

Science Education
Department of Teaching and Learning
Virginia Tech

Assessment of Classroom Teaching

Teacher Intern: Ashley Grapes

School/Class: John Dalton Middle/
Life Science

Name of Lesson: Bird Survival

Date: November 8, 2010

Observer: Mythianne Shelton

1. How was the lesson constructed and organized?

Ashley began the lesson by distributing “beaks” and activity sheet. She then did a quick review from previous days to relate terms to the current lesson. The lesson was then explained. After each generation the students filled in their chart and a brief discussion was held.

2. What strategies did the teacher use for engaging students in meaningful learning?

The students worked in groups of 4 or 5. Each student was assigned a specific beak and was asked to complete a chart. The students worked together with their group to analyze the best and worst beak. After each “feeding” the students talked about which beak was the best for each table. At each opportune time Ashley would bring in key vocabulary and talk about how it related to the lesson. Numerous times she would ask the students to explain the terms their own words.

3. How did the teacher manage and monitor student learning?

The lesson was very well organized and progressed from review type of questions to a little more analytical. Ashley walked around the room as the students worked in their groups. When the students reported their results she was able to help correct misunderstandings or reintroduce key vocabulary. Ashley also made sure that she had their full attention before addressing the group or that everyone was listening to their classmate.

4. How did the students respond to the activities?

All of the students were engaged during the lesson. They all appeared to enjoy the activity and were very willing to share their results.

5. What are suggestions for this lesson and for future planning?

Great job!!! Your lesson was well organized. You also manage your class time well. I liked how you reminded the students about the importance of listening to their classmates. By walking around to each table helped to maintain classroom control and allowed you to be more accessible for questions. The activity was very age appropriate and helped the students to understand difficult vocabulary terms such as competition, natural selection and carrying capacity. For future lessons, you may want to walk on the outside of the table so that your back is not to the students. This will allow you to keep an eye on all of the students. Overall an outstanding lesson!