Geologists study the composition of the Earth, the processes which occur on and inside the Earth, and the history of the planet. In practice, this is done by examining the materials in places they are found, and in the laboratory by interpreting data derived from measurements. In a class of over 450 students, however, not everyone can have access to directly experience the field practice of being a geologist, including working with the tools and instruments used in field investigation. The Geology Explorer, developed at North Dakota State University, is a virtual geologic environment for discovery and exploration. This virtual experience is not designed to be a replacement for real life field or laboratory analytical work. Rather, it is a learning environment that can provide you with an appreciation of the methods of geologic study.

**Solo vs. Team?**

The first thing you need to do for the Geology Explorer assignment is to decide whether you want to play as an individual (Solo) or with a partner (Team).

Playing solo allows you to work independently, at your own pace and on your own schedule. The requirement of solo play is that you complete all steps on your own.

Playing in a team allows you to work together with a partner (no more than two people to a team) on the same goals while playing from different locations. The requirements of team play are that you and your partner register simultaneously at the same computer and play the Geology Explorer simultaneously at separate computers.

Decide whether you want to play solo or as a team. If you want to play as a team, find a partner. Then follow the appropriate instruction set.

Team play is limited to 100 teams, so act now!
Part I: Registration

Registration is open from **Wednesday, October 18, 2006, 2:00 pm** to **Monday, October 23, 2006, 11:59 pm**. Refer to the *Field Book* insert in *Planet Oit Comics* if you have problems – it also lists step-by-step instructions. This can be found by going to oit.ndsu.edu and clicking on ‘Resources,’ then on ‘Comic Book.’ If you would like a hardcopy of *Planet Oit Comics*, please stop by FLC 314A or FLC 316A between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, to pick up a copy.

**Solo Players**
1. From a computer with internet access, open a web browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape, Firefox, Safari, etc.)
2. Go to [http://oit.ndsu.edu](http://oit.ndsu.edu).
3. Click on ‘Students.’
4. Click on ‘Click Here’ to create a new account.
5. Choose ‘NDSU’ from the drop-down menu.
6. Click on ‘Continue.’
7. Choose your class, ‘Geology 105 – Fall 2006 – Solo Players’ from the drop-down list.
8. Fill out the form with the necessary information:
   - **First Name**
   - **Middle Initial**
   - **Last Name**
   - **Number of students playing under this login name** *(Leave this as the default – 1)*
   - **Password**
   - **Confirm Password**
   - **Password Hint**
   - **Email Address** *(Please use your NDSU webmail account!)*
   - **Verify Email Address**
   - **Student ID Number**
   - **Verify Student ID Number**
   - Answer the four questions provided.
9. Click on ‘Create Account.’
10. A screen will appear showing your login name. Your login name and password will also be sent to the email address that you provided.
11. Go to the Geology Explorer homepage, [http://oit.ndsu.edu](http://oit.ndsu.edu), and click on ‘Students.’
12. Enter your username and password.
13. Click ‘Submit’ to log in.
14. Continue with instructions for Part II: Game Play.

**Team Players**

*You and your partner should register at the same time at the same computer.*

1. From a computer with internet access, open a web browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape, Firefox, Safari, etc.)
2. Go to [http://oit.ndsu.edu](http://oit.ndsu.edu).
3. Click on ‘Students.’
4. Click on ‘Click Here’ to create a new account.
5. Choose ‘NDSU’ from the drop-down menu.
6. Click on ‘Continue.’
7. Please choose your class, ‘Geology 105 – Fall 2006 – Team Players’ from the drop-down menu.
8. Decide who will be the team leader. The leader’s role is to guide exploration on the planet if the other team member chooses to follow him or her.
9. The leader should fill out the left side of the form with the following information:
   - **First Name**
   - **Middle Initial**
   - **Last Name**
   - **Password**
   - **Confirm Password**
   - **Password Hint**
   - **Email Address** *(Please use your NDSU webmail account!)*
   - **Verify Email Address**
   - **Student ID Number**
   - **Verify Student ID Number**
   - Answer the four questions provided.
10. The second team member should fill out the right side of the form with the same information as it applies to him or her.
11. Click on ‘Create Account.’
12. A screen will appear showing your login names. Your login names and passwords will also be sent to the email addresses that you provided.
13. At this point, each team member will need to sit at his or her own computer.
14. Go to the Geology Explorer homepage, http://oit.ndsu.edu, and click on 'Students.'
15. Enter your username and password.
16. Click ‘Submit’ to log in.

Part II: Game Play
*If you are using NDSU wireless to play the game and are experiencing difficulties, please refer to the ‘NDSU WIRELESS’ section on the next page.

Solo Players
2. Click on ‘Students.’
3. Enter your username and password.
4. Click ‘Submit’ to log in.
5. Select the first of the three options to play the game, the Java Webstart version.
6. You must submit your username and password to begin game play.
7. You will complete the pre-game assessment. This is a series of tasks including:
   A bag-packing event
   A Scientific Method puzzle
   An Oit Preparedness Device test
   An interview
   A scenario

   You must finish the pre-game assessment by Monday, Oct 23, 2006, 11:59 pm.

8. When you are finished with the pre-game assessment you may start playing the game and working toward game goals.
   You may start the goals anytime after completing the pre-game assessment.
   You must finish the ID Goal by Monday, November 6, 2006, 11:59 pm.
   You must finish the Map Goal and True Thickness Goal by Wednesday, November 15, 2006, 11:59 pm.
   You must finish the post-game assessment by Monday, November 20, 2006, 11:59 pm.

Team Players
*You and your partner should play at separate computers.
2. Click on ‘Students.’
3. Enter your username and password.
4. Click ‘Submit’ to log in.
5. Select the first of the three options to play the game, the Java Webstart version.
6. You must submit your username and password to begin game play.
7. You will complete the pre-game assessment. This is a series of tasks including:
   A bag-packing event
   A Scientific Method puzzle
   An Oit Preparedness Device test
   An interview
   A scenario

   Each team member is to complete the pre-game assessment by Monday, October 23, 2006, 11:59 pm.

8. When you are finished with the pre-game assessment you may start playing the game and working toward game goals.
   You must finish the ID Goal by Monday, November 6, 2006, 11:59 pm.
   * Team members must be playing the game at the same time from separate computers to complete the ID Goal.
   You must finish the Map Goal and True Thickness Goal by Wednesday, November 15, 2006, 11:59 pm.
   * Team members must be playing the game at the same time from separate
computers to complete the Map Goal.
Team members do not need to play the
game at the same time to complete the
True Thickness Goal.

You must finish the post-game assessment by **Monday, November 20, 2006, 11:59 pm**.
* Team members complete the post-game assessment on separate computers.
You do not need to complete this at the same time.

**NDSU WIRELESS**

To play the game, you need to be using a computer with internet access and if you’re behind a firewall, it must allow access to ports 8888-8893.

If you are an NDSU student and want to use NDSU’s wireless, here’s what you need to do:

1. Go to [http://enroll.nodak.edu](http://enroll.nodak.edu)
2. Click Continue
3. Type in your NDSU ID and password, and click Continue.
4. On the left hand side of the page is a list of Available Services, click on WLAN to request wireless access. (If it’s in the list of your services, skip to step 6.)
5. Read and follow the instructions listed. It may take a day for ITS to set the account up.
6. Follow the instructions on this page: [http://its.ndsu.nodak.edu/wireless/vpn-client-win.htm](http://its.ndsu.nodak.edu/wireless/vpn-client-win.htm) to get the VPN client installed.

After restarting, you should be able to connect to the Geology Explorer as expected. If you don't want to go through the hassle, you may connect your computer using an Ethernet cable (assuming your computer can support it), or you may use a cluster machine.

**GRADING**

The Geology Explorer assignment accounts for 10% of your total course grade for Geology 105. You will earn course points for each activity undertaken including: Registration, Game Play Time, your Game Score, your Map Score, and whether or not you complete all of the pre- and post-game assessments. Partial credit will be given!

**QUESTIONS?**

If you have a question about game play, or a technical question, you can find answers on the **Planet Oit Message Board**.

1. Go to [http://oit.ndsu.edu](http://oit.ndsu.edu).
2. Click on ‘Message Board’ in the list of links on the left side of the page.
3. Browse through the existing messages for helpful information or click on ‘New Topic’ to create a new message.
4. Check back for new answers.