

TESTA Article for STATellite - June, 2009 Publication
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WOW... what a fantastic field trip several TESTA members took June 13-22 to Iceland. Charles Swift worked with Holbrook Educational Travel to create a once in a lifetime memorable experience. Our tour guide, Ari Trausti, was the ultimate escort.

With over 20 published books, Ari is a leading expert in the fields of geology, volcanology, astronomy, environmental science and mountaineering. His guidebook, Focus on Iceland, included all of the highlights on our trip, and of course, he knew the information by heart! After a long trip from Houston, the first day revived our tired bodies with an uplifting experience of soaking in the geothermal pool, the Blue Lagoon. The blues of the water were breathtaking and the beauty of Iceland was evident.

As our travels progressed we were sure that it could not get any better than the last stop but we were always wrong. Each waterfall was more beautiful than the last. Every volcano and mountain peak seemed more alluring. From hiking on glaciers to floating with icebergs while we tasted 800-year-old ice, we enjoyed exploring many facets of this wonderful island. During one day's drive we were on both the North American tectonic plate as well as the Eurasian plate as we crossed over the Mid Atlantic Ridge. Ari's knowledge filled our minds with the geology of Iceland as we traveled more than 2000 Km (1200 miles) during our adventures.

Please visit our booths, 1700 & 1702, at CAST to see our PowerPoint presentation of our travels. We have samples of Icelandic rock for our rock raffle as well as our luncheon. Visit the TESTA link to read more details and see dazzling photos!

Since more Earth Science is targeted on the TEKS, please join us in the TESTA strand. We will present 3 field trips, 4 short courses, 4 workshops, our share-a-thon, and our famous rock raffle. Our luncheon features Dr. Alison Henning, Rice University, presenting "Evolution in Science and Society."

Finally, TESTA will be celebrating our 25th anniversary. Plan on helping us celebrate the wonders of the Earth. Please bring a rock or mineral sample for our rock raffle. If you have an exciting Earth Science activity please share it with teachers in our share-a-ton. We also will have an ad in the CAST program to help you plan for a great CAST. Contact me for more information about any of our activities. See you there!