

ENGAGING THE ONLINE LEARNER THROUGH OUTDOOR FIELD EXPERIENCES

Paula Griffin, Ed.D & Alan Sowards, Ed.D

PLT HYBRID TRAINING

Project Learning Tree training first offered to online students 2012 during SFA campus visit days



Butterfly Lifecycle

3 hours face-to-face
3 hours online via *Hike Through the PK-8 Environmental Activity Guide*



Have Seed Will Travel



The Life of Bees



Bee Relay Race

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

SFA Mast Arboretum
Pineywoods Beekeepers Association
Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful
Texas Forest Service

ONLINE TEACHER CANDIDATES

Arlington
Batson
Caddo Mills
Chester
Cleburne
Cypress
Dayton
DeBerry
Georgetown



Greenville
Hemphill
Houston
Huntington
Keller
Lufkin
Marshall
Shelbyville
Waxahachie

REFLECTION

End of Day Focus Groups
Describe today.
What did you notice?
How did you modify?
Think about your pedagogy.
Tell me about your learning.

IMPLEMENTATION

Teaching



Growing



Learning



Teacher Candidate Comments
“...opportunity to put what we’ve learned into practice and receive feedback...”
“...invaluable hands-on experience and first-hand knowledge...”
“Through BBBB I realized how much students love to be a part of the lesson.”
“I learned I am a very capable teacher.”

COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

Spring 2015 BBBB Teaching Stations
Station 1 - Plants
How Plants Grow (PLT, page 179) *chickspan demonstration*
Tree Life Cycle (PLT, page 342) *plant personification*
Have Seeds Will Travel (PLT, page 183)
Concepts: Plant needs, plant lifecycles, parts of plants/functions, and classification.
Station 2 - "Birds & Worms" - Animal Adaptations
Birds & Worms (PLT, page 111)
Concepts: adaptations, camouflage, graphing, and interaction between living things.
Station 3 - Butterfly Life Cycle
Activity adapted from PLT activity "To Be A Tree" (PLT, page 265) Dress teacher as a butterfly!
Concepts: Insect parts/functions, lifecycle, interactions between living organisms, migration and adaptations.
Station 4 - Importance of Bee
Students will observe a live bee hive and determine the importance bees play in pollination; also covered will be the interdependence between plants and animals; and Fun Facts about Bees and the Bee Relay Race.
Concepts: Insect parts/function, interactions between living and non-living, lifecycle, interdependence, and adaptations.

Online Methods Course • Teams of Two
5E Lesson Plans • Modified PLT Curriculum

Bugs, Butterflies, Bees & Blossoms

Began in 1998 on SFA campus
5 Day Outdoor Science Education Event
3,200 Area Students K-2, Teachers, & Parents