The Virtual Field's Ecosystem Exploration Videos

K-12 Curriculum Development

Cait Goodwin Oregon Sea Grant April 21, 2023



National Association of Marine

National Association for Marine Laboratories (NAML) meeting



Background

How do you teach field science during a global pandemic?

TheVirtualField.org

Project of the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS)

Funded by NSF RAPID grant.

50+ field stations and marine laboratories (FSML)

Initial focus: Universities

Explore ecosystems Talk with researchers at their study sites Attend field workshops and seminars

The Virtual Field

The Virtual Field brings you educational experiences at field stations and marine laboratories around the world.



Recreate & Expand FSML Learning Experiences

- Provide first-hand outdoor experiences
- Support Skills
 Development
 - Observation
 - Communication
 - Critical Thinking

- Cross-site
 comparisons
- Reach students who may otherwise experience barriers to participation



The Virtual Field web portal



Ecosystem Exploration



Live from the Field



360 Videos



The Virtual Field

Search Results:



Archbold Biological Station Florida Scrub*

A walk through an endemic scrubland in the Florida subtropics drought adaptation, disturbance-fire, regeneration, ecosystem engineers, conservation



Black Fork Wetlands Freshwater Marsh*

A walk from the outer edge to open water in a freshwater marsh in Ohio.

physiological tolerance, decomposition, types of decomposition, research, climate change



Black Rock Forest Chestnut Oak Woodland*

Ecology and formative processes of a Chestnut Oak Forest in New York.

climate change, reproduction & recruitment, fire adaptation, forest regeneration, soil depth & structure, disease

Ecosystem Exploration Videos

- Teaches observation and communication skills
- 5-min, unnarrated point-of-view videos
- Search videos by location, environment, concepts, standards
- Each video comes with teaching materials

30+ EE videos so far



The Virtual Field

Hurricane Island Rocky Intertidal Zone*

A walk through the rocky intertidal zone on Hurricane Island, 11 miles off the coast of Maine zonation, photosynthesis & pigments, adaptation, morphology, filter feeders Explorer Guides Instructor Guides



Contributing Institution: Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership, Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership

Site Website: Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership

Site Contact: Madison Maier

Videographer: Madison Maier

Date Video Recorded: 25/04/2020

About This Ecosystem



Ecosystem Exploration Videos

Title

- Brief description
- List of concepts
- Quick links to Guides below

Unnarrated video (<5min)

- Contributor info
- Lat/Long, Biome, etc.

Explorer Guides

- Write Field Notes
- Sketch What You See
- Ask Questions
- Find Evidence

Instructor Guides

Register & Log In to access

Write Field Notes

University, High School, K8 versions

Watch the EE video



Write Field Notes

University, High School, K8 versions



BES WRITE FIELD NOTES nstructor Guide

alfield.org is a project of the Organization of Biological Field Statio

Take your students on a virtual field trip. The Virtual Field's Ecosystem Exploration video series allows students to explore a wide range of habitats and environments as they build observation, communication, questioning and critical thinking skills. Each 5-minute video is filmed on smartphones by a researcher at field station and marine laboratories.

This activity boosts student written communication skills. This is the first in a scaffolded series of exercises

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Why Teach Students to Make Observations?

Students learn about the nature of science when they make, record, and communicate their observations of the natural world. In addition to fostering creativity and attention to detail, making observations engages learners in several Science and Engineering Practices (SEP). When students make observations of phenomena, they are collecting data that they can use to make comparisons, develop hypotheses, or serve as evidence to support a claim.

Why Teach Communication Skills?

Successful communication is a foundational skill that is often cited by employers as crucial for success in many fields. In science, this 21st Century skill is part of the nature of science, and at the heart of Engaging in Argument from Evidence (SEP 7) and Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information (SEP 8).

Why Explore Virtual Ecosystems?

Like never before, today's technologies provide K-12 students with opportunities to travel "virtually" across the globe to explore new places, cultures, and ideas through a screen. Ecosystem Exploration videos share detailed, firsthand perspectives of diverse natural areas, sparking student interest not only in the ecosystem itself, but also the research taking place at these field sites

USING THIS ACTIVITY

This activity can be used in place of a field trip or to enhance skills in preparation for a field trip. It can be used as an independent assignment or assigned to groups to encourage students to share and communicate their observations. The teacher can also broadcast the video and lead the class through first parts of the exercise together. Pre-teach key vocabulary/concepts that you would like to see reflected in students' written observations.



Instructor Guide

- **Background Info Connections to NGSS** Science & Engineering **Practices**
- Using the Activity Individual or entire class? Many options! Let teachers decide.
- **Activity Overview**
- Learning Objectives
- **Tips for Instruction** Scaffolding, address misconceptions, technology
- **Rubric**

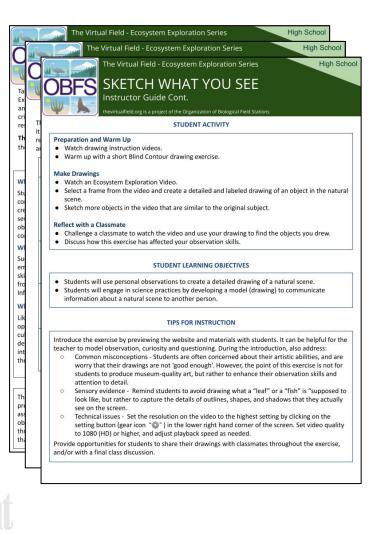
Learning Objectives

- Use personal observations to create a detailed written description of a natural scene.
- Engage in science practices.

Sketch What You See

University, High School, K8 versions





Relax! This should be fun.

Activities #1, #2, #3

University, High School, K8 versions

Write Field Notes - Builds observation and communication skills

- Instructor Overview: University, High School, K-8
- Assignment (Student Explorer's guide): University, High School, K-8

Sketch What You See - Builds observation and communication skills

- Instructor Overview: University, High School, K-8
- Assignment (Student Explorer's guide): University, High School, K-8

Ask Questions - Builds observation, curiosity, and questioning skills

- Instructor Overview: University, High School, K-8
- Assignment (Student Explorer's guide): University, High School, K-8



University, High School, K8 versions



- Multiple slides (20+)
 - Five content topics
 - Students fill in answers to the questions posed in the slides

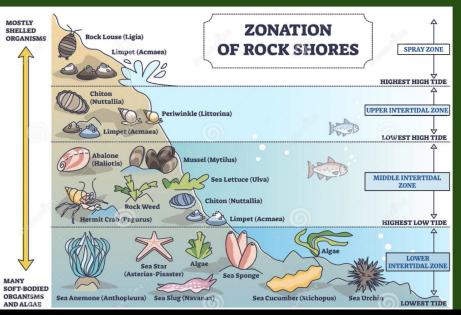
University, High School, K8 versions



- Shows example answers
- Additional content and vocabulary is included in the NOTES section
- Link to annotated video
- Aligned to Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)

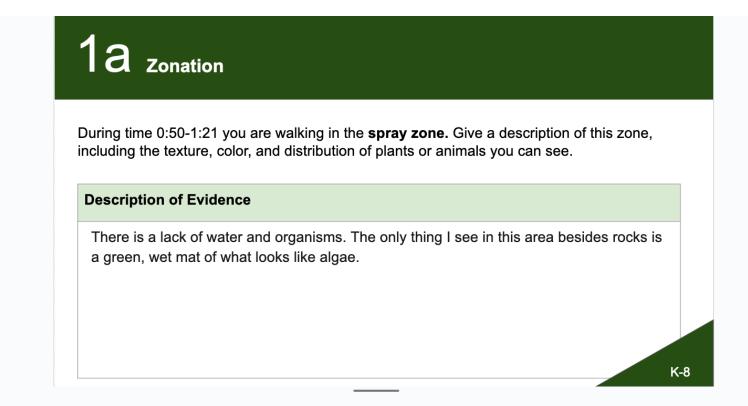
University, High School, K8 versions

Zonation: Gradients in environmental conditions (such as moisture and heat) can sort organisms into zones based on their levels of tolerance. In the rocky intertidal, organisms are sparse (low) where conditions are harshest (spray zone) and increase in abundance and diversity where conditions are more moderate (lower intertidal).



- Spray Zone: Occasionally wet, almost always hot and dry
- Upper Intertidal: Submerged twice per day during high tide, mostly hot and dry
- Middle Intertidal: Most often submerged, hot and dry twice per day at low tide
- •Lower Intertidal: Almost always submerged, rarely hot and dry at lowest of low tides.

University, High School, K8 versions



Concept: To live in this zone, organisms must be able to handle intense **desiccation**, high temperatures and **wave abrasion** during storms.

The green and wet material encrusting the rock face is **blue-green algae**, also referred to as **cyanobacteria**. Blue-green algae grow in tangled filaments that attach to rock surfaces. Each **filament** is composed of a line of cells that secrete a sticky mucus sheath that protects the cell from drying out and the effects of rapidly changing salinity. The mucus also holds the filament securely to the rock surface.

EE Video K-12 Alignment

POSTED ONLINE NOW:

K-8 and HS Materials for

- Write field notes
- Sketch what you see
- Ask questions

Aligned to NGSS Science and Engineering Practices

COMING in MAY:

K-8 and HS Materials for

- Find Evidence for Ecosystem Processes*

Aligned to and searchable by NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas

"Using The Virtual Field with K-12 Students"

Using The Virtual Field with K-12 Students

May 25, 2023 4:30PM – 5:30PM Pacific Time (7:30-8:30PM Eastern)

K-12 educators, take your students on a virtual field trip! Join Oregon Sea Grant for a 1-hr online educator workshop to learn about **The Virtual Field**

The Virtual Field (thevirtualfield.org) was launched in 2020 with support from the National Science Foundation. The online platform enables students to explore ecosystems around the world while building observation, communication, and critical thinking skills. Each unnarrated 5-minute Ecosystem Exploration video is filmed on a smartphone by a researcher at field station or marine laboratory.

- What do you notice?
- Describe your evidence!
- Sketch what you see.
- What questions do you have?

The instructor portal provides NGSS-aligned student guides and teacher keys to support students as they use Ecosystem Exploration videos from around the world to understand ecosystem processes, human impacts, and field research.

Register to attend this introductory session at https://beav.es/SBi

www.TheVirtualField.org



The Virtual Field

Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by May 11 to cait.goodwin@oregonstate.edu.

K-12 Educator workshop 1 hour online

May 25, 2023 4:30PM PT / 7:30PM ET



All welcome! Register to attend https://beav.es/SBi