

**Visiting a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class - Ajay Limaye**  
archmont Charter School, LAUSD  
Teacher Eva Orozco, two 4th grade classes  
About 45 students

“What builds mountains”

I visited Eva Orozco's classes at Larchmont Charter School in Los Angeles. The audience was a group of ~40-50 4th grade students. Their class was studying Earth sciences for fall quarter, and had been using stream table experiments to test hypothesis on the formation of the Grand Canyon. I showed a few slides to introduce geomorphology through natural hazards and the question of "what makes mountains?"

We then segued to a photogeologic tour of Death Valley, with action shots of Caltech geologists at work, and finished with movies of river migration to show what I work on.

We had several discussions where the students developed hypotheses for how mountains build, why Death Valley is so low, and how salt crusts form on Death Valley's floor.

At the end the students asked questions they had prepared in advance, which was a nice way to broaden the scope of the discussion and make sure we discussed what they were curious about. This included general questions about what scientists do and talk about on a daily basis.

At the end of the talk I met a school administrator who was keen to have more Caltech students visit other classes, or the same class next year.

It was fun to go to a school in a new neighborhood and the kids were fantastic!