




DIRECTOR
Office of State Assessment

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To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools
Charter School Leaders
Science Coordinators
Living Environment Teachers

From: Zachary Warner 

Subject: Laboratory Activities for Living Environment Part D

General Information:

The Regents Examination in Living Environment is designed to measure the content and skills contained in the *Living Environment Core Curriculum*. It is administered as a written examination in January, June, and August. The examination consists of four parts (Parts A, B, C, and D) containing multiple-choice and/or open-ended questions. Part D consists of questions based on a series of required laboratory activities completed during the school year. In order to prepare for the Part D section of this examination, students will participate in a series of required laboratory activities. Each examination will test at least three of the four required laboratory activities.

The laboratory materials are intended for use by New York State Living Environment teachers for course work and examination preparation in the classroom. Permission is hereby granted to teachers and nonprofit organizations or institutions to reproduce these materials in limited quantities for their own use, but not for sale, provided copyright notices are retained as they appear in this publication. This permission does not apply to mass distribution of these materials, electronically or otherwise.

Teachers must make students aware of any specific safety precautions included in the teacher instructions for each required laboratory activity. A copy of each Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for chemicals used in the laboratory should be on file in the school building. Each SDS must be available to the teacher and other appropriate school personnel in each laboratory area as the required laboratory activity is conducted.

The Teacher's Guide for each required laboratory activity provides an estimate of the time needed to complete that activity. The time estimates are based on teacher feedback from field testing. The actual times needed to complete the required laboratory activities may vary depending on the length of scheduled laboratory periods, whether lab questions are to be completed in class or outside of class as homework. Laboratory time spent in completing the required laboratory activities may be included in the mandated minimum time requirement of 1200 minutes.

Laboratory Materials:

Districts are responsible for providing the equipment and supplies necessary to implement the required laboratory activities. The activities were specifically designed to require relatively simple and inexpensive materials. Estimated costs will vary, with some requiring minimal startup cost and others requiring a slightly higher initial investment. An equipment and materials list is found in the Teacher's Guide for each laboratory activity.

Required Laboratory Activities:

Teachers must be certain that all students complete the required laboratory activities before the administration of the Regents Examination in Living Environment. Specific grading of the required laboratory activities is the responsibility of the teacher. Students must prepare satisfactory written reports of these laboratory activities, which should be kept on file for at least six months following the date of the examination. These labs may be counted as part of the minimum 1200 minutes of hands-on lab required under Part 100 of the Commissioner's Regulations.

The four Living Environment laboratories included in your materials are:

- Making Connections
- The Beaks of Finches
- Relationships and Biodiversity
- Diffusion Through a Membrane

Each of the required laboratory activities includes the following components:

- Teacher's Guide
- Student Laboratory Packet
- Student Answer Packet

The Student Laboratory Packet and the Student Answer packet must be duplicated in order to provide a copy for each student. Students should record all data and answers in the Student Laboratory packet and keep the packet for review before the Regents Examination. Students will also be required to transfer their answers to the Student Answer Packet, which can be used for grading and retained by the school as evidence of the student's completion of the activity.

Requesting Laboratory Activities:

Copies of the required laboratory activities may be requested by contacting the Office of State Assessment at emscassessinfo@nysed.gov. including Student Laboratory Packets and Student Answer Packets in alternate languages and in Unified English Braille. At this time, the Department is only able to provide the laboratory materials in hard copy.