

Project Development at Mount Vernon HS

Charlie Gardner

Geology of Iowa for Teachers

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A. Project Statement:

Where to begin – Next year will be the first year I will teach Earth Science in a classroom setting. Prior to the course I was already running some interest/interactive activities I could with my students, but this course has given me so much more that I could do. I do not have only one plan but have numerous I would like to complete for next year.

lowater/Hydrology – After the training on lowater I would like to incorporate it into my Earth Science curriculum. A hydrology unit was something I never planned to do prior to this course but will now.

Geology – I would like to create a rock/mineral collection that the students produced by collecting sample. This leads into taking numerous field trips (as many as the district can afford) which would include the Devonian Fossil Gorge, Palisades State Park, Maquoketa Caves, Rockford Fossil and Prairie Park, and any sand/gravel quarries in the area that will be willing to accommodate us.

B. Objectives/Goals:

My general goals would be to get students in the outdoors to learn Earth Science.

lowater/Hydrology – My goals for my water unit will be to get student able to collect, enturperate, monitor, and evaluate water quality at Abbe Creek or another creek near Mt. Vernon. I would also like them to be able to connect water quality with local and state wide environmental issues.

Geology – My goals for my geology unit would be for my students to be able to collect, research, enturperate, and correlate how mineral, rocks, and fossils can tell us about Earth history and related issues.

C. Implementation:

I will use the lowwater/Hydrology to get students more involved about the changes in their environment and how they can affect their environment. I will have them chart the monthly/weekly changes in a local creek/pond and then compare the monthly/weekly results and discuss why did it change.

I will use the Geology mostly to get student excited about the Earth around them. Earth Science is often overlooked as an important science but I would like to change that at Mt. Vernon. I think if the students can be outside and collect material it gives them ownership of what they are learning about. I will then have them do some sort of a presentation either of a time period or of an organism of the local geological time period.

D. Evaluation:

I will evaluate my classroom project by a series of formative and summative assessments. On a day to day basis on how students are engaged with the material. On a long term scale based on the data collect/presented to the class. I was thinking it would be interesting to have a mock presentation of the water quality and undeveloped limestone resources to the business/biology classes or a presentation of an organism, etc. I will also give a summative assessment at the end of the unit.