Wild About the Outdoors

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Field Investigations with Project WILD

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Field Investigations Defined

- involve the **systematic collection of data** for the purposes of scientific understanding
- designed to **answer a question** through the collection of evidence and the communication of results
- contribute to **scientific knowledge**
  - describe natural systems
  - note differences in habitats
  - identify environmental trends and issues
Why Field Investigations?

- help students become systems thinkers
- integrate scientific content with science and engineering practices and cross cutting concepts

- **Outdoor experiences / learning**
  - Increase students’ **problem-solving** abilities
  - Increase students’ **motivation** to learn in social studies, science, language arts and math.
  - provide students with **place-based connections**
  - engage students in **relevant learning** experiences.
  - encompasses a range of techniques and approaches that build on students’ interests and backgrounds
  - promote **educational equity** in learning science and engineering.
Observation and Data Collection

**Observation basics**

- What do you observe?
- What is the context?
- What other questions do you have about what you observe?
Field Investigations and Project-Based Learning

- Reveal phenomena
  - Intentional observation
  - Facilitated questioning
- Student driven learning
  - Standards based
  - Student questions
  - Science in context
- Wide-open “laboratory”
  - Plants
  - Animals
  - Water movement
  - Human impact
  - Interactions
Activities-

Project WILD- Environmental Barometer
Field Investigations Guide- Sit Spot
Resources

- Iowa Project WILD Training Site
  Self-paced online modules for Project WILD and Aquatic WILD guides.
Resources

- **Field Investigations: Using Outdoor Environments to Foster Student Learning and Recreation**

  Activities to develop observation skills and conduct field investigations
For More Information

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Bird Song Survey

https://youtu.be/eBD8Cz6lJRg?t=62