

# Dr. Chris Tacker, Geologist

North Carolina Museum of Natural Science

Podcast length: 16:42



## LESSON PLAN

### SYNOPSIS

The Walking Classroom's Laura Fenn talks with [Dr. Chris Tacker](#), a geologist and curator of geology at the [North Carolina Museum of Natural Science](#). Dr. Tacker shares how geology is related to almost everything we see, touch, and do and what is happening far below the surface of a volcano.

### VOCABULARY

Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast)

- **geology:** (noun) the study of the earth; how it was made, what it's made of and how it has changed over time
- **igneous rock:** (noun) a rock that forms when lava or magma cools and solidifies
- **sedimentary rock:** (noun) a rock formed by layers of sediment that are deposited over time
- **mantle:** (noun) the rocky layer of earth between the crust and the outer core.

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

1. Dr. Tacker suggests getting started with geology by looking at the earth and rocks around you. What have you noticed about the geology around your school and home?
2. Geologists, like Dr. Tacker, are working to better understand volcanoes and what's happening beneath the surface. What are some reasons this work is important?
3. Dr. Tacker explained that everything around us is related to geology. Look around you. What do you see? How is it related to geology?

## BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Consider reading aloud or making some of these titles available to students to reinforce and extend some of the concepts covered in today's podcast.

**[National Geographic Kids Everything Rocks and Minerals](#)** by Steve Tomecek  
*Excellent photographs and with manageable and informative chunks of text make this a great book for getting students interested in geology.*

**[Volcanoes](#)** by Seymour Simon  
*Readers learn the causes, history and nature of volcanoes.*

**[Eruption! Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives](#)** by Elizabeth Rusch  
*Eruption! includes maps and personal narratives that help readers learn about recent volcanic eruptions and how volcanologists have responded.*

**[You Wouldn't Want to Live in Pompeii!](#)** by John Malam and David Salariya  
*Learn about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in a an age-appropriate presentation of the tragic event.*

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The following activities are ways to build on and extend some of the topics discussed in the podcast. We strongly encourage you to always preview videos prior to showing them to your students.

**[Volcanoes 101](http://bit.ly/1vD2Puf)** <http://bit.ly/1vD2Puf>  
*National Geographic Video (~3:00)*

**[Ashes to Ashes](http://bit.ly/1HfKy5P)** <http://bit.ly/1HfKy5P>  
*Time for Kids Video (~3:00)*

**[Volcano Explorer](http://bit.ly/1Ubc4N)** <http://bit.ly/1Ubc4N>  
*Interactive Learning Experience from Discovery Kids*

**[Rocks](http://bbc.in/1SUREL)** <http://bbc.in/1SUREL>  
*Interactive Learning from BBC*