



## Teaching Geosciences at the Childrens's University Vienna and the Vienna Natural History Museum

Britta Bookhagen, Agnes Mair, and Gertrude Zulka-Schaller  
Vienna Natural History Museum, Austria (britta.bookhagen@gmail.com)

The goal of the exemplary geochronology module and other planned geosciences-related topics is to provide organized lectures and lesson plans for school teachers, and have teachers become familiar with geoscientific question in workshops beforehand. The modules are planned to be easily adaptable to class lectures and are give suggestions and ideas for different teaching methods and variations. It is also planned to develop a mobile teacher kit, which includes lesson plans and teaching material, supplementary to background-knowledge information and a contact person for the teacher.

We present exemplary ideas and propositions of how to teach the age of rocks in a mostly hands-on way to younger kids, using representative models. Modules were taught at the Childrens' University Vienna, a week long summer program for kids aged 10-12, and visiting school classes to the Vienna Natural History Museum, aged 10-16. Group sizes were generally between 12-22 students.

Information from teachers in the US and Austria were pointing to a direction that geosciences would be better included in science classes if teachers had prepared lesson plans and would know more about the scientific background. Geosciences, even though a fantastic interdisciplinary subject, only plays a minor role in most European countries in the main curriculum, and many universities only provide very basic teacher education. Hence, by providing the service to schools and teachers we hope to encourage teachers to enlighten their students with interesting geoscientific applications.