Science Scope

Sci-Link/Globe-Net

BY NANCY BRAY

Hunting for salamanders in the woods, monitoring stream levels, making leaf prints in an eastern Carolina wetland, and becoming friends with the teachers throughout the state—these are just a few of the motivating experiences I have had while attending a teacher institute called Sci-Link/Globe-Net over the last five years. Offered during the summer as well as during the school year, the program aims to link teachers with scientists doing cutting-edge research on environmental issues centered on global change and to encourage those teachers to develop activities that will present these new ideas to their students in the context of disciplines they are teaching. One scientist is linked with 30 teachers, who can link with perhaps a hundred or more students each.

I was first exposed to this program because it focuses on environmental issues. Through institutes, workshops, and teacher days, I learned about the latest research from the best researchers in North Carolina. The institutes, workshops, and teacher days are all based on the same format: Teachers listen to research scientists present topics, and then brainstorm ideas on how the topic fits into their existing curriculum and how it can be introduced in the classroom in the form of a student activity. The main difference is in the length of the programs: institutes are two weeks long, workshops are one week long, and teacher days are often one day long.

Speakers enhanced our notes with handouts containing tons of reference materials, including booklets, posters, and other materials available from federal and state environmental and agricultural agencies. In addition, after each program I received a book filled with the activities that all of the participating teachers had developed during the workshop. What a wealth of information! All of this is a great benefit to me, my students, and my school. At science fair time, my Sci-Link/Globe-Net library becomes a resource for students looking for interesting projects. This abundant scientific information is invaluable and the numerous activities are exciting to do. But for me the value of the program goes much deeper than that.

Through the leadership of Dr. Hanan Stubbins, Sci-Link/Globe-Net has become a one-of-a-kind program to support and encourage teacher leaders. At my first institute, I was asked to lead a small group brainstorming session. No problem. A year later at my first teacher day I was asked to do the same thing, but this time I had to report the group's ideas to the entire assemblage—over 100 people. That was a little tougher. Later on, I was asked to be part of a Sci-Link/Globe-Net presentation at our state science teacher conference.

Nancy Bray is a fourth grade teacher at St. Peter's School in Greenville, North Carolina.
To find out more about the Sci-Link/Globe-Net program and future institutes, workshops, and teacher days, visit their web site at http://www2.ncsu.edu/cte/cte/pubs/docs/lead.htm. Also, be sure to check out the web site put together by a group of teachers from Finland who attended last summer's Grandfather Mountain workshop. This site is located at http://www.kaukapijoki.fi/~kauantti.

Lead Your Students Down the Right Path

Suunto, a world-renowned name in precision instruments, and Forestry Suppliers, Inc., a name you’ve come to trust for quality science education products, have joined forces to offer three new map and compass educational publications.

Map and Compass: Discover the Excitement contains easy-to-read instructions, detailed illustrations, and 12 cross-curriculum lesson plans. Explore the World with a Map and Compass: A Handbook for Teachers includes a detailed set of 20 cross-curriculum lesson plans with everything you need to teach hands-on instruction. Compass and Map Pocket Guide corresponds to the subjects introduced in these publications and is designed for students to use as reference materials.

As a special introductory offer, Forestry Suppliers, Inc., would like to offer you a discounted package deal. You’ll get Map and Compass: Discover the Excitement and Explore the World with a Map and Compass: A Handbook for Teachers at a reduced price, plus you’ll get a Compass and Map Pocket Guide and Suunto A-100P "Partner" Baseline Compass free. You’ll save $9.70! For more details about this discounted package (stock #26894) or any of Forestry Suppliers’ 3,300 life, earth, and environmental science products for educators, call and ask for our FREE 1997 Educational Catalog.

SALES DEPARTMENT CATALOG REQUEST LINE
(800) 647-5368 (800) 360-7788

Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

205 West Rankin Street - Aiken, South Carolina 29801 - (803) 647-2688

CIRCLE NO. 17 ON READERS SERVICE CARD

MARCH 1997 53