

Engaging Lessons - The NGSS Way

In building from the March 5th NGSS professional learning opportunity, below are some elements to consider as you design upcoming science lessons. While the list is not comprehensive, it may be helpful to think about including more of the following:

- Systems thinking, modeling and *revising models to explain investigative phenomena* and give a context for the ideas to be learned

- Students conducting investigations, solving problems, and engaging in discussions

- Supports for equitable student engagement in



sophisticated science/engineering practices

- Facts and terminology learned as needed while developing explanations and designing solutions supported by evidence-based arguments and reasoning

- Students discussing open-ended questions that focus on the strength of the evidence used to generate claims

- Students reading multiple sources, including science-related magazine and journal articles and web-based resources; students developing summaries of information

- Multiple investigations driven by students' questions with a range of possi-

ble outcomes that collectively lead to a deep understanding of established core scientific ideas

- Student writing of journals, reports, posters, and media presentations that explain/argue

[Source: National Research Council](#)

In addition, below are some science resources that may be helpful:

[Science Framework Grade Level Folders](#)

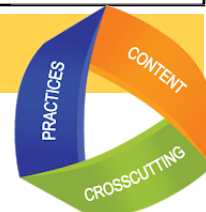
[Mystery Science](#) - free trial!

[CA Academy of Science Virtual Programs](#)

<https://www.ngssphenomena.com/>

[Project Phenomena](#)

[Young Scientist Challenge](#)



Round Valley School Plans Schoolwide Response to School Shootings

In response to the recent tragic events in Florida and the upcoming planned civic actions, many schools are planning for students and staff to exit the classrooms but remain on campus for moments of silence, speeches and open mics. One example of a schoolwide response was submitted by Karen Marshall of Round Valley School:

To show empathy for victims of school shootings and solidarity with students who are taking civic action in protest against gun violence, Round Valley students and staff will join together on campus in the shape of a heart and will share a moment of silence in remembrance of all victims of school shootings. Round Valley students and staff have been practicing various emergency response scenarios this year in coordination with the Inyo County Sheriff's Department. With shootings continuing across our nation, Districts are not only responsible for the physical protection of our students, but also must prepare students emotionally for any possibility. At RVS, staff strive to empower students to be mindful of their actions and the effects of those actions on others – whether positive or negative – no matter how big or small. RVS hopes to empower a generation of students who have the skills to right negative thoughts, actions and emotions. This generation of students, who have grown up with school shootings and gun violence, will make a difference if properly prepared to Stand Up, Stand Strong, and Stand Together, a motto embraced at Round Valley School.

Like Round Valley School, many schools and teachers have used student voice to influence and plan a variety of responses - turning the event into a teachable moment. Classroom responses include letter writing campaigns, investigations into historical student protest such as the Tinker case (a 1969 free speech case about the wearing of armbands as a protest; see this [summary](#) for more information), video conference events between students and elected officials, and the creation of art (poems, songs and drawings) to share with Stoneman Douglas. The following are some resources for teachers: New York Times education resources ([student impact](#) and [student activism](#)), [Tips for Talking to Students About Violence](#), and [First Amendment teaching resources](#) which includes registration information for a live webcast with Mary Beth Tinker on March 13th.

Poetry Out Loud

By Erin Livingston

Freshman Samantha Burns, from Bishop High, was the 2018 Inyo County Poetry Out Loud Champion. The runner-up was senior Grace Morisset, from Owens Valley High.

Poetry Out Loud contestants performed works they selected from an anthology of more than 650 classic and contemporary poems. Poetry Out Loud gives students an opportunity to master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. The students' performances were judged on criteria including presence, evidence of understanding, dramatic performance, and accuracy.



Joy Law, Samantha Burns, Harold McDonald, Grace Morisset, Raymond Hunter, Kylee Mullen, Axel Garcia

Celebrate Earth Day (month) in Inyo County!



Earth Day is coming soon (April 22), and what better time than Spring to celebrate the Earth that sustains us, and for us all to learn more about how to care for our home planet? There will be a variety of FREE local Earth Day activities, including some that focus specifically on an issue of importance in California: climate change and how to offset its effects. We encourage teachers to offer incentives such as extra credit to students who turn in stamped or completed **Earth Day Passports** (available at all activities) certifying students' participation these events.

Educate Inyo About Climate Change Solutions Contest: Students may submit projects (art, video, essay, research board, rap) for display and a chance to win \$50 prizes. For more information and to submit entries, contact Harold McDonald: hmcDonald19@icloud.com or 760-582-0781. All projects must be submitted on or before **April 13th**.

Landscapes of the Eastern Sierra as Climatic Time Machines: This fascinating presentation by Dr. Ben Hatchett of the Desert Research Institute in Reno will explain, in part, how a group of scientists are investigating what they can learn about current climate change by studying the retreat of the glaciers at the end of the last ice age in the Sabrina Basin above Bishop. **Friday April 20**, 7 pm, Cerro Coso in Bishop.

Earth Day at the Bishop City Park: Booths and activities, **Saturday April 21**, 10 am–3 pm.

Film Screening of *Happening: A Clean Energy Revolution*:

A captivating 2017 film about climate change solutions with special emphasis on California and Nevada. **Saturday April 21**, 7 pm, Inyo Council for the Arts.

Earth Day at the Paiute Cultural Center: Roadside clean up and scavenger hunt at 8:00 AM followed by live music, food and crafts market, and short films about climate change. Projects submitted to the Educate Inyo Contest (above) will be displayed here. **Sunday April 22**, time TBA.

Making a Future for Earth: classroom presentations for secondary students. Secondary science teachers, please submit your requests ASAP if you'd like to have a presentation (link on the flyer you received).

In addition to public events, we encourage teachers to bring Earth Day into the classroom. To help, this [Secondary Climate Change Resources](#) document has links to activities, lessons, and information. The national theme for Earth Day 2018 is *End Plastic Pollution*, which is appropriate for all ages. The [Earth Day Network website](#) includes a [Climate Education Week Toolkit](#) for teachers that includes background information and short classroom activities related to ending plastic pollution for each day of the week prior to Earth Day.

Several Inyo County organizations including Sunrise Rotary, Cerro Coso College, ICSOS, the Bishop Paiute Tribe and Inyo350 are partnering to sponsor Earth Day activities.

History Social Studies Resources (from the HSS Project Newsletter)

By Lo Lyness

[The Value of Culture-Based Education for Native American Students](#)

In this article, Dr. Hollie Pettersson, Lauren Watkins, and Belisha White Eagle explain concrete steps educators can take to create effective learning environments for Native American students.

[The Politics of Managing Public Lands](#) by Shelly Brooks, PhD, is an informative and readable article that provides information about the various kinds of public lands in our country, and the debates for and against the management and existence of public lands. The controversies surrounding public lands are especially relevant to our students who live in an area surrounded by public lands. The article was published in an issue of the History Social Studies Project's [Cultural Context newsletter](#) which has a variety of articles about current controversies and related

activities for students

History Social Studies Professional Development Opportunities

[The Library of Congress \(LOC\)](#) is now accepting applications for its FREE week-long summer institutes for K–12 educators. Held at the LOC in Washington, D.C., this professional development opportunity provides educators of all disciplines with resources and strategies to effectively integrate primary sources into K–12 classroom teaching. Each session will focus on pedagogy, with emphasis on supporting student engagement, critical thinking, and construction of knowledge.

Tearing Down Walls: Building Connections, Collaborations, and Civil Discourse

This year's California Council for the Social Studies conference will be held at the Town

and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego, on March 23–25. The conference will include a live, in-person forum with California's gubernatorial candidates on Sunday, March 25! Click [HERE](#) for registration and Information.

The Program for Teaching East Asia (TEA) at the University of Colorado Boulder offers these summer opportunities for residential workshops and study travel:

The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) presents Teaching East Asian Literature Workshop

2018 NCTA Summer Study Tour To China And Taiwan

NCTA-TEA Summer Institute: Uneasy Neighbors: Legacies and Challenges in 21st-Century East Asia

Spring Professional Learning Day

