

# 7/8 SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS

September 21, 2020 Edition

## ON THE SCIENCE FRONT

We are continuing to explore the topic of Characteristics of Living Things this week.

We had lots of interesting conversations last week regarding some of the living things in this world. We discussed how the ability to reproduce is one indication that something is living. We got into a side discussion of how science has led to the producing of animals such as mules that are a hybrid that is incapable of reproducing due to the chromosomes it inherited from its parents not lining up. We also discussed Genesis chapter one and how it tells us God put into motion the scientific law that plants and animals reproduce offspring like themselves. We discussed briefly the ethics of science regarding living things in the plant, animal and human arenas of life. (In the previous chapter we had spent more time discussing how we NEED Christians to enter the world of Science to influence the stewardship of knowledge & advancements within the field. It was even a question on the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter test!)

Last week we tested two samples of yeast to see if they were alive. The teacher had purposely killed one sample ahead of the experiment. In spite of the living sample metabolizing the sugar fed to it and then growing when warm water was added, we had one student refuses to believe that it was alive. Not sure how to convince him...

We also discussed the meaning and some examples of stimuli. We experimented with lemons and onions as stimuli to see how our bodies react to the sour taste of the lemon and the fumes given off by the onion.

## HISTORY HEADLINES

Friday we took our History test over the time period between the end of the Revolutionary War and through the writing of the Constitution. I ended up pushing back the date of the test twice, took more days of review than originally planned, played Trash Ball Review one day, and even made a Google Classroom Test Prep Quiz (on which they were free to use notes and textbook) to help the students feel adequately prepared. If your student is not satisfied with his/her test score, they may study the questions they missed and then try those questions again for half credit back.

This week we will launch into a deeper study of the Constitution and our governmental structure when we begin Chapter #8. We will begin by learning about the Preamble to the Constitution and what it means. I will refrain from assigning them the task of memorizing it, reciting, and explaining it in detail as I was required to do in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. However, I do want them and you to know that they will need to be able to explain what it means so they can answer an essay question about it when we get to the chapter test.

I think this is an exciting time to study our government as we are in an election year and it should lead us into some interesting and challenging classroom discussions. You and your students also need to know that I expect them to participate in all classroom discussions. It will be part of their grade in both Science and History.