

SCIENCE NEWS SCIENCE NEWS

November, 2009

Happy Thanksgiving!

Classroom resources and ideas

Cramster

A free online study community for high school homework help in math and science

See <<http://www.cramster.com>>

iCue

An innovative learning environment built around video from the NBC News Archives.

See <<http://www.icue.com>>.

Kids.gov

The official kids' Web portal of the U.S. government, with links to resources for students and educators.

Visit <<http://kids.gov>>.

4Teachers.org

Tools and resources to help K12 teachers integrate technology into classrooms.

See <<http://www.4teachers.org>>.

U. S. News/Education

News, teaching and learning activities that connect educators and students to the world.

Visit <<http://www.usnews.com/sections/education>>.

My Learning Tube

Brief video clips in a variety of K12 content areas. See

<<http://www.mylearningtube.com>>.

Determining the Average Density of Earth –classroom lesson

Discover a lab that uses Archimedes Principle to determine the density of earth's layers.

This lab incorporates use of mathematics concepts.

See <stevekluge.com/geoscience/projects/nysic/layers.doc>.

Introduction to Plate Tectonics

This is flash interactive site that shows plate boundaries, fault location, volcanism, and more. This site provides a nice one stop reference for plate tectonics.

<http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/msnbc/Components/Interactives/Technology_Science/Science/Earthquakes/zFlashAssets/Earthquakes_v21.swf>

Secret Worlds: The Universe Within

This is an interesting site with visuals to help students understand powers of ten and to experience perspective. View the Milky Way at 10 million light years from the Earth. Then move through space towards the Earth in successive orders of magnitude until you reach a tall oak tree just outside the buildings of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory in Tallahassee, Florida. After that, begin to move from the actual size of a leaf into a microscopic world that reveals leaf cell walls, the cell nucleus, chromatin, DNA and finally, into the subatomic universe of electrons and protons.

See <<http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/primer/java/scienceopticsu/powersof10/>>.

Best Buy Children's Foundation Teach@15 Award

The Teach@15 Award program helps schools serving any grades 7 to 12 meet their technology needs. Teens (age 13-18) who are registered members on at15.com can nominate their schools (depending on eligibility) to win a Teach@15 Award. Starting September 15, 2009, teen members can vote once a day for 15 days for one nomination. Every 15 days, Best Buy will award three schools with Best Buy Gift Cards based on member votes. The school with the most votes will win \$1,500, second most votes \$1,000 and third most votes \$500.

Deadline: OPEN. For more information:

<http://www.bestbuyinc.com/community_relations/teach_awards.htm>.

Vernier Awards

The Vernier/NSTA Technology Awards promote the innovative use of data-collection technology using a computer, graphing calculator, or other handheld in the science classroom. We encourage you to apply for one of seven \$3,000 awards. Deadline is November 30, 2009.

Each award will consist of \$1,000 in cash for the teacher, \$1,000 in Vernier Products, and up to \$1,000 toward expenses to attend the annual NSTA National Convention.

One award at the Elementary Level (Grades K-5)

Two awards at the Middle School Level (Grades 6-8)

Three awards at the High School Level (Grades 9-12)

One award at the College Level

Current teachers of science in grades K-College are eligible to apply.

More information is available at <<http://www.vernier.com/grants/nsta.html>>.

Help in Creating Assessment Rubrics

This web site scaffolds the creation of assessment rubrics for a wide variety of student activities. Rubistar is a free tool, supported by a grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Teachers can use this site to get ideas for grading criteria, and even create and print or download a rubric. This is a great resource for creating quick and easy-to-use assessments for projects in multiple disciplines.

Visit <<http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=NewRubric&module=Rubistar&>>.

Whodunit?

The Science of Solving Crimes

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar now for the highly anticipated opening event of *Whodunit: The Science of Solving Crimes* at Science Museum Oklahoma.

**Thursday, December 3
at 10:30am**

Media Event and Exhibit Unveiling

This exhibit immerses you in a real-life mystery and reveals the scientific methods and technologies used by forensic professionals in their investigations. Guided by the expertise of actual Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and Office of the Chief Medical Examiner scientists and professionals, you will use your crime-solving skills to find out *Whodunit?*

DON and JANE KELLOGG MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHER'S SCHOLARSHIP

The DON and JANE KELLOGG MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP was established to assist students pursuing a secondary mathematics or science certification degree (biology education, physics education, chemistry education or math education majors) at East Central University in Ada. High School seniors are urged to apply.

The freshman year award will be a total of \$1000 divided between the first and second semesters of attendance. To be considered, the following documents must be completed and presented to the Scholarship Selection and Retention Committee:

1. An application for admission to East Central University including transcript and ACT scores,
2. An ECU MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP Application Form,
3. Two letters of recommendation from math and/or science teachers that know the applicant, and
4. A letter from the student addressing their interest and attributes in teaching math/science.

Preference will be given to applicants based on the following criteria:

1. A graduate from an accredited Oklahoma high school,
2. A high school GPA above a 3.0,
3. An ACT composite score of 20 or higher, or
4. An ACT math and science sub scores of 18 or higher.

Upon admission to the teacher certification program, the scholarship provides additional funding for the junior and senior years of your program.

All interested applicants should contact:

Dr. Bruce Weems, Ph.D.

Dean & Professor of Physics

(580.559.5549 or <bweems@ecok.edu>

The Impending Coastal Crisis News Article

With populations moving closer to coasts and development proceeding at breakneck pace, is disaster in store?

This is a good article to use for classroom discussion or for notebook written response.

See <http://www.geotimes.org/mar08/article.html?id=feature_coastal.html>.

New York Science Teacher resources

This is an interesting site with labs, lessons, videos, etc. available for all grade levels.

Visit <<http://www.newyorkscienceteacher.com/sci/files/>>.

Earthwatch Educator Fellowship for Teachers

Get out of the classroom and head into the field to learn about cutting edge research and conservation efforts, to develop professional skills, and to make a difference for our shared environment. Bring the world back into your classroom and to your students as you've never done before with an Earthwatch Expedition. As an Earthwatch Educator Fellow you'll receive funding to join one of our Earthwatch expeditions worldwide. If selected, you'll join a team of other Educator Fellows and/or volunteers and work

alongside leading environmental scientists, actively supporting their work, learning field research methods, and helping conserve threatened natural and cultural resources. You'll also be asked to share your experiences through developing lessons and giving presentations on your experience, and by attending events designed to spread the word to other educators and volunteers.

More information is available at:

<<http://www.earthwatch.org/aboutus/education/edopp/edfelfund/>>

K-12 classroom educators are also eligible to apply for our **Live From the Field program**, which enables you to communicate with students live from the research site during the your expedition. If you're interested in being a Live From the Field Fellow, simply check the appropriate box on your Fellowship application!

See <<http://www.earthwatch.org/lff>> for more information on this program.

Design Squad Teacher's Guide

Design Squad, PBS' engineering reality competition series, has a new Teacher's Guide. Developed for middle school science and technology teachers, *Design Squad's* latest guide blends hands-on engineering challenges with 3 core science concepts:

Force - students build their own blimps

Electricity - students design electronic games

Sound - students make and play instruments

The challenges use low cost, readily available materials and are linked to national science and technology standards.

Order your free copy of the *Design Squad* Teacher's Guide at:

<<http://pbskids.org/designsquad/engineers/newsletter.html>>.

Anyone interested in science education is welcome to join the Science Listserv by contacting Jana Rowland at <Jana_Rowland@sde.state.ok.us>.

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