Eco Investigations

Introduces nature as a context for life-long learning, physical activity, and an enriched life for students in grades PreK-12 through a four-hour, outdoor, expedition-style, educational program known as Eco Investigations.

- Canyon geology exploration
- Animal adaptation study
- Conservation problem-solving
- Scientific experiments
- STEM
- Project Based Learning
- Grade Specific
- Correlated to the TEKS
A New Model - Customized Eco Investigations

- Adapt based on student benchmark tests
- Meet with teachers
- Edit standard Eco Investigations
- Update student journal
- Pre and Post Tests
- Teacher Evaluations
Eco Investigations Study Start

- Donor Funded
- Identified Partners
- Research Study Components
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
Eco Investigations Study
Methodology

- Cedar Hill ISD
- 250 5th graders in study group
- 250 5th graders in control group
- Customized standard Eco Investigations to meet needs of CHISD 5th graders
- Pre and Post Tests
- STAAR Test Results
Research Study Results Overview

- 24 questions on state test covered at Dogwood Canyon
- 21 of the 24 showed significant improvement
- Average of 13% more students answered the questions correctly
- Focused on 10 student expectations
- In Texas, no study on outdoor science programming has ever been linked to standardize testing improvement.
- Lessons Learned
- Powerful Proof for Outdoor Education
- Developing multi-year study with university