**Frog Unit**

**Rationale**

**From an early age student seem to be engaged when it comes to learning about animals. They are interested in finding facts and observing animals of any kind. With this in mind, frogs provide a springboard for connecting lessons based on the Common Core State Standards in Reading, Writing, and Science in first grade. The series of fiction Froggy stories by Jonathan London are engaging and entertaining while providing connections to non-fiction stories.**

According to Smith and Wilhelm in Reading Don't Fix No Chevys: Literacy in the Lives of Young Men, boys prefer non-fiction reading sources to fiction (2002). Therefore the instructional unit designed around the combination of both fiction and non-fiction literature will captivate all students and types of learners.

The purpose of this unit is to use frogs as a tie across the curriculum to address Common Core State Standards in Reading and Writing, in particular, can be later used with other topics of discussion or areas of learning throughout a student’s lifetime.

The instructional model used in this unit is social problem solving as students are learning skills and information critical to helping them solve problems in the future. Key skills such as reading, writing, and following directions are important life skills that transcend any curricular area. Conducting experiments and following the scientific method will teach students how to problem solve in other areas in the future.

On page 88 of her book, Curriculum in Context, Leigh Chiarelott states, “It is becoming increasingly evident that teachers’ instructional decisions must account for phenomena that are both behaviorist and constructivist in their philosophical origin” (2006). Both a behaviorist and a constructivist approach were used to design this instructional unit with this thought in mind. Students at the first grade level need to be taught basic background information, while having the opportunity to explore and discover within context. The basic lesson planning model was used in articulating unit lessons that meet the needs of all students.