



The Importance of Experiential Learning

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As student numbers increase year on year, the ability to provide experiential learning opportunities and individual formative feedback is decreasing. As an important mechanism for cementing understanding of key concept thresholds in physical Earth sciences, practical based learning is paramount, especially for students with diverse learning abilities. According to Steinaker & Bell's taxonomy, experiential learning and dissemination of information to peers is key for students to make the transition to being much deeper learners. Furthermore, practical based learning also provides opportunity for varied methods of assessment, which are otherwise more challenging to devise.

I here present results from practical, experiential based learning within the context of Foundation Year teaching, which shows that predominantly, students found experiential learning to be both a positive and rewarding part of their curriculum. Key aspects of these findings are now being translated to the design of new curricula.