

First Place Winner

Sabrina Peal

Mr. Knight's 5th grade class

Lakeland Elementary

Elk Rapids, Mi

Petoskey Stone History

Hi I am Sabrina I am going to tell you the history of our state stone, the Petoskey Stone!

The Petoskey stone is a fossil but, it's our state stone how can that be? Michigan is very unique in many different ways so I'll tell you a little bit about our AWESOME state. Michigan was extensively resurfaced by glaciers during the Pleistocene, that was one ice age(it lasted 1.6 million years),and as part of this process, moving glaciers plucked up pieces of bedrock and carried them along smoothing and rounding them in transport. It's the shape found today. The best Petoskey stone may be found in the Upper Peninsula by Fisherman's Island State Park near Charlevoix, and at the south end of the beach at Petoskey State Park. In the late 1990's, the largest Petoskey stone was found by an amateur fossil hunter at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, a one ton monolith which is a type of Petoskey stone.

The Ottawa legend says that the town of Petoskey was named for petos-e-gay, a wealthy fur trader who was the son of a chief. His only granddaughter, Miss Ella Jane Petoskey, was on hand for the governor's signing on June 28, 1965, designating the Petoskey stone the state stone of Michigan.

The Petoskey stone is made out of a Devonian period coral reefs. These reefs grew where our state is now over 350 million years ago, when the area was covered by a shallow sea.