SEECQUEL

Schrader Environmental Education Center: Question. Understand. Excite. Learn.

Discovering Nature Through Play — November 3, 2012

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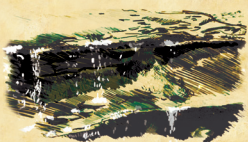
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Oglebay Institute
Inspiring the Imagination

ETCglobal
Carnegie Mellon

OGLEBAY FALLS

The waterfall is called Oglebay Falls. There is a time-lapse photography project going on about it right now.

SANDSTONE and SHALE

When two rocks differ in hardness, only the **harder one** will leave marks when scratching the **softer** one. Try it with the rocks you find around here.

Three of our podium designs

THE LEAF RACE

A fun game: drop leaves into the stream and let the **current** carry them down the water.

For more info visit: http://www.etc.cmu.edu/projects/seecquel

Week in Review

Due to illness on the team, we achieved slightly less this week than we had originally hoped, but the week was productive nonetheless. Four of our five podiums have completed artwork, and we are polishing the text to allow them to be ordered very soon.

Tech wise, four of the five activities are ready for testing. The Bug's Eye View activity, however, has proven more difficult to successfully implement than we had anticipated, and we are discussing potential alternative activities for that station (coincidentally, Bug's Eye View is also the podium lacking artwork, so replacing it has a limited impact on our artists).

Playtest

This week was our first playtest at SEEC itself. It went well overall, barring one or two small glitches. We gained a great deal of useful data that we would have had a lot of trouble getting elsewehere; for example, the waterfall where our last activity occurs is noisy, and can make it very difficult for the onboard speakers to be heard.

The Coming Week

This coming week, we need to implement the last activity, and polish some of the existing ones, tweak our script in response to our playtest, and get our voice actor in to make a recording of it, get our last piece of podium art, and keep working on the 3D avatar.

This is the podium design for our second activity, including the QR code that will either start the activity (if scanned with our tablets), or send visitors to a teaser site for the experience (if scanned with something else).

SUGAR MAPLE

Here is a way to tell whether a tree grew among others or isolated: if it was isolated, its new branches grew **outward** to get more sunlight; if it was not, they grew **upward** to get sunlight above the other trees