

Kingdom Vacation - Day 2 (50-minute class period)

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Grade Level(s)

7th grade Science

Lesson Overview

Students will interview graduate students or scientists who specialize in organisms in each kingdom according to their interview plans.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to utilize effective interview strategies and polite interview protocols towards collecting information about their respective kingdom. Each individual will be able to explain their role in the interview process, and each group will produce at least one written record of what was said and done by the interviewee.

Standards

Standards (Utah Science Grade 7):

- Objective 3 - Classify organisms using an orderly pattern based upon structure.
 - Identify types of organisms that are not classified as either plant or animal.
 - Arrange organisms according to kingdom (i.e., plant, animal, monera, fungi, protist).

Learning Goals:

- Academic: Students will be able to. . .
 - Define research/interview questions
 - Organize information according to organism need
- Socio-affective:
 - Build empathy for non-human organisms
 - Interact productively in groups towards shared generation of a novel product

Preparation

- Consider class size to determine group interview rotation (suggestions follow in lesson plan).
- Collect as many crafting and building materials as possible for prototype building (in Lesson 6)
- Consider the role and consequence of anthropomorphizing non-human organisms. The goal of the challenge is to increase empathy and identification with each kingdom by deeply considering the needs of each. At points, it is important to remind students that these are non-human organisms, and because of this we can never be certain about what they feel or want (but that this uncertainty should only motivate more concern and stewardship on the part of humans).
- Prepare potential interview questions your students may be missing, including questions for the specialists about their careers in science.

Materials and Resources

Students need:

- interview plan
- place to record information/observations from interview
- writing utensils

Teacher needs:

- timekeeping device
- room(s) set up for effective interviews (in a class of 30, with 6 kingdoms and 6 experts to interview, 6 circles of 6 chairs, for example)

Activity 1: Your specialist (30 minutes)

Students interview their scientist according to their interview plan.

Activity 2: Kingdom round-robin (20 minutes)

Groups switch places, and have five minutes each to find out how their kingdom is different than the other 5 kingdoms. Push groups to come up with at least two differences. For this portion, you may want to place some questions on the board (see “troubleshooting” section). Each student should take the lead in interviewing one of the five remaining specialists.

Troubleshooting

Activity 1 - Monitor interviews closely. Be ready to slip students post-it notes with questions in case the interview lags, celebrate great interviewing, and correct poor interviewing. Resist the urge to help a flailing interview by asking the specialist any questions yourself!

Activity 2 - If you are worried about students not interviewing during the specialist round-robin, write a rotation on the board so that you (and they) know who should be interviewing each specialist. Every student not directly asking interview questions should record responses in writing. Every student has an important job!

Assessment

Evidence of successful student achievement:

- A clear written record of interviewee responses and actions (within the group, with every individual having some written piece)