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Ocean Mini-Lab Reflection

I chose the Monitoring Estuarine Water Quality module from NOAA's Data in the Classroom. This module introduces students to the process of monitoring water quality (temperature, salinity, and oxygen) in estuaries. It relates to the following Essential Principles of Ocean Literacy: the Earth has one big ocean with many features, the ocean supports a great deal of diversity of life and ecosystems, and the ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected. It also integrates math concepts throughout the module. I like that the module and activities are leveled so that it is a gradual release, with level 1 & 2 being more teacher driven and 3-5 more student-focused. The modules were easy to navigate. I liked that they included videos, links to data sites, check for understanding questions, and that it incorporated the use of student worksheets. The editable PDF worksheets were easy to use and convenient for assigning on Google Classroom for students. The worksheets aligned well with a module which made it easy to follow along with the lesson. I liked that the lesson incorporates many scientific practices including scientific writing (making a claim, evidence, reasoning). I think my students would enjoy using the online tools to make graphs, but I think analyzing data and the scientific writing piece would be difficult for them. I would probably modify levels 3-5 to include more teacher guidance at least for the first module, which could be removed as they gain more experience. Overall it was a great lesson that I enjoyed completing myself and could see how it could be applied in my classroom.

Resources:

Monitoring estuarine water quality: for teachers. (n.d.). National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service.

<https://dataintheclassroom.noaa.gov/water-quality/monitoring-estuarine-water-quality-teachers>