Some Factors to Consider When Evaluating Science-Related Learning Activities

Significant Concept(s)

1. Is the purpose clear?
2. Is it consistent with suggested national/state/local objectives (benchmarks)?
3. Does the content relate to the students’ daily lives or experiences outside school?
4. Is the content accurate? Does it help to avoid possible naïve theories or misconceptions?

Relationship to “Constructivist” Teaching/Learning

5. Do all students participate in a hands-on activity?
6. Can students with special needs participate?
7. Does it provide opportunities for all students to interact?
8. Does it promote students’ thinking skills through using, constructing and reflecting on scientific knowledge?
9. Is it age-appropriate? Will students have the necessary pre-knowledge/skills?
10. Is it clear how knowledge and skills acquired by the students may be assessed?
11. Does it have potential for relating to other subject areas (interdisciplinary connections)?

Other Factors

12. Is it safe?
13. Is preparation time and effort reasonable?
14. Can it be done in a reasonable amount of time and hold students’ attention?
15. Are required supplies readily available at a reasonable cost?
16. Is the amount of supervision required appropriate and realistic?

Your Decision
17 Would you use this activity? Why or why not?