Soda Springs Geyser

Soda Springs Geyser is a group of thousands of natural carbonated springs in the area of Soda Springs, Idaho. Past volcanic activity shaped the landscape of Southern Idaho, and the residual geothermal activity caused the numerous hot bubbling springs that gave the area its name. Geothermal activity hundreds of feet below the ground heats water and mixes in carbon dioxide gas. The resulting increased pressure contributes to the number of springs and was the cause of the geyser.

The geyser is now capped and released every hour to release pressure. Soda Springs now boasts the world's only captive geyser. Students could use this phenomenon to explore the geothermal processes that form geysers and hot springs, or to investigate pressure in fluids. The phenomenon could even be introduced as a mechanism for solving problems, such as designing a device that uses the water pressure as a power source.

Additional Resources:

- Earth Science Picture of the Day Captive Geyser of Soda Springs
- Intermountain Histories Soda Springs Idaho's Geyser Park

Performance Standards

2nd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	Middle School	High School
2-ESS-2.2. Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.	4-ESS-2.2. Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth's features. 4-ESS-3.2. Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans.	5-ESS-2.1. Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and/or atmosphere interact.	MS-ESS-3.1. Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how the uneven distributions of Earth's mineral, energy, and groundwater resources are the result of past and current geoscience processes.	HS-ESS-3.2. Evaluate competing design solutions for developing, managing, and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost-benefit ratios.