

A wooden boardwalk with railings winds through a lush green forest. The path is made of wooden planks and is bordered by dark wooden railings. The forest is dense with green trees and foliage, creating a vibrant and natural setting. The text is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image.

# Schoolyard-Enhanced Learning...

Tips and Tricks;  
Gimmicks and Grabbers

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# My Goals for the Session

- connect outdoor instruction to what we know about effective learning
- share a variety of learning activities

# Meaningful Outdoor Experiences can Enhance Learning and Increase Achievement



# Schoolyard-Enhanced Learning

“The use of the outdoors surrounding the school to enhance instruction in a variety of content areas”



# Transforming the Schoolyard into a Functional Teaching Area

- Think of the outdoors as both venue and content

# Think of the outdoors as:

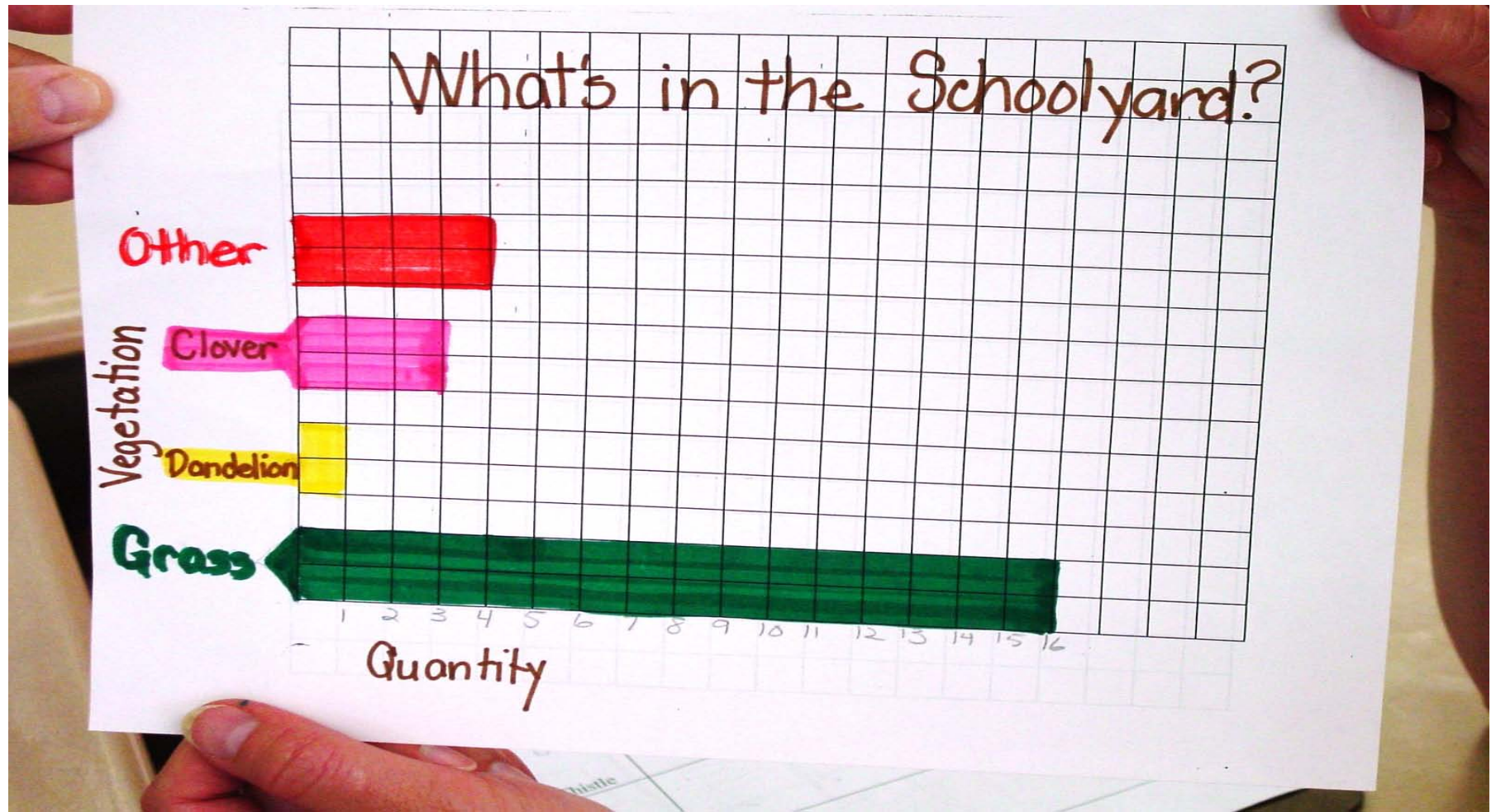
## *Venue*

(Change of place)



# Think of the outdoors as:

## Content



# Schoolyard-Enhanced Learning

-- a good fit for learning in many  
content areas

- Students need to avoid long periods of passive learning
- Exploring locally helps kids to look globally

- Learners are balancing abstract and concrete thinking
- cam·ou·flage n.  
Concealment by disguise or protective coloring



# Schoolyard-Enhanced Learning

-- a good fit for learning in many  
content areas

- Compatible with the development of higher order thinking skills and inquiry teaching
- Compatible with multiple intelligence concept
- Compatible with cooperative learning
- **A change of pace and place is essential**

# ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS

K-12 Social Studies

## ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS

K-12 English Language Arts

## ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS

K-12 Mathematics

## ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS

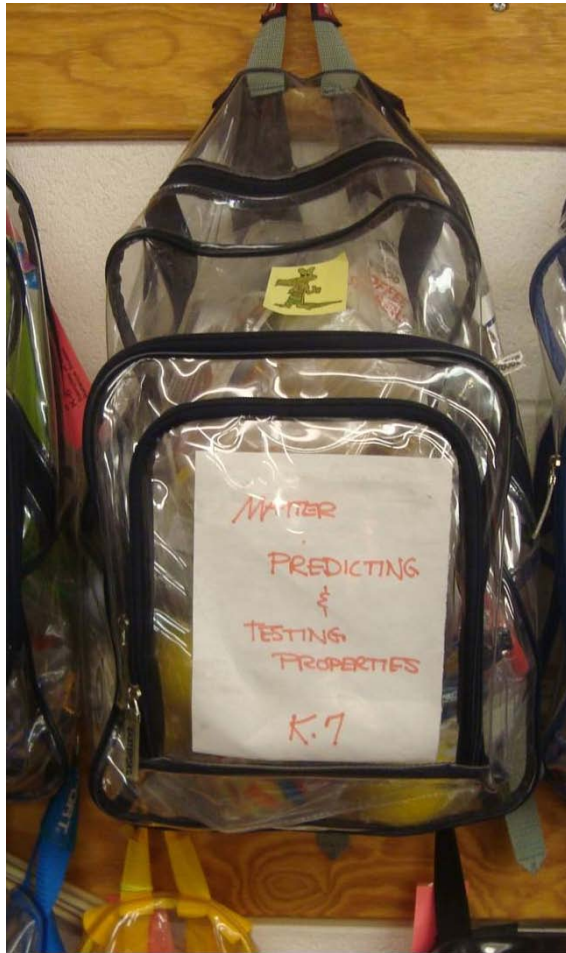
K-12 Science

# Overview

All content areas have many concepts that can be taught effectively using the outdoors!



# Content Standard Backpacks



# Process Skills

- Cut across content lines and are important in most all fields of study
  - For example: being able to analyze information, situations and data is valuable in
    - social studies
    - literature
    - mathematics
    - science

# Other Process Skills with Universal Application

- Observing
- Describing
- Classifying
- Organizing
- Inferring
- Predicting
- Evaluating

# Teaching/meeting Space

- hub or home base for explaining, distributing materials, sharing findings
- Provides structure
- Focuses attention
- Avoids a recess mindset



# Going Outside: The Nuts and Bolts

- Let the office know when you are going outside.
- Take along a cell phone or walkie-talkie unit if going a distance from the building.

# Going Outside: The Nuts and Bolts

- Start with brief outings and gradually increase time outdoors.
  - several short outings usually better than one lengthy, but infrequent, excursion.
- Avoid a recess mindset :
  - Review rules indoors and again outside
  - Use a signal to gather together – bell, whistle, etc.

# Going Outside: The Nuts and Bolts

- Show kids poison ivy and other natural hazards



- Give the “Don’t Put Stuff in Your Mouth” Talk

# Going Outside: The Nuts and Bolts

- Use outdoor time for doing not telling; while indoors:
  - ✓ Arrange work groups
  - ✓ Define vocabulary and provide background information
  - ✓ Provide an overview of what will be done outside
  - ✓ Review your rules for working outdoors
  - ✓ Sort equipment or materials

# Going Outside: The Nuts and Bolts

- Set boundaries
- Use a circle for discussions
- Circulate constantly
- Encourage respect for nature





# Schoolyard- Enhanced Learning...

Creating engaging  
teaching environments