



Teaching STEAM through urban "rock and fossil hunting" activities

Hélder Pereira (1,3) and Francisco Lopes (2,3)

(1) Escola Secundária de Loulé, Portugal (hpereira@es-loule.edu.pt), (2) Agrupamento de Escolas de Silves, Portugal, (3) GeoWalks & Talks, Algarve, Portugal

Most cities' buildings unfold a remarkable geological and paleontological diversity. Its edifices, walls and coverings, sidewalks, cobblestone pavements, street furniture, monuments and churches display rocks and fossils that have fantastic stories to be discovered.

We present a book profusely illustrated containing a set of "Stories carved in the rocks" of Loulé – a town located in the Algarve (Southern Portugal) – that can be used by local teachers as a source to develop educational resources based on "rock and fossil hunting" activities.

Using this book these teachers can take the opportunity to take students to the streets nearby their schools to study the urban environment under different perspectives; these field trips could allow teachers to combine science, technology, engineering, art and math (and even history) lessons providing a basis for increased success in the classroom.

Loulé belongs to the Portuguese Territorial Network of Educating Cities and the City Council, by sponsoring this book, has now a resource that values and promotes the educational (and also the touristic) values of its urban geodiversity. This book is also a small contribution to support the application of Loulé/Silves Aspiring Geopark that will be submitted to UNESCO in the near future.