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New KGS publication tracks Kentucky through geologic time periods

Lexington, Ky. (May 6, 2011)--The best way to introduce students to earth science is to help them better understand the place where they live, according to Dan Carey, of the Kentucky Geological Survey at the University of Kentucky. The Survey works to bring Earth Science education home to K-12 students in Kentucky by providing maps, posters, and associated teaching materials for classrooms and libraries. Carey's educational poster *Kentucky Landscapes through Geologic Time*, Map and Chart 200, is the most recent addition to that ongoing effort.

For several hundred million years, the place that would eventually come to be known as Kentucky was close to Earth's equator, and much of that time it was submerged in a prehistoric ocean. That's among the many facts about Kentucky's past that can be discovered from the new poster.

The 40 by 36 inch poster has a section for each of the major periods of geologic time, stretching back nearly 500 million years to the Ordovician Period. "The inspiration for this poster came from Chris Scotese of the University of Texas at Arlington," says Carey. "His Paleomap Project Web site (www.scotese.com) illustrates the position of the continents throughout geologic time. Using maps adapted from his site, we've pointed out where Kentucky would have been at different periods during Earth's long history."

Each section on the poster also describes the environmental conditions of the geologic period, how the sedimentary rocks developed, and current Kentucky features or resources that formed in each period. Photos and graphics depict the life forms, geology, and fossils of each period. A small map of today's Kentucky highlights where the bedrock formed during each period can be found at the surface.

Carey drew on the knowledge and graphical abilities of a number of others, including KGS staff members, used or credited on the publication.

“With all that we were able to depict and describe on one poster, I think this is an educational resource that teachers all around Kentucky will find useful,” Carey says. “We would like for all of them to know about it and have the opportunity to have it in their classrooms.”

To view the poster online, go to http://kgs.uky.edu/kgsweb/olops/pub/kgs/mc200_12.pdf

Paper copies of the maps are available from the KGS Public Information Center on the UK campus for \$10 each plus shipping. They may be ordered by calling (859) 257-3896 or toll free at (877) 778-7827.

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