Big Data in the Classroom

Anne Byford Gaston Day School

Why Big Data?

- Producing data is EASY!
 - InternetLiveStats (per second):
 - 808 Instagram, 7796 Tweets, 71,208 YouTubes watched
- Knowing what to do with data is HARD
- According to Forbes.com:
 - Wide range of fields from health care to retail
 - Median Salary (with experience): 124,000
 - % Demand growth: up to 300% in one year

Why Big Data?

- Datasets available (and free) for many subjects, not just science
- Ideal for Project-based learning
 - Authentic data, authentic tools
- Adaptable for differentiation
 - Same data set can be used with different questions
 - Curated data provided to some groups

Skills Used

- Background research
- Question development
- Data organization
 - What data to I need to answer my question?
 - What should my table look like?
 - What information should I compare?
- Data analysis
 - What does this data mean?
 - What statistics should I do and what to they mean?

Skills Used

- Data visualization
 - Graphs, Tables, other Figures
- Communication
 - Oral Presentation
 - Written Presentation
 - Website Development
 - Poster Session

Cautions:

- Using "real" data
 - Can be complex
 - Is often messy
 - May not give the expected answer
 - Takes more time than "canned data"
- Students will need help with specific skills
 - Asking good questions
 - Using spreadsheets, both set-up and graphing
 - Relating raw data to their questions
- Students will experience frustration
 - Especially those used to getting right answers immediately

Zooniverse.org

Projects

Active

Paused

Finished



















Most Recently Launched

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Showing 1-20 of 76 projects found.





SHAKESPEARE'S WORLD



DECODING THE CIVIL WAR



OPERATION WAR DIARY



PLANET HUNTERS

HHMI Wildcam Gorongosa

- Lesson plans already developed
- Segments include
 - Making observations
 - Scientific inquiry and data analysis
 - Biodiversity
 - Ecological Pyramids
- Entire sets of raw camera and animal identification data available for download

Other Sources of Data

- NOAA
 - https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/
- CDC and WHO
 - https://data.cdc.gov/
 - http://www.who.int/gho/database/en/
- NASA data
 - https://data.nasa.gov/

DNA to Proteins Project

Based on:

- Salt Lake City Community College's Halobacterium project
- http://www.slcc.edu/biotech/halo-project/index.aspx

Students

- analyze 50,000bp DNA to identify ORFs
- Build a consensus ORF map
- Analyze an ORF to determine if it is a gene and its potential function
- Files in shared Google folder

Sea Scallop Project

- Developed during Teacher-At-Sea (NOAA)
- Raw data from yearly Sea Scallop Survey
 - Data from 1979 2016
 - Fish Species catch number and mass
 - Scallop catch number, size, and mass
 - Location of all dredge sites (lat/long)
- Full lesson plan in shared folder

Link to Project Folder

 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B9tW i0CfAPdZOGVtcmdHckpCS3M?usp=sharing