

Extended Homework: RESPeCT Lesson Plan Analysis Variations in Plants and Animals

Purposes

- To prepare for using STeLLA strategies while teaching the RESPeCT lessons about variations in plants and animals (in the fall)
- To deepen your understanding of the STeLLA strategies

Task: Between now and Friday, read the scope and sequence for the set of Variations in Plants and Animals lessons and your assigned lesson plan. Be prepared to share your findings from your assigned lesson plan in a study-group conversation on Friday.

Directions

1. Read the scope and sequence for the Variations in Plants and Animals lesson plans in your lesson plans binder.
 - a. Keep the following questions in mind as you read the outline of the lesson sequence:
 - What are the main learning goal and focus question of each lesson?
 - What science ideas are developed in each lesson? (Science ideas are identified in the column titled Science Content Storyline.)
 - What science ideas are developed in more than one lesson? In which lessons are these ideas more fully developed?
 - b. Create a marking (or coding) system to show how some science ideas appear in more than one lesson.
2. Read your assigned lesson plan. Be prepared to share with your colleagues your responses to the following questions:
 - a. How does this lesson fit into the arc of the lessons as a whole?
 - b. What are the main learning goal and the focus question for this lesson?
 - c. What is the activity for each lesson? (Most lessons have one or two main activities.)
 - Describe each activity. How it is set up and followed up?
 - What are the main science ideas addressed before, during, and after each activity? How are the science ideas explicitly linked to the activity?
 - What concerns or suggestions do you have regarding this activity?
 - d. Across the lesson, how do the main activities and related science ideas help build the science content storyline and the main learning goal? What questions or comments do you have about strengths and/or weaknesses of the science content storyline?
 - e. Choose one Student Thinking Lens strategy and one Science Content Storyline Lens strategy that are strongly illustrated in this lesson. Find evidence to support your selections (e.g., specific examples from the lesson plan where the strategy is clearly used).