

NASA NICE Workshop – Wrap up Activity 2012

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The information from the NICE Workshop was very informative. I will try to implement this in my MAT 521 course in the Fall 2012. MAT 521 is Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers. The course is design to prepare students to teach mathematics. It is designed to help the students to speak, explain, and write clearly about mathematics.

The type of students taking this course will be undergraduate students in the Department of Education seeking a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies for Elementary Education. Students who graduate from the department with teaching degrees are approved for teaching in 45 states without requiring extra certification courses. There are approximately 15-20 pre-service teachers in this course.

I will introduce the workshops tools and datasets in the Measurement unit. The overall learning objectives:

1. Describe what is meant by informal measurement using non-standard units.
2. Describe the English system and perform conversions with different groups of units.
3. Describe the metric system and perform conversions within different groups of units.
4. Find the perimeter of a geometric figure, including polygons and circles.
5. Show how to derive and apply formulas to find area.
6. Solve problems using analysis.

Here is where I will introduce the Globe Carbon Cycle just like we did on our field trip. We will also do the Tree circumference as well. Also, I will implement the module on calculating the Greenness too. This will be great for data analysis and graphing as well. I plan to use the module as is.

The biggest challenges or obstacles that immediately come to mind are being able to answer the science questions that will arrive. I will have to get very familiar with the modules so that I am prepared to answer the minimum questions.

The students will complete a survey after completing each module so that I will have some feedback on the activities. I will look over the surveys to evaluate whether I effective reach the overall learning objective and the specific climate objectives as well.