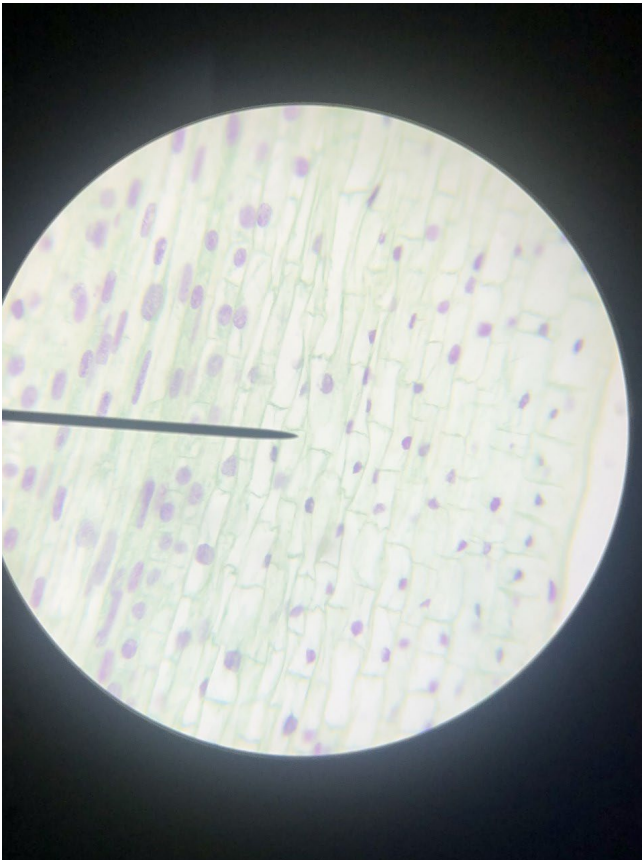


Apr 2, 2023

Impact Statement - Northeast Washington Education Council Mini-grant

Thank you for your grant of \$210 to purchase cell phone adaptors for microscopes. These cell phone adaptors allow students to mount their cell phones on a standard microscope. They hold the lens of the camera over the eyepiece turning an ordinary microscope into a digital microscope. Students can more easily share observations, photograph samples and zoom in for more detail.

The first time we used the adaptors was during my advanced biology class. We observed samples of onion root cells undergoing mitosis. Students were able to see the cells clearly enough to identify the phases of mitosis. Below is a photograph of the onion cells that one of my students took using the cell phone adaptors.



Since then my biology students have used the cell phone adaptors to observe bacteria and protists in pond water samples. The cell phone adaptors have allowed students to document and share their findings with me and others in the class in ways that were not possible before. Thank you again for your generosity.

Matthew Wysock, MS, MA, NBTC
Science Teacher
Colton School District

I want to give a huge thank you to NEWEC and their mini-grant program for making this project possible for my 80 junior and senior students. In my junior/senior college-level English classes, students are expected to read a variety of novels dealing with multiple themes and covering various topics from numerous different cultures. Recently, the students finished reading the novel *The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama, where a few characters in the novel build and continually tend to gardens around their living areas. One character possesses a massive dry garden where she continually rakes the stones into different patterns and decorates it with various items that hold meanings to her and her life. As a final project for this novel (that is one of the later novels that students read in the last part of the school year), rather than having students write yet another paper as their final, students were to create a mini dry (zen) garden of their own, and decorate it in such ways that it holds important meanings to them and their own lives. In addition, students had to write a short essay in which they describe their gardens and how the items in it/the design of it hold(s) meaning(s) to them, as if they were on display in an art gallery for other students. Thanks to the grant, the 80 students were able to be provided with the bowls, sand, and mini rakes necessary to foster the creation of their unique zen gardens. As a result of completing this project, students were able to reflect deeply on their lives as they near the end of their high school careers, master their skills in identifying symbolism and other figurative language devices, and create relationships to the themes and characters of the novel that they might not have been able to discover without this project. To sum up, here are some direct quotes submitted from the students as part of a final reflection piece for the project and a few pictures of the completed gardens:

- “I wanted my garden to resemble the area that we live in and have a connection to our farming community. Overall I did enjoy this project and it was fun trying to find objects that relate to my life.”
- “I think that this final project was fun and a creative way to end a unit. I enjoyed building my garden and playing with the sand and I believe that overall I did a good job on it. I think it would be really fun to do a project like this again because it was a different way to analyze the novel we had just read.”
- “Building the garden from scratch brought out the creative, imaginative side of me. Starting with just sand and no rules really made every single garden different. Because every garden was different, this project meant more to me and each student.”
- “Creating my garden was a fun task and made me really realize the things in my life that give me joy and how thankful I am for those things and the people I love around me.”

