Geology: Massacre Rocks

Exercise: 1

Instructions: Massacre Rocks was named from the skirmishes that took place in this area during the 1800s when large numbers of settlers passed through on the Oregon Trail. It was declared a state park in 1967. The area is also known for its geology because volcanic evidence is abundant. By doing this activity, you will learn about the history and geology of this unique area along the Snake River in Southern Idaho. Use your knowledge to answer the following questions completely and accurately.

1. Why did the earlier emigrants refer to this area as "Devil's Gate" and "Gate of Death"?

2. What types of evidence did the early travelers leave in the Massacre Rocks area?

3. How do scientists believe the area was formed? What evidence is there of this?

4. How did the Lake Bonneville Flood influence the area?

5. This area is considered to be a desert environment. What kinds of wildlife would you expect to see? How would this be influenced by the presence of the Snake River?