



BIG IDEAS

- Learning with Objects
- Creating and Exhibiting Collections

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How can objects and artifacts be used as tools for learning in the classroom?
- How can classroom collections help students to develop skills to classify, sort, observe and analyze?

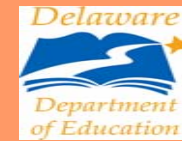


LEARNING
WITH
OBJECTS

Professional Development Cluster

BEGINNING
JULY 2007

The Delaware Department of Education
The Delaware Center for Educational Technology
The Smithsonian Institution



LEARNING WITH OBJECTS

Professional
Development Cluster

- Visit and take workshops at the Smithsonian
- Work collaboratively with a Delaware museum
- Bring collecting to your classroom to enhance your curriculum

LEARNING WITH OBJECTS

Benefits for Pre-K- 12 teachers:

- Instruction in components of the Delaware Recommended Curriculum and backward design
- Learning with objects, analyzing a museum exhibit, creating a classroom exhibit, and planning a museum experience with museum educators
- Using technology as a tool for creating and exhibiting collections
- Successful completion of this cluster will enable teachers to receive 90 clock hours for recertification and a 2% salary stipend on the state portion of their salary for 5 years.

Benefits for Museum Educators:

- Partnerships among schools, the Smithsonian Institution and Delaware Museums
- Planning museum experiences with Delaware teachers

This cluster proposes to combine object-based learning, museum theory, and technology to develop exciting interactive learning environments in classrooms and create innovative partnerships between schools, the Smithsonian Institution, and Delaware's local museums* and cultural institutions. Delaware teachers and administrators will receive instruction through mandatory participation in seminars, learning trips and interactive museum workshops. Classroom applications will include the creation of museum based strategies such as literal and virtual classroom collections that reinforce multi-sensory learning and at the same time require students to investigate objects by sorting, classifying, analyzing and observing their world. Final cluster products will reflect the integrated nature of the professional development. Participants will submit a comprehensive portfolio including a standards aligned unit of study demonstrating acquired knowledge and skills and including a museum take along bag, object based learning center, student artifacts, a classroom collection and participant reflection essays.



*museum- a non-profit, permanent institution, open to the public, where objects of artistic, historical, cultural, or scientific importance and value are collected, studied, and exhibited.

Cluster Learning Activities:

- July 17 Virtual Collections Seminar
- July 26,27 & 28 Smithsonian Learning Trip
- (two nights and three days in Washington D.C. in classroom study sessions and exploration of Smithsonian collections)
- Delaware Recommended Curriculum Development Seminar
- Delaware Museum Partnerships
- Museum Showcase



For additional information please contact

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