Summary Report

PetraSapiens is a small organization founded in 2006 whose purpose is to promote Earth, Planetary, and Environmental Sciences to kids and the general population. Its main activities are lectures and workshops on topics such as dinosaurs, the evolution of life, the evolution of Man, the mineral world, Earth, the planets of the solar system, the planet Mars, climate change, waste characterization, recycling, etc.

During our 9 years of activity, we have now given about 1100 presentations to about 33000 people in numerous schools and science festivals all over the Quebec province from Montreal to as far as Lac St. Jean, Fermont and Schefferville.

We have always received very positive feedbacks from kids and teachers. Actually, many teachers have requested us not only to come back to their class for other presentations in the same year, but to come back also year after year. After our presentations, it is also pretty common to hear kids telling us that they want to become either a geologist or a paleontologist when they will be grown up. Some teachers even told us that they are quite surprised to see the sudden interest and implication of some difficult students during our lectures.

Since 2008, PetraSapiens has obtained numerous grants from the Canadian Geological Foundation, which allowed us to purchase materials to complete some of our activities. Here’s a short summary on how all this CGF funding was used.
Activity: Dinosaurs!
1) Plastic cases and pick-and-pluck foam to transport dinosaur fossils and models.
2) Large cardboard impressions of a dinosaur skeleton. Kids cut them and have to figure out how to put back together the dinosaur skeleton.
3) Dinosaur eggs.
4) Dinosaur coprolite.
5) Two large dinosaur bones.

6) Dinosaur teeth.
7) T-Rex jaw reproduction.

Activity: The Evolution of Man
1) Thirteen hominid skulls.
2) Plastic cases and pick-and-pluck foam to transport skull reproductions.

Activity: The Evolution of Life
1) Examples of plastic cases and pick-and-pluck foam to transport fossils.
Activities: The Mineral World; The Earth; The Quebec Geomap
1) Example of a plastic case and pick-and-pluck foam to transport rocks and minerals.
Activity: Meteorites and the Formation of the Solar System
1) Set of meteorites.

Activity: Planets of the Solar System
1) Example of a luggage to transport inflatable planets, compressor, and orrery.
2) Sets of inflatable planets.

Activity: Fossilization
1) Large trilobite.
2) Large half polished ammonite.

3) Small fossils: shark teeth, ammonites, gastropods, brachiopods, agatized dinosaur bones fragments (many kilos of each). These are put in fake rocks and kids have to find them.
All activities
1) Plastic name tags. They are used to identify fossils, rocks, minerals, etc.
2) Acrylic displays and Riker mounts to show specimens.
3) Epson Power Lite 1705c LCD Projector. Used to present our PowerPoint slides.
4) Epson Power Lite projector spare lamp.