Activity: Recognizing Geologic Change in Your Environment (Magic Windows)

Purpose: To explore the basic concept of geology through simple inquiry.

Duration: 20 minutes

Materials required:

- Posters of Golden Gate Bridge construction (in map tube)
- Golden Gate Magic Windows (one set for 2-4 students)

Directions:

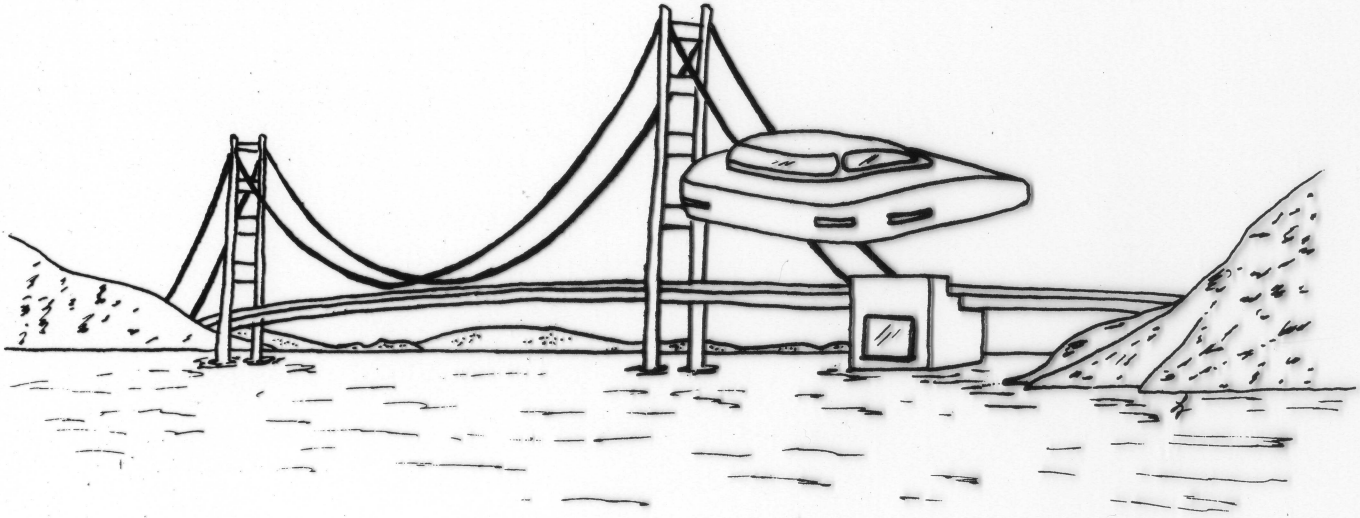
1. Hang the Golden Gate Bridge posters in the classroom.

2. Introduce the activity by asking the students if they can look somewhere and see into the past (the poster).

3. Distribute the sets of Magic Windows to small groups of students.

4. Have the students orient and compare the Magic Windows to the poster.

5. Use the key questions to help guide the students through a simple inquiry process.

Key Questions:

- What timeframe does the poster represent? How do you know?
- What timeframe does each Magic Window represent? How do you know?
- How is each window different from the poster? What is the same?
- What questions do you have about your observations?
- Do the Magic Windows illustrate processes that may change the Earth's surface? Explain.
- How do you recognize geologic change in your environment?
- Can knowing how to recognize processes of geologic change in your environment help your community? How?