



Biological Scavenger Hunt: MOODLE Overview

In my project on the Biological Scavenger Hunt, several times I referred to a MOODLE website that I use with my students as a place for the students to interact with each other. MOODLE is an open source (FREE!) course-management software that my district allows us to use. My Advanced Placement Biology course has a MOODLE site and I enroll the students for the upcoming school year as soon as their schedules are created. This means that the students have access to the MOODLE site for the entire summer prior to taking the course which is when they undertake my Scavenger Hunt project.

One of the things I have done with MOODLE is create a discussion forum regarding the Scavenger Hunt. Students are able to post questions and answer each other all summer long. I also monitor the discussions and sometimes add comments that the students hadn't thought of. I also change the titles of their comments so that its easier for students to find the answers to questions that other students have already asked. This resource saves me quite a bit of time answering the exact same question from all of the students in the class and has them begin to work cooperatively prior to the start of class.

If you're interested in learning more about MOODLE, there is an online group that has free lessons in how to use MOODLE and discusses problems and solutions at www.moodle.org