

After completing the readings on science, the 5 E Lesson plan module and integrating math (while I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed with all of it) I do see how it just makes much more sense to integrate math and science teaching because there are so many math skills that students will need when they are observing the natural world or conducting an experiment, etc. Whether it's measurement or analyzing data or creating a graph from the data table.

Science class gives real world application to the math skills students have been learning, and math becomes a way for students to understand science. By integrating math and science, students are able to have a better conceptual understanding of both disciplines: students will have the bigger picture understanding of the “why” of how things work in science and math. The Appendix L and the chart connecting the science and math standards was very helpful.

Data can very easily be integrated into science classroom instruction, the biggest connection would be to have students make observations and record data into a data table as part of a science experiment (measuring how tall plants grow with and without sunlight, for example, or with and without water). If teachers want to have students analyze data that has already been collected, there are many websites with data available (NOAA, Google Public Data Project, PBS Learning Media, and more). Looking at a data set could be the “Engage” section of a lesson - what can we infer be looking at the average

number of daylight hours over the course of a week, and compare to one week each month? I would refer back to the Primer on Eliciting Student Ideas to make sure I am following the procedure to get the most from the student discussion.

References

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