Connecting with Our Flowing, R...

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About Me

REALMS 8th Grade

The REALMS 8th grade are made up of an eclectic group of 13-14 year old's. In the Fall, each week, we spend a day in the field at Tumalo Creek. We have experiences that heighten our awareness of the environment by collect science data, reflecting, creating art, and experience the natural world.

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Tumalo Week 2: Opening Circle

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On Tumalo week two we where out at our study site we where gathering carbon data out of the forest above the river. We started off the day with the opening circle. During the opening circle we went over the agenda and we reminded ourselves of scientific notation. (A way of taking really big numbers into a pretty small number) We also went over where we will be working. When we where all done we split into set groups and started collecting carbon data.

Posted by REALMS 8th Grade at 2:00 PM   No comments: M   Recommend this on Google

Tumalo Week 2: Science

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Students determining the river's health

Our purpose of the activity was to observe the river to determine if it was healthy for fish to live in or not. One thing we did to see if the river was healthy was seeing if the banks were stabilized or not by checking how much riparian vegetation there was around the river.

Posted by REALMS 8th Grade at 1:30 PM   No comments: M   Recommend this on Google

Tumalo Week 2: Math

Tumalo Week 2: Math

Students creating a right triangle to help create a 82X82 foot sample plot.

"The Only Way To Learn Mathematics, Is To Do Mathematics". --Paul Halmos

The purpose of this activity was to collect and track data about carbon storage in individual tress and the forest near the creek over all. We created a 82X82 meter square using right triangles (and the Pythagorean theorem) to create a sample plot. We used 3 4 5 right triangles to find the corners of the plot, we then measured 82 feet out to the next 3 4 5 triangle.

We then broke into teams and measured tree DBH (Diameter at Breast Height), tree height and Down and Dead wood (wood that is dead and beginning o decay on the forest floor). Now we have the carbon percentages from the sample plot we can estimate the total carbon storage for the whole forest. We can now covert the large numbers into scientific notation that we can compare to other ears of the creek.

What is the Pythagorean Theorem? http://math.about.com/cs/pythagorean/g/pythagdef.htm

Data sheet/recording form of measurements (Special Right Triangles For Determining Tree Height)

Tumalo Week 2: Solitude & Reflection

Tumalo Week 2: *Solitude & Reflection*

Kab sits during solitude & relfection and writes about his experience

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A student sits alone & writes about his day next to the river

At the beginning of the day when we looked at the quotes and most of us didn't know what they meant. After measuring trees, recording data and doing math that was all related to nature I felt I had a better understanding. With all the going and rushing that day it was nice to sit down and think about what we learned and connect our findings with what mathematicians said throughout history.

Quote: "Nature is an infinite sphere of which the center is everywhere and the circumference is nowhere."

- Blaise Pascal

"It's hard to determine what each author meant about the quote, as we all have different ideas. The first one made me first think that nature is everywhere, that it has no limited space and it can keep improving. It relates to my day with Tumalo about always improving and it seems as if this (the place) could go on forever.

- Reflection by Riley

A great Solitude & Reflection spot at Tumalo

Tumalo Week 2: Closing Circle

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Tumalo Creek Week 2: *Closing Circle*

After a long day of math everyone got in a circle to share our reflections and art. I drew dark rocks and bright leaves, but I didn't want to share it. Everybody wrote about what we think certain math quotes meant. We were encouraged to share our work. After listening to what other people thought the quotes meant. I knew that other people thought differently than I did. When I saw other peoples' art, I knew how I could make my drawing better next time were in the field. All the closing circles give you a better understanding of the learning by seeing other peoples thoughts on one topic and being able to compare them to your own work. I thought the math theme of week 2 really helped the closing circle by giving us a new theme to work with and something new to learn.