

FOSS Kits Tips and Ideas

Management Tips	<p>Always do a pre and post inventory with your kit materials. The pre-inventory will ensure that you have all of your needed materials before you begin teaching and the post-inventory will ensure that you get all materials returned.</p>
	<p>Structure teaching times with your grade level partner(s) so that you are teaching and different times. This will allow you to share items like student books and other materials (please be sure that shared items are returned to the correct kit)</p>
	<p>If you use water with any supplies, make sure to have students place items in your sink and allow for items to be dried thoroughly before returning to the kit.</p>
	<p>Make organizing your materials tubs easier by creating cards that list all needed supplies. You can make these cards for each investigation once and then keep them in your teacher binder to use each year. That way assistants and volunteers can help you as well.</p>
	<p>To help get materials ready you may wish to use school volunteers, and older grade level buddies or student helpers (depending on grade level).</p>
	<p>Read background and student information before teaching.</p>
	<p>Have a set plan for set up and clean up. You might wish to employ student helpers for these jobs.</p>
	<p>Set up a science station or science corner in your classroom. This will help with the storage of kit materials and tubs and also provide a location for experiments or materials that need to be left out.</p>
	<p>Review the video prior to the lesson as it can be very helpful to see the lesson in action before you begin teaching.</p>

Instructional Strategies	<p>Create a notebook routine to ensure that students are responding and reflecting. For example, have students begin each science lesson by writing in their notebooks, then use notebooks to collect any data or notes during investigations, and then wrap-up each science lesson by having students complete a reflection or question in their journal.</p>
	<p>Using individual and small group white boards can add a wonderful addition to discussions as it allows students to clarify their questions or understandings and share them with others.</p>
	<p>Always review safety expectations with students before each investigation. Even if materials seem quite safe, it is important to review proper use.</p>
	<p>If you are struggling to explain experiments, show sections of the video to your students to show how experiments should be organized.</p>
	<p>If you are having a hard time fitting in the science stories, move them into part of your reading instruction time. Stories cannot be skipped as many GLEs are actually covered only in the stories.</p>
	<p>Many of the student response sheets or worksheets can be done within notebooks and the actual student sheets do not need to be copied, but maybe just shown as an overhead.</p>
	<p>Look for ways to include the scientific process in the kits. There is usually a place in the investigation to elaborate on the scientific process or at least discuss the process and the vocabulary that goes along with it (variables, prediction, hypothesis, results, procedure, conclusion, etc.)</p>
	<p>Look for ways to make connections to students' lives and to other curricular areas. Connections will strengthen understanding.</p>
	<p>Organize your students into groups of four for ease of material handling and management.</p>
	<p>Incorporate science journaling into your writing period for the day to help with integration.</p>

