

Using Science Fluency Checks to Increase Comprehension and Fluency in the Classroom



Bruner Middle School
Okaloosa County School District



Presenters

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teacher

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John Spolski, Principal



Project Development

- Attended 2007 Just Read, Florida! Leadership Conference
- Developed our own experiment using the Observation Classroom
- Wondered if repeated readings would increase comprehension and fluency



2007-08 Project Timeline

- 1st nine weeks
 - Discussed how to implement the fluency probes in the classroom
 - Confirmed that we would use the Observation Classroom for 8th grade science



2007-08 Project Timeline

- 2nd nine weeks
 - Determined how: three one-minute fluency probes a week using a page of textbook, a pre/post comprehension test for each probe, and chapter tests
 - Determined when: third nine weeks at the beginning of the period



Data Collection

- Anecdotal notes/observation
- Pre/post comprehension tests
- Fluency probes
- Chapter tests

Results

Bruner Middle School Observation Classroom Action Research Percentages of Fluency and Comprehension Gains

	Topic Tested	# of Students	% Increase in Fluency	% Increase in Comprehension	% Increase in Fluency and Comprehension
Week 1 Jan. 23-25	Hedy Lamarr	17	82%	82%	71%
Week 2 Jan. 29-31	Thermal Energy	19	68%	63%	42%
Week 3 Feb. 6-8	Law of Conservation of Energy	19	89%	89%	80%
Week 4 Feb. 12-15	Thermal Energy Transferred?	19	53%	58%	32%
Week 5 Feb. 20-22	What is a Meteorite?	17	88%	88%	76%
Week 6 Feb. 26-28	Main Sequence	15	73%	53%	53%
Week 7 Mar. 3-5	Gregor Mendel Contribution to Genetics	18	83%	94%	78%
Week 8 Mar. 19-24	Asexual Reproduction	19	74%	84%	63%



Next Steps

- Plan for next year
- What we would do differently
- Lessons learned



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