

The Genesee River Trip

By Roxy

What is the river trip? The river trip is when the 4th and 5th grade classes in our school go on a field study along the Genesee River. The reason we go on this field study is because we like to see what the river really looks like and how the river and its features are all connected to each other. It also teaches us a lot more than looking at photos. It ends up being a big, big amount of work on this trip. Everyone in 4th/5th grade goes on this trip in our school. We go on this field study even though it could be raining or snowing. We still go.

The very first place we stopped was at the source in Gold, PA. A source is where the river or the thing starts. For an example, Gold, PA is the start of the Genesee River. The way this spring works is there is a hill behind it. When it rains the water soaks into the ground. It becomes ground water. Then when too much rain soaks into the ground it starts to move downhill. When it moves downhill the water starts looking for a crack in the soil or as you might call it ground. After it finds a crack it burst or bubbles out of the ground. We had to measure how deep and how cold or warm it is. The water was ½ foot deep and 10 degrees C. That is pretty cold. Don't you think? The goal we had was by the time we left, we could define the source of a river.

On the first day we went to Wellsville. In Wellsville, we saw a man-made waterfall it wasn't too big, but it was only there to slow the water down. The other thing that caught our eyes was the tributary that is called Dykes Creek. Dykes Creek is one of the many tributaries along the river. Dykes Creek comes from the south and flows north. There is a meander there. If you don't know what it is well you probably don't know a lot about the Genesee River. A meander is a curve in the river. It is faster on the outside than on the inside. The only reason it is faster on the outside is because it has more distance around. Three of our goals there were, I can explain how the elevation changes from Gold to Wellsville, I can make a conation between erosion and human impacts in Wellsville, and I can interpret the table and/or bar graph.

We went to Tea Table. Tea Table has some of the best views of the strata. We had to do a recording sheet at Tea Table just like everywhere else. We got to see and hear erosion in action. We saw rock fall down the cliff. It was really cool. We went there right before we went on our silent hike to Wolf Creek. A silent hike is where you can't talk. You just observe the surroundings and notice the things connected to our expedition. One goal we had here was, I can identify and describe strata.

After the silent hike we ended it at Wolf Creek. At Wolf Creek we did a page in our jewels and sketched. Jewels are these big work books that have readings and reviewing on what we learned. At Wolf Creek you could see little waterfalls and all the parts of a waterfall. We stopped there on our hike in the woods at Letchworth. The reason we went to Wolf Creek is because we wanted to be able to see all the parts of a waterfall (example, hard rock, soft rock, plunge pool, under mining, and the overhang). If a waterfall didn't have these parts I guess it wouldn't be a waterfall at all. The three goals we had were, I can explain how a waterfall forms, I can identify a plunge pool, and I can thoughtfully reflect on my silent hike experience.

We went to Upper and Middle falls. We sketched ether Middle or Upper falls. When we were sketching we were allowed to look from different views of the waterfall and natural world. We also wrote poems about the waterfalls and what we saw there. Middle and Upper falls were some of the most important places on our trip. Most of the 4th grade chose to use one of their waterfall sketches for our art project. When we were there we had some alone time just to think and enjoy ourselves there, but we also had to do the work that we had to do. One of our goals here was, I can explain why waterfalls move upstream over time.

The way we got to all the places is by bus. The type of bus we took was called a coach. When we got to Letchworth, everyone wanted to just go straight to bed, but first we had to unpack, eat, shower, and do more work! Each night we had a different meal. They were all very good. Every night we had a campfire and we got to roast s'mores. There was also a playground nearby.

When we were in Letchworth we had another silent hike in the woods by the Genesee River. When we were on the hike you could see the river but the main thing was that you could see the strata so well. Strata which you probably don't know what it is because you I'm guessing don't hear the word strata allot. Strata are rocks that has been layered and layered for a very long period of time. If you were looking for a fossil you would most likely be sedimentary rock which is also strata. We ended the hike climbing 129 stairs and on to a very flat piece of land.

Another place we went was Lower Falls. At Lower Falls you could see the gorge walls really well. The way gorge walls are formed is by erosion. Erosion is when something like water, sand or wind eats away or gets worn away. Lower Falls is the smallest waterfall at Letchworth. At Lower Falls you could pick up a piece of shale and break it because it is not very strong. There was also a meander at Lower Falls. One of the goals we had here was I can make a connection between strata and geologic time.

The last place we stopped was Charlotte. The hike started at Turning Point Park and hiked to Charlotte. The Genesee River's mouth is Charlotte Beach. A mouth is the end or the last place the river flows into. A mouth always has a Delta. The Genesee River starts at Gold, PA and it ends at Charlotte. If you look at the lake, you will see dark blue and light blue line. When you can't see the dark blue that is where the river water ends. We were going to walk out on the pier but it seemed too far. So we didn't.

Well I think we have talked about everything and all the important words like meander, erosion, gorge, and so on. If you have not learned everything then I don't know how you learn. Although I didn't talk about every little thing or place we went to but I told you everything you need to know. If you still need to learn anything than find a book and get comfortable.





This book was written in November 2011 by the 4th grade class at the Genesee Community Charter School. This school is located in Rochester, NY. The class used the Genesee River to learn about river features and how the river has shaped the land they live in.



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