

## Geological collections in schools

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Since the founding of the first schools in Croatia until the middle of the 20th century, geology has had the deserved position in the school curriculum. After that Geology was dropped from the curriculum and became divided into similar disciplines like Geography, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Considering the history of Planet Earth and the understanding of its processes are of crucial importance, at least for high school education, we came to the conclusion that more attention should be given to geology in schools. The fact which speaks in our benefit is that in developed countries there are obligatory subjects like Earth Science or Geo-science.

So we recommend our project under the title 'Geological collections in schools' bearing in mind the methodical benefits of this educational tool, the quality and durability of the collection and its accessible price.

Collections will be made from a couple of dozen basic rock types (Photograph 1), characteristic for the area of Croatia. They will be divided into three groups Sedimentary, Magmatic and Metamorphic. The number and details of the samples will depend whether the schools are Elementary, Grammar or Science schools. The samples will be held in specialised illuminated cabinets, in the geography classroom or the school hall. Also there is the possibility of making a mineral collection which would be suitable for the chemistry classroom. (Photograph 2).

Both collections will be presented with full textual explanations of the name, type, locations and genesis of each sample. The manual will also contain photographs of the areas where samples were taken, together with exercises and exams for teachers to use. With this kind of educational tool, teachers and then students will gain a unique understanding about geological processes and geology itself.

Association for Natural Science research has plans to donate several geological collections and already has a number of schools interested in the project, so we hope that our project will be accepted on a national and international level.

Photograph 1: Representative rock types



Photograph 2. Mineral collection

