Lesson Plan for the Study of Biology

The following breakdown is simple. I encourage the student to read the text carefully, and take thorough notes as he reads. This material, though very interesting, is often technical, and writing it down will help the student remember it. *Exploring Creation with Biology* provides a framework within which other materials are read or otherwise used. These daily assignments are intended to occupy about one hour of the student’s time. If they take longer, consider cutting down on the assignment or spreading out these four days over five. Or consider only doing the required labs, as this will give the student two extra days per week on most weeks to spread the work out.

The assignments with an asterisk (*) by them are considered the lab work. Some are listed as required, others are not. Because it is important to have some lab work in a science course of this nature, those that are listed as required are considered an indispensable part of the course. Those that are not listed as a required part of the course will provide the student who does at least 10 of them, in addition to the required labs, the opportunity to get an extra ½ credit for the course for a lab. The labs are usually listed in each week’s lesson plan for Day 4.

There are 8 required labs and 15 optional labs listed in this course. Of the optional labs listed in this syllabus, only 5 of them can be done without the use of the microscope. Thus, for the student who wants to get the extra ½ credit for lab but can not afford a microscope (listed on page 4 of this syllabus under “Optional Materials for Labs”), I have suggested two alternate labs to be done in place of labs 5 and 14. The student who is doing these alternate labs will need to purchase the insect pins, spreading board, net, insect display case, DNA Molecular Model Kit, and Algae Survey Kit (listed on page 4 of this syllabus under “Optional Materials for Labs”). Additionally, the student should collect 12 more insects during weeks 3-5. (Students can go ahead and do the Week 3 written assignments with the insects the student already has at that point.) The student should display all 24 insects in an insect display case. If the student does this expanded version of lab 1, the alternate labs 5 and 13, plus all other labs in the course that can be done without a microscope, then the student should get an extra 1/2 credit for lab. Any other lab assignments may be added by the teacher.

Each time the student does a lab, he should prepare a lab report. The Student Notes section of *Exploring Creation with Biology* (found before the Table of Contents) contains directions for a lab report (under Experiments). The syllabus also contains a Biology Lab Report Form (see Table of Contents) which the student can photocopy and fill out or the student can use the form as a template in writing up Lab Reports. These should be compiled and stored in a ring binder or notebook.

Finally, I would recommend that parents purchase the companion CD for *Exploring Creation with Biology*. It will include vocabulary pronunciations, video pictures and animations. It would be most helpful for those families who do not have a microscope and does not do the extra labs, and will be a useful companion to those who have a microscope. The CD is available for approximately $12.
1  Day 1 – Read Module 1 – Pages 1-9 (up to “Scientific Method”) in Exploring Creation with Biology. Study figures 1.1-1.2 carefully. Also do the “On Your Own” problems 1.1-1.3.

*Required Lab 1 – Begin to collect insect specimens. You will need to collect about 12 specimens over the next few weeks. Thus for first two weeks, spend some time looking for insects. The fourth day of each week is set aside exclusively for finding these insects. You can use the ethyl acetate to kill them.

Day 2 – Read Module 1 – Pages 9-18 (up to “Characteristics Used to Separate....”) in Exploring Creation with Biology. Study figures 1.3-1.5 carefully. Also do the “On Your Own” problems 1.4-1.7.

*Also look for some insect specimens.

Day 3 – Read Module 1 – Pages 18-24 (up to Experiment 1.1) in your Exploring Creation with Biology book. Study figures 1.6-1.8 carefully. Also do the “On Your Own” problems 1.8-1.10.

*Also look for some insect specimens.

Day 4 – *Make sure that you have about 6 insect specimens by today.