Liz Baird,
Director of Education

North Carolina Museum of Natural Science

Podcast length: 15:36

THE walking classroom
walk. listen. learn.

LESSON PLAN

SYNOPSIS

The Walking Classroom's Laura Fenn visits with Liz Baird, the Director of Education at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science. Liz shares how her role at the museum is to translate science into something students and the public can follow and about her own research on deep water canyons.

VOCABULARY

Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast)

- **methane:** (noun) a colorless, odorless flammable gas
- **ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicles):** (noun) a remotely operated vehicle designed for work in aquatic environments
- **Submersible:** (noun) a boat or other craft, especially one designed for research and exploration

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

1. Liz Baird explains that a big part of her job is making sure that science and research are things students and the public can understand. Why is it important that museums create learning opportunities for the public?
2. Liz Baird started "Take a Child Outside Week" to get students reconnected with nature. Do you agree with Liz Baird that it's important for kids to get outside and explore the world around them? Why or why not?
3. Liz mentioned a famous quote by Ghandi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world." What does this quote mean to you? What change would you like to see in the world?

BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Consider reading aloud or making some of these titles available to students to reinforce and extend some of the concepts covered in today's podcast.

***How to Be an Explorer of the World* by Keri Smith**
This book encourages readers to view and explore the world like artists and scientists through analyzing, collecting, observing, documenting, and comparing.

***Marine Biologists (Out of the Lab: Extreme Jobs in Science)* by Ruth Owen**
This book gives readers an idea of what science in the field looks like while they learn about the daily work of marine biologists.

***Alien Deep: Revealing the Mysterious Living World at the Bottom of the Ocean* by Bradley Hague**
Readers will learn about oceanographic fieldwork and deepwater exploration.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The following activities are ways to build on and extend some of the topics discussed in the podcast. We strongly encourage you to always preview videos prior to showing them to your students.

Where Is the Deepest Place On Earth? **http://bit.ly/1HPQet5**
Wonderopolis.org
This "Wonder" introduces students to the deepest place on Earth, Challenger Deep. There's a great passage to read or listen to, along with a video.

DeepSea Challenge **http://bit.ly/1rk4bHl**
National Geographic Website
Take a look at the vehicle that has explored the deepest parts of the ocean.

Take a Child Outside – Activities **http://bit.ly/1Hl1jvN**
Takeachildoustide.org
Liz Baird and the NC Museum of Natural Science started *Take a Child Outisde Week* which takes place every year from September 24 – 30. The website has lots of great activities to encourage kids to get outside more. Some ideas include: Nature Study, Shadow Watch, Animal Signs and Observations, noticing Trees and Other Plants, and much more!