

Plan for Life Sciences at Home

The story so far: We finished Microbiology. You will get a separate individual email this week with my response to your summary of the microbiology unit. As planned, we are going to move on to look at Kingdom Animalia.

My philosophy on learning at home: This is an incredible opportunity for us. Learning is supposed to happen throughout your life rather than restricted to a classroom. I am going to try to hand over your learning to you. I am going to provide materials in a familiar form to ease you into becoming more independent learners. I am going to suggest activities that you can do at home or out on walks. How you do these things is up to you. You may do them yourself, or with family members. You will be the one who decides how and how much you want to learn.

You will also do your own assessment. I suggest you have a learning journal where you can write down what you learned at the end of the week. This is only for you, but it will help consolidate any learning that happened. (It is the “review” part required for learning, when the neural connections newly formed are reinforced and strengthened in the brain.) Be descriptive and emotive. Writing about the feelings you experienced when learning will aid in consolidation. (It is the “be emotional” part of learning that will eventually lead to the self-motivation that will drive you to continue to review ensuring the memory persists.)

At the end of the term, I will simply ask you for your mark. As you should know, I don’t think it is possible to reduce learning to a mark. So, I am happy to hand that task over to you.

The process: I am planning on using easily available technologies, email and the internet. I will email you at the beginning of each week the lessons for the week. Lessons will consist of pdf documents similar to the Word documents you received in class, except I will send you a blank one and a completed version. I will also post each week’s lessons to my edublog, <https://larrygreen.edublogs.org/>. I do not expect you to rewrite out my notes, but some students like to do that. There will also be a video link to short videos of the different animal phyla from the Shape of Life website. They are concise and very good. I will also suggest an activity or activities that you can do.

You do what you want to with the materials provided. The hardest part will be the lack of personal interaction. My wife, Victoria, is feeling sorry for me because she is almost the only person I now talk to. And it is hard. I want you to feel free to email me anything about what you are doing related to Life Sciences or comment on my edublog. I am very interested in how this process will work and want feedback about what is working and what isn’t. I would also be interested in you suggesting activities or concepts you have an interest in. I see this as a wonderful opportunity for us to learn from each other.

Stay safe and have fun!

Larry Green