Life Science Kits

Animals 2x2 - K - Appropriate classroom habitats are established. Students observe and care for one animal over time, and then they are introduced to another animal similar to the first but with differences in structure and behavior. This process enhances opportunities for observation, communication, and comparison.

Trees - K - Systematic investigation of trees will bring students to a better understanding of trees' place at school and in the community, and will provide some solid experiences on the way to understanding all plants. Students will observe and describe the properties of trees and leaves and will compare the similarities and differences they observe.

Insects - 1st or 2nd - Students will come to know firsthand the life sequences of a number of insects. They will observe structures and behaviors, discuss their findings, and ask questions. They will observe life cycles of insects and compare the stages of metamorphosis exhibited by each species.

New Plants - 1st or 2nd - Students care for plants to learn what they need to grow and develop. They observe the structures of flowering plants and discover ways to propagate new plants from mature plants (from seeds, bulbs, roots, and stem cuttings). They observe and describe changes that occur as plants grow, and organize their observations on a calendar and in a journal.

Human Body - 3rd or 4th - This module consists of four sequential investigations that engage students in thoughtful activities about the form and function of a most remarkable machine, their own body. Students will observe and investigate the human skeletal and muscle systems. They will gain experience with the use of photographs, diagrams, and model bones to gather information, and they will build mechanical models to demonstrate how muscles are responsible for human movement.

Structures of Life - 3rd or 4th - Students observe, compare, categorize, and care for a selection of organisms, and in so doing they learn to identify properties of plants and animals and to sort and group organisms on the basis of observable properties. They investigate structures of the organisms and learn how some of the structures function in growth and survival.

Food and Nutrition - 5th or 6th - Students will observe and investigate properties of foods. They will become aware of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, and vitamins as components of food and will learn how several nutrient groups contribute to healthful nutrition. They will use indicators to test for acid, vitamin C, sugar, and fat in foods. They will relate the results of investigations and experiments to the amount of chemicals in foods.

Environments - 5th or 6th - Students will develop an attitude of respect and understanding for life. They will gain experience with the major environmental factors in terrestrial and aquatic systems and will conduct controlled experiments with plants to determine ranges of tolerance. They will organize and analyze data from experiments and investigations with plants and animals, and they will observe and describe changes in complex systems over time.