



The Science & Technology Hotline



April 2004

Newsletter

Contests:

- Praxis recently received a couple of videos from Alberta Innovation and Science. These videos feature Innovation in Alberta in 2002. These would be an excellent resource for any classroom from Elementary Science to Senior High CALM classes.
- All teachers making a request (any type of request) in the month of April will be entered into the draw for these videos.
- GOOD LUCK!
- The end of the Praxis Science Challenge is nearing. Entries will still be accepted for May and June.
- Teacher's will want to encourage their students to participate as they have the opportunity to win a \$200 gift certificate for your classroom; to use as you see fit!
- GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEACHERS AND THEIR STUDENTS!

Spring is a great time to get outside and so some exciting hands on activities with your classroom. There are a number of exciting opportunities for teachers and their students right here, near Medicine Hat!

Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park - Alberta Programs

Grades 1- 3

Beaver Exploration

This half day (2.5 hour) program takes students on a short hike to a beaver pond. Students will explore the beaver lodge and dam, and see how the beaver has altered its environment. Students will also discuss the adaptations that

various forest animals use in their habitats, and learn how predators are voided. Many important connections between forest organisms will be observed, and students will learn about the importance of beavers in Protected Areas.

Grade 4

Plant Growth and Change

This half day field study (approximately 2.5 hours) will introduce students to various types of plant in the Cypress Hills ecosystem. Through a series of hands on investigations, students will investigate the growth and reproduction of some of the common plant species in the Park, and explore the different forms and



Make some time to get out of the classroom and find out what the Cypress Hills has to offer your class.

functions of leaves, stems, roots, and flowers. The biodiversity of plants in both the forests and the grasslands of the Cypress Hills will be explored.

Call Praxis @ (403) 527-5365 for more information.

FREE Resources!

Want to stretch that nonexistent science department budget? Praxis has the answer for you.

Bring Hands on Science to your Classroom with these exciting Learning Kits:

- Astronomy (Sky Science)
- Boats and Buoyancy
- Building Things

- Digging For Dinosaurs (new)
- Electricity
- Evidence and Investigation
- Insects and Creepy Crawlies
- Magnetism
- Rocks and Minerals
- Weather

The 'Seasonal Kits' are a great

way to add some extra fun around the busy times of the year. These kits also fit well with other curriculum topics such as classroom chemistry and hearing and sound:

- Easter
- Thanksgiving
- Halloween
- Christmas

Call early to book your kit today!



How smart is your plant?

Plant Maze

Materials

bean seeds
water
scissors
tape and/or glue
cardboard box (an empty cereal box works well)
small plant pot
potting soil
extra cardboard

Procedure

1. Cut the front panel off of the cardboard box.
2. Carefully think out the

maze you are going to develop inside of the box.

3. Using the extra cardboard, make a maze inside of the box.
4. Use tape and/or glue to hold the pieces of the maze in place.
5. Fill the small pot with soil and water well.
6. Place two or three bean seeds in the pot and cover with more soil.
7. Place the pot at the end farthest away from the opening to the box.
8. Cover the box with the

piece of cardboard you cut off of the box. Tape it down into place. Ensure that there is still one end that is open so that the plant can find its way out of the box!

9. Water your seeds twice per week so they do not dry out.

Explanation

As the bean seeds begin to sprout, they will try to find the sunlight. Your seeds will twist their way through the maze until they can find their way out of the box and into the sunlight. Plants are amazing!

Plant Power

Materials

bean seeds
distilled water
paper towels
small plastic bottles (the kind with snap off lids—pill bottles will work well)
saucer or flat dish

Procedure

1. Take six bean seeds and place them on a piece of paper toweling.
2. Fold the paper towel over

once, to make a kind of package out of it.

3. Place the seed package on the saucer.
4. Soak the package with distilled water.
5. Allow this to sit overnight.
6. Remove the paper toweling from the bean seeds and place them all in the plastic container.
7. Place approximately one centimetre of distilled water in the container with the beans.

8. Place the lid on the beans.
9. Be patient, but watch the beans as they grow.

Explanation

You will have to be patient as it may take a few days for the seeds to sprout. As the beans sprout, they will grow very fast. They will eventually run out of room and will need someplace to go as the small plastic jar will become overcrowded. The plants will either pop the lid off of the jar or split the jar open.



For all of your science questions or needs, contact

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