

## **Teaching geoscience to elementary school teachers of Rio de Janeiro – a pilot project.**

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Since specific disciplines of geosciences are not present in the basic curriculum of the Brazilian elementary school system, subjects related to this field are approached superficially and diluted in other classes such as Science and Geography. This has limited tremendously the knowledge about Earth Sciences. In order to reduce this problem, a new pedagogical proposal was elaborated to adequate different subjects related to the geosciences for the lower-classes. This new proposal was implemented as a pilot project through the INTERCAP program, whose aim is to promote the methodological teaching techniques developed in the CAP/UERJ to the schools of the interior of the Rio de Janeiro State.

The course "Teaching of Geosciences in the Lower-Classes" allowed theoretical and practical training of teachers, seeking to promote discussions and modernization of current thoughts in this area of knowledge (e.g., the Earth's structure, continental drift, geological column, and Brazilian paleontology). Practical activities of low costs and easy elaboration were developed in order to be employed in the majority of public schools that traditionally have limited funding.

The results of this project shows that teaching geosciences to teachers of the elementary school through this kind of program has a great potential to provide very young children with information otherwise very difficult to be obtained by the current educational system. Furthermore this effort contributes not only to the general formation of the student, but also rises a preservationist conscience pointing out the importance of the geological patrimony of the country.