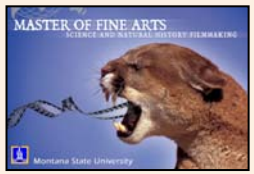
LTER Outreach: Living Ice

A film and activity that excites high school students about microbiology and the challenges of discovering life in Antarctica

Collaboration with MSU film program and the BSI:

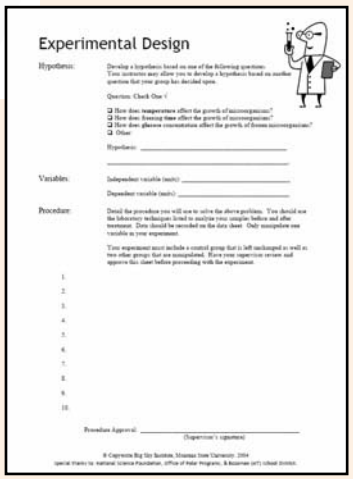
I. Documentary style film:

BIG SKY INSTITUTE
For Science & Natural History



II. Synergistic laboratory exercise:

Pond Water Popsicles



Project Goals:

- Introduce students to cold environment microbiology (and terms such as: psychrophile, cryoprotectant, and astrobiology.)
- Create an educational activity and documentary-style film that work synergistically
- Answer "So what?" – both must demonstrate why Antarctica research is important to the average person
- Have students reflect on the broader impacts of their experiment (i.e. medical, environmental and exobiological implications)

J. Mikucki 2004