

NECC and Lehigh 2001 small group usability questions

1. Navigation and interface design.

Please follow this procedure:

1. Go to Chapter 7, Concept 7.3.
2. Go to 7.5 "Closer Look Cellular Respiration" and "split the glucose molecule".
3. Now go to Chapter 8.
4. Find the "Tools" page.
5. Go to Chapter 36. Locate the "Teacher Resources" for the "Investigative Lab". Tell me what materials you need.
6. Go to Chapter 36, Concept 36.3 and make a climatograph. **(NOTE: Do not include this in the NECC workshop - teacher will have problems with iBook keypad - will take too long. Include this for Lehigh workshops for teachers to use with desktops.)**

Are there any places on the Website that you experienced problems with? Please show them to me.

2. Interconnectedness of Lab Content

How do you feel about the labs being interconnected with content that is presented in other chapters?

How would it affect your teaching if the labs in the chapters were interconnected? For example, if the labs were interconnected according to the order we make the chapters and the lab in Chapter 7 is an extension of a lab in chapter 3, would it be harder for you to pick and choose activities and go in the order you would normally use?

Would you be willing to change the order in which you present material to adjust to the interconnectiveness of the labs?

3. Virtual Labs

Should Exploring Life have virtual labs (these are labs done on the computer without equipment to set up in the classroom)?

Do you think virtual labs would help less experienced or less enthusiastic teachers to incorporate more "hands-on" activities in their classrooms?

Are there enough computers in your school to have the students work as “lab” partners to do virtual experiments?

How would you have the students do a virtual lab?

Would you use virtual labs as a demonstration in a one-computer classroom setting with a projector or large screen monitor? Do you have the equipment to do this in your classroom?

Would you use virtual labs with one student on one computer? Do you have the equipment to do this in your classroom or do you have to go to a computer lab in your school?

Would you use virtual labs having students work in groups of two on one computer? Do you have the equipment to do this in your classroom? How about groups of three?

What types of labs would work best for virtual labs? For example, should all wet labs have a virtual lab double or should we just concentrate on the labs that are expensive or require too many materials or extensive preparation time.

Would you want virtual labs to be included in addition to the wet labs that are currently offered in Exploring Life?

4. Technology Support

Who do you go to for technology support?

5. Level of Material.

Would you use the Exploring Life materials for your general biology students (not honors biology students)?

Describe the difference in how you would use the Chapter 7 materials with a general biology class and with an honors class?

6. Appropriateness of topics.

Are the topics of the chapters and the modes of instruction developmentally appropriate for your students?

Note: If the response is NO, then ask: “What should be done to make the materials more appropriate for the level of your student?”

7. Technology implementation barriers/comfort level.

What obstacles would you have (if any) to using this product in your school?

Do you think other biology teachers in your school would be interested in teaching using a Web-based curriculum? What obstacles would they have to using this product in your school?

Would you need extra planning time to adjust your teaching to this type of curriculum?