sign.				
10:15 to 10:30	As students exit the bus conduct the "lava tube simulation" component of the "Lava Tube Tales" activity. Make sure students are comfortable with the cave formation model.				
10:30 to 10:45	Bathroom break, put on warm clothes, check flashlights and light lanterns.				
10:45 to 12:00	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 " <i>Lava Tube Tales</i> "				
12:00 to 12:10	Load up bus and drive to the Trail of Two Forests. Turn left as you exit the parking lot and drive ¾ mile on Forest Road 8303. Park in the oversized vehicle pullout next to the Trail of Two Forests site sign. Do NOT pull into the parking lot. It cannot accommodate a bus.				
12:10 to 12:45	Lunch break at the Trail of Two Forests Picnic Area. There are no garbage cans at any site on the south side of Mount St. Helens, please bring garbage bags to clean up after your group.				
12:45 to 1:00	Conduct the "tree mold simulation" component of " <u>How Many Tree Molds?</u> " activity at the trailhead. Make sure students are comfortable with the tree mold formation model.				
1:00 to 1:45	Walk the Trail of Two Forests. Students will make observations while crawling through the "Crawl" (molds or impressions of trees engulfed in the Ape Cave lava flow) then complete the worksheet "How Many Tree Molds?"				
1:45 to 2:00	Bathroom break, load up bus and depart for your school.				