

## **Second Place Winner**

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Mrs. Knight's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class

### Petoskey Stones: Definitely Unique

We live in a state that is very unique itself not to mention all of its other amenities. The one I will focus on is our very own Petoskey Stone. It as differ as our state. It looks like a patchwork design without the colors! Obviously our stat is an odd shape: a mitten for the lower portion, and a running bunny for the upper portion! The match is perfect: unique stone, unique state. Harmonious altogether.

When we walk along the beach it is usually fun to look for rocks especially for Petoskey Stones. I know when I was little, finding a Petoskey Stone was like finding gold! I still spend endless hours on the beaches staring down at the rocky waters edge just waiting for a stone to catch my eye. One time I found a VERY unique, it was agate but had the fossilization of a Petoskey.

What I have come to learn is that Michigan is the only state to naturally hold the Petoskey Stone! So let's say I lived in Florida and decided to take a vacation here. If I walked into one of the gift stores and got a hat or t-shirt or something it would not be unique at all. I could get one of those back in Florida. But if I walked into a gift shop and saw a beautiful unknown-to-me stone necklace I would definitely want to check it out and probably get it. If a Michigianian walked into that same store they would probably walk right past it not even noticing it. Why? We are surrounded by these stones and could probably make our own for so much less money! Someone from a different part of the world could not. They would be utterly shocked if they realized they couldn't get this back at home. Besides if they were looking for something to remember this trip they would want something that is unique, different and not something they could get at their local gift store back home. Indeed a VERY unique stone for a VERY unique state!