



Soil under biologist's magnifying glass

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Developing students' interest in natural history is one of the basic elements of teacher's daily routine work. Searching for interesting teaching solutions and their skillful and appropriate application in the teaching-learning process makes it possible to stimulate and expand the interests, as well as achieve many teaching goals in the process. Observation, experimental examination of cause and effect relationships and creative experimenting are fundamental methods of learning about the surrounding world in natural education.

According to the binding Syllabus Base for Biology, 4th educational stage, extended level, a student: "(...) plans, carries out and keeps a record of biological observations and experiences, formulates research problems, constructs hypotheses(...)" [1].

While accomplishing these tasks, the second-year students were offered to participate in the project "Soil under biologist's magnifying glass". For a period of 2 weeks, students in groups are supposed to plan experiments for presented the research problem and the hypotheses they formulated.

Students prepare a plan for each experiment according to the following pattern:

- 1) selection of a control unit
- 2) selection of research unit
- 3) the method to establish the results
- 4) formulating the conclusions.