eDillo Fall 2011

CAST! Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching Dallas November 17-19, 2011 The Art of Science The World is Our Canvas There will be workshops for elementary teachers! Come and support TCES! Click here to register and for more information http://www.statweb.org/ Here is something at CAST that you won't want to miss!

Discovery Education Presents...

CAST 2011 Keynote Speaker:

Discovery Channel's Reed Timmer of the Hit Show *Storm Chasers*

Date & Time: 1:00 pm Thursday, November 17 (***Free*** *to all CAST attendees!*)

Discovery Channel's Reed Timmer has become famous for his curiosity and drive to understand the science!

You can also find information in the newest edition of the STATellite (Science Teachers Association of Texas STAT) click here http://www.statweb.org/statellite

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Resources:

Contribute to Science (from www.edutopia.org)

"IN CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS, people of all ages team up with professional scientists to gather needed research data. By involving your students in citizen science projects, you'll help them gain a deeper understanding of scientific inquiry. And because these are authentic projects, you can be sure students will never ask, "When will we ever need to know this?"

One of the best places to connect with citizen science projects is the Cornell Lab of Ornithology **(birds.cornell.edu).** You and your students can join projects that involve investigating everything from bird migrations to global climate change. This year, scientists need bird-migration data to help them track the effects of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill on bird populations across North America.

You can get started contributing your own data at eBird **(ebird.org).** It's also a gold mine of interactive maps, charts, and other real-time data outputs. (Click on the "View and Explore Data" tab to see more.)

Project NestWatch **(nestwatch.org)** recruits and trains volunteers to monitor nests and share data with researchers. Project BirdSleuth **(birdsleuth.net)** offers an inquiry-based, K-12 curriculum. Students can design their own investigations and even publish their research findings.
Want to bring bird observations right into your classroom? Nest cams are set up around the world to offer a bird's-eye view of various species:
watch.birds.cornell.edu/nestcams.

Read the *Edutopia* article "Kids Count: Young Citizen-Scientists Learn Environmental Activism":**edutopia.org/service-learning-citizen-science**

➔ Journey North is a global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change. Registration is free, and online resources include connections with wildlife experts: **learner.org/jnorth**

➔ Explore a multimedia resource, "NatureMapping Takes Kids—and Technology—Outside and into Active Learning," which is about the nationwide project called NatureMapping. The article includes videos, downloadable lessons, and tips:**edutopia.org/naturemapping**

➔ The Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education sponsors global, collaborative projects in which students act as citizen scientists. Projects involve gathering, analyzing, and contributing real data from around the world relating to everything from household water usage to school-yard habitats: **ciese.org/collabprojs.html**

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From the NSTA Calendar: Celebrating National Estuaries Day

Why should teachers celebrate National Estuaries Day, which takes place on September 24? Because estuaries offer a rich context for science education and interdisciplinary learning. These dynamic environments have a daily flux of ocean flows mingling with river water, resulting in a diverse range of life and ecosystems. So lessons about estuaries can teach students about Earth systems science, biology, chemistry, geography, geology, and marine science.

Students also can develop math skills by making measurements, modeling phenomena such as growth and cyclical variation, and analyzing data to compare multiple estuaries. They can hone their language skills as they read and write about estuary-related topics and communicate their explorations and findings with other students and scientists. And since estuaries have affected human settlement, exploration, and development, students also will learn about human history and culture.

Whether your school is located near an estuary or you transport your students online to an estuary anywhere in the world, National Estuaries Day has something for you and

your students. Visit www.estuaries.gov for free curriculum and simple activities classes can do to participate

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New Kids Web site

The Space Place (NASA Science Kids and The Space Place have joined forces.) Visit http://spaceplace.nasa.gov or http://science.nasa.gov/kids This site is targeted at elementary and middle level students and teachers. Here you will find games, puzzles, fun facts, videos, and images to explore. Students will also be able to pilot a weather blimp around the world, cook some El Nino Pudding and even take a tour of the outer planets.