Activity VI: Finding the Fossils

Engage:

1) Have you ever found a fossil?
2) If so: where?
3) If not: where would you look for fossils?

Explore:

1) Are fossils found everywhere? Think, pair, share with your group and class about where you'd look for fossils and what type of organism you'd expect to find there.

Activity VI: Finding the Fossils

Explain A: View *Fossil Extraction #1* video clip.

Activity VI: Finding the Fossils

Elaborate B:

1) What does ubiquitous mean?
2) What are ubiquitous in the rocks?
3) Why do you think the nicest fossils are “right at the top” or on the surfaces of the exposed faces of the rock slabs?

Activity VI: Finding the Fossils

Explain B: View *Fossil Extraction #2* video clip.

Activity VI: Finding the Fossils

Elaborate B:

1) What tools would've been useful in extraction some of the fossils you've seen in the video clips?
2) What is a paleontologist?
3) What do "they argue about"?
4) What may have happened to these organisms to preserve them in these rocks where we're finding them?

Activity VI: Finding the Fossils

Explain C: View *Trilobite* video clip

Activity VI: Finding the Fossils

Elaborate C:

1) What is the organism?
2) Why are they significant?

Evaluate:

1) Why are the fossils in the video clips where they are?
2) Do you think Western New York is the only place you'd find similar fossils? (Refer to your Devonian Maps)
3) Hypothesize about where else you would find fossils of similar species formed during the Devonian period. Think, pair, share.

Extension Activity:

Explain: View *The Boulder* video clip.

Extension Activity:

Elaborate:

1) What is a boulder?
2) Hypothesize about the origin and current placement of the boulder.
3) What events (things) have affected Western NY (and the Northern United States in general) over the past million years or so, lasting until about ten thousand years ago?
4) Besides dropping boulders, what other effects did those events have on the topography of the area?