





## Talk About It

If you could be a scientist, what would you study? What do you think the scientist in this photograph is doing?



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# Scientists at Work



## Vocabulary

specimens      scoured  
erupted        biology  
murky          research  
dormant        observer



## Word Parts

Some words have **Greek** or **Latin Roots**. If you know the meaning of a root, you can figure out a word's definition. For example, *bio-* means "life," so *biology* means "the study of living things."

# Dr. Priscilla C. Grew, GEOLOGIST

by Josh Taylor

Dr. Priscilla C. Grew is a well-known scientist in the field of geology, the study of Earth's rocks. As a geologist, Dr. Grew looks at a lot of **specimens** to learn how Earth has changed in the past 4.5 billion years.

A good time and place to look for these changes is after a volcano has **erupted**. Afterward, the air becomes dark and **murky** from ash. When the ash settles, it blankets the land. Sometimes a volcano can release hot lava as well. When hot lava spills out, the ground becomes an excellent place to study how new rocks and minerals are formed. This is especially true for the ground near a **dormant** volcano because the area surrounding such a volcano has not changed in a very long time.

Areas affected by earthquakes are another good place to find a geologist. Early in her career, Dr. Grew helped many people in California lower the chances of getting harmed during major earthquakes. Then Dr. Grew moved to Minnesota where she became the first woman to be named state geologist. She and her team searched all over the state for minerals in the soil. Once they were found, they were **scoured** clean and prepared for studies that Dr. Grew would perform.

After leaving Minnesota, Dr. Grew became the first female director of the University of Nebraska State Museum. Visitors to the museum learn about geology, earth science, and **biology**. They enjoy the displays of rocks and fossils.

During her life and career, Dr. Grew has tried to connect the world of rocks and soil to people’s needs. By helping people to be safer during earthquakes and looking for important minerals in the soil, Dr. Grew connects her **research** to the real world. All this makes Dr. Grew more than an **observer**. She is a hands-on scientist who is making a difference.



Dr. Priscilla C. Grew

## Reread for Comprehension

### Summarize Sequence

A Sequence Chart helps you summarize information by listing events or actions in the order that they take place. Use your Sequence Chart as you reread “Dr. Priscilla C. Grew, Geologist” to figure out the sequence of events in Dr. Grew’s career.

