

Session 5: Designing an Activity

Session Overview

This is the second of two the Designing to Support Learning sessions where participants think critically about designing learning experiences. In this session, participants focus on applying some of the insights and understandings they've gained in the course so far to the development of their activity with their partner. Participants are guided in the development of their designed activity using a COSIA Activity Design Starter, in an environment of support from their peers and instructors. This activity and design template helps them understand the complexity of designing activities to effectively address a science concept. They are guided to incorporate the pedagogy presented in previous sessions, including the learning cycle and effective teaching approaches, while designing their activity, to help learners come to some level of understanding of a science concept.

Session Objectives

In this session, participants:

- . Work as a class to develop an ongoing list of Key Characteristics of Exemplar Activities
- . Critically review exemplar activities based on the Key Characteristics of Exemplar Activities
- . Apply what students have learned in the course so far to the task of designing an activity to address a specific ocean science concept
- . Work with partner to brainstorm, discuss ideas, and start designing activities

Session Activities at a Glance

Quick Write. Participants respond to two prompts about the reading assigned for homework.

Sharing: Activity Presentations. Participants have presented an activity at the museum/aquarium sometime over the past week; they discuss their experiences. Introduce: Designing an Activity. Students are introduced to the idea of activity design, and how a well-designed activity affects their presentations.

TPS: Characteristics of Exemplary Activities. Participants do a Think-Pair-Share about what they think are some key characteristics of an exemplary activity.

Activity: Critical Review of Exemplary Activities. Participants identify how the key characteristics they just determined occur in activities as they

rotate through the COSIA Exemplary Activities that they have been practicing.

Science Briefing: Adaptation. This presentation focuses on the deep-sea ecosystem and organism adaptations for this environment.

Task: Using the Activity Design Starter. Participants work with the partners to use the COSIA Activity Design Starter to start to design their own activity and specifically focus on five “Questions to Consider.”

Task: Peer review of Activity ideas. Participants give each other advice about their activity ideas as they look for the presence or absence of components listed on the “Key Characteristics of Exemplary Activities” chart.

Homework. Reading and tasks due next week are assigned.