

Video Transcript for "MWEE Outdoor Experiences"

Posted by: Chesapeake Bay Program

Video text: Outdoor Field Experiences: Students make observations and collect data to investigate the driving question

Video images: Interview with Ms. Rouget; text: Wendy Rouget, 5th grade, Prince George's Co. Public Schools, MD

Narration: If you are going outside, you should go outside with a purpose. It's not as if I'm just going outside for going outside. I had a lesson that I could have done inside and I just went outside. That's not what it's about. It's really using the environment as the context. How are you going use the environment to help teach this standard?

Video images: Interview with Ms. Snavelly; text: Kerrie Snavelly, High School Biology, Conestoga Valley School District, PA, images of students gathering equipment in classroom

Narration: Stauffer Run is a quick stop. It takes five minutes for the bus to get there. We're on a block schedule so we have eighty minute classes. But I used to do this in forty-three minutes. You have to prep everything in your classroom first. They learned how to do over ten chemical tests. They learned all about different equipment that we use. They learn their critters and now they were ready because there's twenty five of them spread out in four different areas along the creek. And I just walk up and down, monitoring and watching and helping when need be but they know what to do.

Video images: Interview with Ms. Byard; text: Dale Byard, 6th grade, Frederick County Public Schools, VA, images on students on field trip

Narration: So we thought it would be great to partner with the museum and do a great interdisciplinary unit where we learned about the history of our town and how essential water was to the history of our town. Have the kids do field experiences where they were doing science labs and using mathematics skills and then putting together presentations where they were using a great deal of English skills.

Video images: Images of students on an outdoor field experience collecting water samples, interview with Ms. Snavelly, images of students on an outdoor field experience in a wetland

Narration: You're also going to help us kind of analyze the health of the water by looking for the things that live in it. [Outdoor field educator] It's not paper and pencil. It is the physical holding. That's what the MWEE is. This is a meaningful experience. There I am in the water. [Ms. Snavelly] This is also a wetland but it's a different kind. [Outdoor field educator] They learn. They learn while enjoying. [Ms. Snavelly]

Video images: Interview with Ms. Rouget

Narration: Kids are ready to do it. They are starved for this type of learning and I think it's 21st century so why not do it.