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Eastern Iowa Science Fair

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Reports on standardized forms(Figs. 1 and 2)were sent to the office of the State Science Consultant in the Department of Public Instruction in Des Moines. The reports were coded and placed in computer storage. Summarized printouts of the data from all sites were sent each month to the research teams in all schools.

At the end of the project tabulated data for the entire year were made available to the student research teams in all schools. Students analyzed the data in preparation of reports to be given at sessions of the Iowa Junior Academy of Science and for the identification of problems for further research.

Conclusion

It is our belief that you teach science best when you use local resources. What better resources are there for teaching biology than the farm, forest, prairie, and Iowa's streams and lakes? What better way to teach basic chemistry than by first-hand studies of the natural cycles of water, nitrogen, carbon-oxygen, of the air, soil and water?

Beyond this basic education in science there are also elements of personal and social responsibility taught by this project. Students are encouraged to make photographic records of the seasonal changes in the river at their sites and to use these as the basis for educative presentations to local governmental agencies and community-service organizations.

We subscribe to the definition of science suggested by the National Science Teachers Association: "Science is that activity through which best explanations are sought for the observed facts of nature." The Des Moines River Study Project put that definition into practice.

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Hawkeye Science Fair

The Hawkeye Science Fair will be held April 2-3, 1976 in the Veterans Auditorium in Des Moines. For further information contact Dean C. Stroud, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

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Eastern Iowa Science Fair

The Eastern Iowa Science Fair will be held March 27 and 28, 1976. For further information contact: Ms. Sandy Stephen, Director Eastern Iowa Science and Engineering Fair, P.O. Box 1032, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406.