

THINKING CRITICALLY**● Earth Science in Action**

Three students, Alejandro, Barbara, and Cheryl, discovered a very unusual rock formation while hiking one day. Each student wrote a short summary about the discovery for their earth-science class.

Alejandro's Summary

During a hike through Jacob's Glen near Kenoza Lake we discovered an unusual rock formation. We were climbing up a hill that had bare rock on one side. Near the top, we saw a layer of black rock with gold crystals in it. This was the only rock on the hill that had any kind of crystal in it. We tried to chip off a piece of the gold crystal from the rock, but the crystals would not come loose. The rock itself was very hard and resisted chipping.

Barbara's Summary

We discovered a very unusual rock formation while hiking through Jacob's Glen on the south side of Kenoza Lake. We followed an old, dried-up stream bed through the glen. About 0.5 km south of Kenoza Lake we came upon a large hill. The north side of the hill was exposed, and the rock layers were visible. As we climbed the hill, we noticed that the rock layers were mostly light brown. About 10 m from the top of the hill, we came upon a layer of black rock. There were many gold-colored crystals throughout the rock. This seemed very unusual because all of the other rock layers were light brown layers with no visible crystals in them. The gold-colored crystals were cubic and had an average diameter of 0.5 cm. The rock was very hard, and the crystals would not break loose from the rock.

Cheryl's Summary

We found a very unusual rock formation while hiking through Jacob's Glen the other day. The hill near the old stream bed had an exposed side that showed the rock formations underneath. All the layers looked uninteresting except for a layer of black rock. The black rock layer had many gold crystals in it. The crystals were set tightly in the rock. We tried to pry them loose using a knife, but we had no luck. The rock itself was very hard. We tried to chip off a piece using other rocks, but none of them even scratched the black rock. The gold crystals in the rock were medium sized and round. They sparkled in the sunlight.

