

A Trail To Every Classroom (TTEC) Curriculum Development Tool



UNIT DESIGN COVER SHEET

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School name, state and town: **unspecified, Roanoke, VA**

Title: **A.T. for Beginners**

Abstract/Vignette: *Student familiarity with the section of the A.T. in their local community; Knowledge of A.T. in general; Development of the tools of communication necessary to acquire community involvement.*

Grade level(s): Please check all that apply.

- K-2 3-5 6-8 9-12 College and Lifelong Learning

Discipline: Please check all that apply.

- Art and Music Health and PE Foreign Language
- Literature and Language Arts Mathematics Science
- Social Studies and Geography History Technology

Year Developed: **2008**

Period (month, week, year): **1.5 years**

Teaching environment:

- In the Classroom (indoors) Outdoors
- In the Community Online/Virtual

TTEC Participants:

Edward McMichael (Dual Enrollment Biology ; 12th Grade)

Cecilia Gayle Ross (Ecology ; 11th & 12th Grade)

Patricia Stiles (Advanced Biology ; 10th Grade)

It would be difficult to separate each teacher's contribution to this curriculum as it was an efficient, collaborative effort. All three teachers met on several occasions (as well as at the TTEC workshops) to map out the curriculum. Each teacher will be responsible for his/her own classes as to providing content, practice activities, reflection activities, gathering ideas, etc. Also, each teacher will conduct the field trips independent of the others to take GPS positions, photographs, flora identification, and collect other data. It is impractical and unwise to combine this number of students into one field trip on the Appalachian Trail. The strategy to compile all information gathered by the three teachers' classes still needs to be worked out. The feeling, however, is that a committee of a specific number of students representing each teacher's classes, selected by their peers, will meet with the teachers after school to review photos, GPS sites, bulletin board ideas, etc. to result in a product that will then be modified and ultimately approved by all members of all involved classes. This committee will not be from this year's classes, but from school year 2009-2010 students.

Planned TTEC Activities:

Spring 2009

1. Discuss Appalachian Trail – historical and geographical context; AT sections near Roanoke, VA.
2. Discuss bulletin board and brochure ideas and view photos of example bulletin boards and our bulletin board (already existing on the AT, but abandoned).
3. Brainstorm information to be included on bulletin board and in brochure.
4. Guest Speaker from Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club.
5. Practice use of GPS units and plant and wildflower identification keys.
6. Introduce and practice reflection ('Head, Heart, and Hands') and journaling techniques.
7. Discuss AT hiking etiquette and Leave No Trace principles.
8. Field Trip : Hike designated section of AT.
 - * use GPS units to mark points of interest, landmarks, etc.
 - * photograph and identify wildflowers, trees, vistas, and existing abandoned bulletin board.
9. Organize collected data and have students develop a 'suggested action plan' for next year's students.

Planned TTEC Activities (Cont.):

Fall, 2009

1. Repeat same activities as with students from Spring '09 (Fall '09 students will be different students), but make changes, additions, adjustments based on results of Spring '09 experiences and student feedback.
2. Field Trip : Hike designated section of AT ; confirm GPS points ; photograph and identify late wildflowers, trees, vistas to compare to spring.

Winter, 2009-2010

1. Design bulletin board and brochure layouts.
2. Get brochures printed (local printing company donation?).
3. Field Trip : Hike designated section of AT ; take winter photos at GPS points.

Spring, 2010

1. Field Trip : "Build" bulletin board and place brochures.
2. Field Trip : To McAfee Knob region of AT (a second entry to AT from Roanoke area) to possibly begin similar process as at first site (Daleville, VA).

A Trail to Place-based Service Learning Curriculum

Project Name: AT for Beginners
Teacher(s): Edward McMichael, Gayle Ross & Patricia Stiles
Grade Level: 10th - 12th
Time Frame: 2008-2010

