



**SOL-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
FOR THE FIFTH GRADE**
PETER FRANCISCO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Contact Elise Corbin at elise.corbin@vaswcd.org or 434-983-7923



- **Rocks and Minerals** (Science 5.1, 5.8)

Students will learn some fascinating facts about rocks and minerals. Students will divide into groups and be given a mineral to identify using several tests. Then students will play a rock cycle game where they divide themselves among 11 stations and roll a die to determine their next station on their journey as a rock or mineral. At each station they collect a bead and end up making a bracelet

- **The Constant Change of the Earth's Surface** (Science 5.8)

Students will learn interesting information on the earth's crust and its composition. We use an avocado to display the basic structure of the earth's interior and an apple to demonstrate just how much soil is available to mankind. Points of discussion include weathering, erosion, deposition and human impact. Students are divided into 4 groups and assigned an erosion scenario (bare soil, gulley/ditch, silt fence and sod) and given the appropriate kit that corresponds with their scenario. Each group will set up an erosion box and perform their experiment for the class. Students are given the opportunity to predict which scenario will have the most and which will have the least soil erosion.

- **Gyotaku – The Japanese Art of Fish Painting** (Science 5.1, English 5.5)

Gyotaku was developed more than a century ago as a Japanese fisherman's method of recording the size and species of his catch. Students will learn its history as they observe the differences in fish and make their own fish prints listening to Traditional Japanese music. The Haiku art form will be introduced.