

Intermediate Science 2007-2008

About the Teacher Gretchen Simmonds

Thank you for giving me the privilege of working with your child this year. I am entering into my 14th year in the field of education. I graduated from the University of Central Florida with a degree in elementary education. I have taught in several different environments including public, private and homeschooling. This will be my tenth year at Covenant Christian Academy as a teacher and co-director. We will also be home schooling our son Patrick this year as well as keeping up with our other two little ones.

About the Curriculum

I am very excited about this class and the curriculum we will be using this year. As you know we will begin our studies with an in-depth look at the subject of Zoology I including flying creatures followed by Zoology II Swimming Creatures. The textbooks include fourteen lessons for Zoology I and 13 lessons for Zoology II. We will begin by taking two weeks to do each lesson. Each lesson will require the student to do some narration (note taking), notebook assignments, vocabulary and lab work (which we will do in class). We will pick up the pace as the year progresses. My projected timeline is listed below. I will let you know if it changes based on the needs of the class.

Goals for the Year

- Students will understand and use the Scientific Method
- To meet the sunshine state standards for 5th grade listed at <http://www.firn.edu/doe/curric/prek12/pdf/sci4.pdf>
- To help students gain an understanding of flying creatures including birds, bats and insects.
- To help students learn about swimming and sea creatures.
- To encourage students to explore these fascinating worlds of Science on their own.
- To encourage students to take their research and reporting skills to the next level.

Supplies needed

Your student will need a few supplies for this class. You will see the list below. The biggest need will be their notebook. They will need a three-ring notebook with pockets. The notebook will need to be divided into three sections: homework assignments, narration and notebook assignments. They will need plenty of paper in each section.

Please have the following items by the first week of class and each week thereafter:

- Sharpened pencils
- Notebook 2" 3 ring binder with pockets
- Notebook Paper
- Scissors
- Yellow highlighter
- Sharpened Coloring Pencils

Please check planners and web updates each week for lab supplies. These will be items you can find easily at home.

About Grades

Since the notebook will be a huge part of the class it will also be 75% of their grade. The notebooks will be checked each week. They need to be neat and well organized. The students need to label everything they do with their name, date, page number and assignment title. The notebook grade will reflect all of the following: completion, neatness, organization and accuracy in information. I will keep them informed as to how their notebook is doing and what changes they need to make on a weekly basis.

The other 25% of the grade will come from reports and quiz or test grades. We will only have a few tests and quizzes throughout the year, but the notebook will help them study. They will each have two reports to do throughout the year.

The grading scale is as follows:

A-90-100, B-80-89, C-70-79, D-60-69, F-59 and below

Parent's Part

Your students are in for an exciting and yet challenging year of science. Please help them along the way by doing the following: check to make sure their homework is complete each week, ask them

the "What do you remember?" questions each week, encourage and complement them when you see a job well done. Check the timeline and www.mycca.org for information on upcoming reports and lab supplies needed. Also the book has a very helpful course website at www.apologia.com/bookextras. The password for Zoology I is **Godmadethemfly** and for Zoology II it is **Godmadethemswim**. This information is also listed the first few pages of each textbook.

Contact the Teacher

Please feel free to contact me (or have your student do it) with any questions. My email address is gretchensim@yahoo.com and my phone number is (407) 322-9994.

Proposed Timeline

Aug. 20 Introduce course and begin lesson 1 "What is Zoology?"

Aug. 27 Finish lesson 1 and start "What makes a Bird a Bird?"

Sept. 10 Finish "Birds of a Feather"

Sept. 17 Start "Flying Factuals"

Sept. 24 Finish "Flying Factuals" and begin "Nesting"

Oct. 1 Finish "Nesting" and begin "Matching and Hatching"

Oct. 8 Finish "Matching and Hatching"

Oct. 15 Start "Bats"

Oct. 22 Finish "Bats" and begin "Flying Reptiles"

Trip to Birds of Prey date to be announced

Fall Break report assignment

Choose a bird and do a report on them using everything you have learned about them so far.

Nov. 5 Bird reports are due and work on "Flying Reptiles"

Nov. 12 Do "A First Look at Insects"

Nov. 26 Finish "A First Look at Insects" and start "Insect Life Cycles and Life styles"

Dec. 3 Finish "Insect Life Cycles and Life Styles" and start "Social Insects"

Dec. 10 Finish "Social Insects" and begin "Beetles, Flies, and True Bugs"

Dec.17 Finish "Beetles, Flies and True Bugs"

Christmas Break reading assignment "Interesting Insects"

Jan. 7 Finish "Interesting Insects" and begin "Order Lepidoptera"

Jan. 14 Finish "Order Lepidoptera"

Jan. 21 Zoology I Test and Notebook Review

Trip to Central Florida Zoo Insect House date to be announced

Jan. 28 Begin Zoology II "Aquatic Animals"

Begin Ocean Boxes

Feb. 3 Finish "Aquatic Animals" and start "Whales"

Feb. 10 Finish "Whales"

Feb. 17 Do "Seals and Sea Cows"

Feb. 24 Finish "Seals and Sea Cows" and begin "Aquatic Herps"

March 3 Continue "Aquatic Herps"

Trip to Sea World Date to be announced

March 10 Begin "Primeval Reptiles"

March 17 Finish "Primeval Reptiles" and begin "Fish"

March 31 Finish "Fish" and begin "Sharks and Rays"

April 7 Finish "Sharks and Rays" and begin "Crustaceans"

April 14 Finish "Mollusks" and begin "Cephalopods"

April 21 Finish "Cephalopods" and begin "Echinoderms"

April 28 Finish "Echinoderms" and begin "Cindarians"

May 5 Finish "Cindarians" begin "Other Interesting Aquatic Animals"

May 12 Finish "Other Interesting Aquatic Animals" Zoology II test

May 19 Share Ocean boxes and Final Notebook review

This is only a proposed timeline. Please be aware that it may change. You will need to watch your child's planner, emails you will receive and www.mycca.org weekly class updates.

***First homework assignment**

Please decorate the front cover of your notebook with pictures of the sky and things in it created by you.