Five Key Components to Successful & Engaging Online Labs

Jennifer L. Lewis

EARTH EXPLAINED

Don't force your old lab into the online classroom. Instead, reconsider the possibilities the online environment offers.

Lab Design:
- Identify competencies and goals
- Identify lab constraints.
- Scaffold course activities
- Design in 3 types of student interactions

DESIGN

Tactile Experiences:
- Skill demonstrations
- Simulations
- 3D Models
- Lab Kits

Make Courses Relevant:
- Student-directed projects
- Google Earth activities of nearby areas
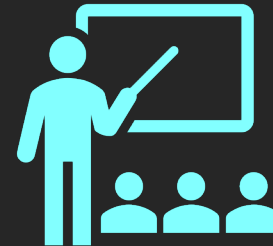- Connect labs to other activities, like discussions

TACTILE

RELEVANT

Feedback:
- Useful → learn from mistakes & correct errors
- Timely → Instantaneous or delayed?
- Clear evaluation expectations → rubrics, syllabus, instructions, etc.

FEEDBACK

Detailed Instruction:
- Consistent format
- Detailed text
- Video tutorials
- Images
- Time estimates & pot. breaks
- Identify lab materials, pot. hazards, pet/kid-friendly

INSTRUCTION

Want the full story?

JLewisGeology@gmail.com   bit.ly/earthexplained   @GeoJenLewis   bit.ly/OLLab5Key