

HABITAT TRACKER: Learning About Scientific Inquiry through Digital Journaling in Wildlife Centers

Amanda Clark, Paul Marty, Anne Mendenhall and Nicole Alemanne
Florida State University
United States
aclark@fsu.edu

Abstract: Teachers have difficulties creating inquiry based classrooms that develop student understandings of scientific inquiry and nature of science. Our Habitat Tracker project has as its goal, to develop a field-tested version of an intervention supporting student scientific inquiry through data collection in a habitat museum. The intervention will be designed to support student participation in and understanding of scientific inquiry and scientific practices through two interrelated systems: 1) Habitat Tracker, a Digital journaling application created for the iPad. Students can record their own observations, collect data, and answer questions about natural science; 2) the Habitat Tracker Community Website, an interactive forum where students will retrieve large data sets regarding the natural phenomena and use these data sets to answer scientific questions. To test the effectiveness of this intervention, 4 and 5th grade students' understanding of science and scientific inquiry will be measured before and after their participation in the program.

References

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