

Looking Through the Lens



Animal Safety in the K-5 Classroom

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Safety should be a basic concern in all hands-on science. Many times animals are introduced into the classroom environment as pets. Maintaining classroom pets can teach students respect for other living things. Therefore it is important that teachers of science know and apply the necessary safety regulations in the storage, use and care of animals in their classroom.

Safety Tips

When handling animals students must do so voluntarily and under direct teacher supervision. They should immediately wash their hands after handling any live organism. Teachers should also instruct students to avoid touching their hands, mouth, ears or eyes while working with animals. Latex or latex-free (for students who are allergic to latex) gloves can also be worn when working with live organisms.

Students should also be instructed on how to properly handle animals and should never be allowed to mistreat animals.

Animals in the Wild

Animals caught in the wild should not be brought into the classroom, as they may carry diseases. For example, turtles are carriers of salmonella.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife prohibits the possession of certain animals within our state.

Teachers can find a complete list of animals that are either prohibited or allowed by visiting the Nevada Department of Wildlife website at www.ndow.org

With proper supervision and safety precautions in place, contact between students and animals can provide an important learning experience.

Resources

For further information

RPDP - www.rpdp.net

Click on Science > Elementary Resources>Science Safety>Elementary Science Manual

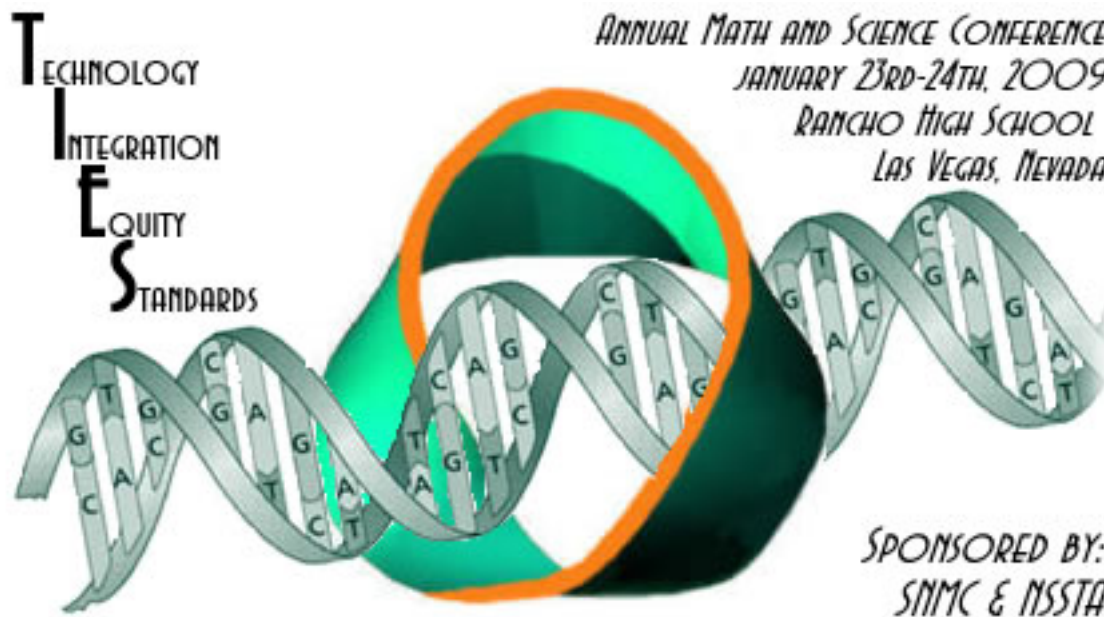
Interact

Click on EdLink> Curriculum & Prof Dev>CPD

Science >K-12 Science Instructional Resources >Science Safety> Safety Manual

Refer to pages 26-28





The Southern Nevada Mathematics Council and the Southern Nevada Teachers Association present the annual math and science conference. During this two day conference participants can choose from hands-on and demonstration sessions where they learn from experienced educators. One graduate credit will be available for full attendance and assignment completion.

Call for Presenters

Share your expertise with others at the math and science conference. Visit www.snvmath.org/conference and click on "Speaker Proposal Form".
 Deadline for submitting proposals is Dec. 1, 2008.

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