

## City of Rocks



City of Rocks, a national park in Almo, Idaho is a large encirclement of granite rising out of the sagebrush covered land. The granite intruded into the crust during two different times. The granite that composes most of the spires is part of the 28 million year old Almo pluton. However, some of the spires are made of granite that is part of the 2.5 billion year old Green Creek Complex that contains some of the oldest rocks in the United States.

The variety of textures, colors, and shapes in the rock formations give students the chance to explore many geologic features and processes. Students can ask questions about geological features such as joints in solid rock, arches, panholes, intrusions, xenoliths, and grus. They can then create models of weathering, erosion, and mass wasting to create explanations of how these unique rock formations formed.

### Additional Resources:

- National Park Service: [City of Rocks](#)
- United States Geological Society: [City of Rocks Gallery](#)

### Performance Standards

| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade   | Middle School  | High School   |
|--|---|--|---|
| 2-ESS-1.1. Use information from several sources to provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly. | 4-ESS-1.1. Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers for changes in a landscape over time to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time. | MS-ESS-2.2. Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface at varying time and spatial scales. | HS-ESS-2.1. Develop a model to illustrate how Earth's internal and surface processes operate at different spatial and temporal scales to form continental and ocean-floor features. |



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