Teaching with Online Materials

Teaching with online materials adds new complications to classroom management. The tools available at learn.concord.org, such as the Teacher Dashboard, should help make things easier for you. Below are some tips about how to manage students' use of online curricula.

Keeping the arc of the curriculum

Please review the Plate Tectonics Teacher Edition thoroughly before starting to teach with this module.

The sequence of the curriculum module has been carefully planned. You can read an overview of the module's activities in the Introduction to the Plate Tectonics Module.

Please don't pre-teach the content before students use the module. It is our intent for the students to learn plate tectonics concepts by using the module.

Managing different paces

Students will move through the activity at different paces. Some students will rush through the activities, while others will take their time. **We suggest that students run the module in pairs** and that you encourage discourse between students as they work.

The Teacher Dashboard allows you to determine the progress of your entire class, in real time. At a glance, you can see what question your students last answered and can see if a student or pair of students is rushing through.

You can dig deeper into the data to see your students' answers. This allows you to determine whether students are really understanding the material. If you see that a large number of students have not gotten a particular concept, you can use this information to have a class discussion.

You can quickly see if a majority of the class understands a particular concept with auto-scored multiple-choice questions. If you find that a large number of students have not answered a particular question correctly, you might want to facilitate a class discussion to help students process the information.

Periodic class discussions

We suggest that you hold periodic class discussions to help students consolidate their learning. Discussion points and suggested topics are highlighted in the Teacher Edition of the Plate Tectonics module.

Elicit student ideas and record them in a Summary Table. As a result of these conversations about the data and evidence, all students will be enabled to develop deeper understandings of plate tectonics.

Using labs and other external activities

We know that you have labs and other hands-on activities that you have used in the past to teach about plate tectonics. We encourage you to keep these activities in your classroom teaching practices.

What's important is figuring out where those activities fit within the arc of the Plate Tectonics curriculum. For instance, if it makes sense to do a lab between page 3 and page 4 of Activity 2, then stop students on page 3, do the lab, and then come back to page 4. Your students will benefit from engaging with multiple representations of the phenomena.