Kootenai River Valley Watershed Studies

A Year-Long Interdisciplinary Theme

Considerations:

1. Addressing standards in many subjects

2. Conducting field trips in Boundary County within the school day (Mon. - Thurs. 8:05 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.)

3. Involving multiple programs
   - GLOBE - Global Observations to Benefit the Environment (using scientific protocols and technology, participating in a global community of scientists)
   - EIC - Environment as the Integrating Context
     - using local environment
     - interdisciplinary
     - multi-age
     - developing concepts through experience, hands-on
     - group skills

4. Differentiated instruction: addressing needs of different kinds of learners allowing students to make choices

5. Personal passion
Kootenai River Valley Watershed Studies
Boundary County

Guiding Questions

1. What is a watershed?
   - Develop a class definition
   - View pictures of local + worldwide watersheds

2. What does the watershed have to do with us?
   - Investigate how our resources + lifestyles are shaped by the Kootenai River watershed
     - Economic (timber + mining)
     - Recreational
     - Water resources
     - Homes
     - Aesthetic appeal
   - Hazards including recent local flooding

3. What is our watershed like?
   - Geography - basic map skills + tracing Kootenai R. from B.C. to Pacific O.
   - Climate - water cycle, snow depth, SNOTEL data
   - Biology - environmental studies, life cycles, food web
   - Human history - Kootenai Tribe, settlement based on resources
4. How did our watershed come to be the way it is?

- Geology and human modifications
- Students will develop concepts while constructing a timeline of watershed history. This will be accomplished through a series of field trips and activities.