



Dear Parents, Teachers, and PEAKers,

We had a very scientific week at PEAK as students assumed the roles of herpetologists studying Tiger Salamanders and their predators. They began with one salamander each. Then the salamanders selected suitable mates and laid their eggs. Fish preyed upon some of the eggs, and a handful of eggs were unfertile. The hatchling tadpoles then swam out into pools (which unfortunately were home to some more predatory fish!) The tadpoles then metamorphosed into either neotenic aquatic larvae, or terrestrial adult salamanders. Some of these fell victim to large fish or snakes. Lastly, surviving adults found new mates and laid the next generation of eggs. This simulation was very interesting and engaging, and many students asked if we could do it again, so I will be sending the instructions in my weekly email. (See pics on pg. 2).

Students were assigned to complete a "time log" at home, tracking all of their activities (other than school and sleep) over a few days this week to record how they choose to spend their time. This week we'll be looking at the data students have collected and using it to create SMART Goals (Specific, Measurable, Ambitious, Realistic, Timely). As they analyze their previous data identifying their values and compare it to how they actually spend their time, students will now attempt to make these two concepts match by spending more of their time on the things they value most.

We'll also be working more on the students' final projects by introducing a new concept: The Five Areas of Investigating Living Things. Student teams will use this comprehensive system to learn everything they can about the organisms they have chosen to study.

This Week's Activities: October 2 - 6

<p>Research: 5 Areas of Living Things I can use the 5 Areas system after a brief review and teacher modeling.</p>	<p>Biology 101 - Students will learn about the 5 Areas of Investigating Living Things to help guide their comprehensive species research.</p>
<p>Intrapersonal: SMART Goals I can list the steps of the SMART Goal system and can write and complete a SMART Goal using the written tool.</p>	<p>A Matter of Time: Setting Goals - Students will compare their Values data and their Time Log data to create SMART Goals for personal improvement.</p>
<p>Research: Internet I can navigate the internet and collect relevant research, including citations, with teacher guidance.</p>	<p>Final Project Research - Student teams have chosen organisms and will continue the research portion of their final projects for this unit. Finding reliable information and using proper citations will be focal points.</p>

Beginning to Morph our Knowledge into a Project,

J. Slead

PEAK GT4-5: Fall 2023

October 2 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	3 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	4	5 Four Georgians Hawthorne	6
9	10 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	11 Four Georgians Hawthorne	12 Smith Broadwater Bryant	13
16 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	17 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	18 Four Georgians Hawthorne Smith, Bryant Broadwater	19 Teacher Conventions No School	20
23 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	24 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	25 Four Georgians Hawthorne	26 Smith Broadwater Bryant	27
30 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	31 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	November 1 Four Georgians Hawthorne	2 Smith Broadwater Bryant	3
6 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	7 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	8 Four Georgians Hawthorne	9 Smith Broadwater Bryant	10

