“What is the nature of science? And how do you measure students’ understanding of it?”

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Holt 291

We asked students the simple question, “What is science?” and they responded with an impressively diverse set of ideas:

Kira: “Science seeks to explain and explore the world around us... Most sciences seek to find the why, not just the what.”

Susannah: “I think science is basically everything... Science has little difference compared to religion or philosophy, those too are a science but less experimental and more thought-process based.”

Ella: “Science is something that you can practice the scientific method on and then result in a law or a theory.”

This “afternoon tea” will feature an exploration of the following questions: What is science? How can you measure students’ understanding about science? Does what a student say and write about science in general reflect what they actually do when they engage in authentic scientific inquiry?

Format: 15 minute presentation of results from a draft journal article (copies available in Holt 101c) followed by an open-ended discussion

Tea and cookies provided.