

St. Bedes School tours TO
29 sixth graders
Feb 5, 2013
Thomas Ader and Kirsten Siebach
Teacher Jeff Fox

- When continents collide: working in the highest mountains of the world (Thomas)
- Volcanoes (Kirsten)

Kirsten Siebach: Volcanos

I gave a brief talk about volcanos and then showed a clip from a BBC documentary on Volcanoes. I started with my story of why I study geology/how I got here, and then mentioned that I study Mars and work on the Mars rover team. I used this to introduce volcanos; we looked at volcanos on Venus, Mars, and Earth, and used these maps to introduce plate tectonics and why Earth is unique. I talked about plate tectonics for a bit, bringing up earthquakes and asking questions to make sure the students understood. We then transitioned back to volcanos and I had a series of pictures in which they identified a'a and pahoehoe flows out loud. Then I showed the movie clip, and during the movie asked a few questions like is this a'a or pahoehoe and pointing out connections between the movie and things we had talked about. At the end I asked them a few questions about what we had learned, and summarized and mentioned climate change and the carbon dioxide balance in the atmosphere. They were smart and had enough background knowledge to understand everything and explain it back to me, which was great. I think the repetition of themes from me and then the movies was good, but that the movie may have been a little too long and in the future I will shorten the clips I select and maybe integrate them more. I also would like to include a little more about Curiosity and Mars if possible next time. Overall though, it went really well and I think they learned about why volcanos are important and why Earth is unique.