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Mrs. Johnson's Science Discussion Board

This website will be used as a means of communicating current science issues with my Community High School students and other participants. As I continuously post topics on the website, I invite anyone to provide feedback and/or questions that will generate engaging discussions.

ABOUT ME



Emily Johnson

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October 2, 2009

MRS. JOHNSON'S SPACESUIT TESTING

[NDX-1 Field Demo. Dahlen, Esker, ND](#)

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

● ● ● Is Hand Washing Enough?



Recent studies have shown that washing hands with soap and water may not be as effective as it was once thought to be. The pace of today's society is so fast that hand washing is often neglected. Not drying your hands completely after

washing as well as rubbing hands together under an electric hand dryer are two major causes of germ spreading. In this fast-paced society, is hand washing simply not enough to prevent the spread of germs and bacteria?

Read the article on [Hand Sanitizers](#) and give your opinion on how effective you think it is. Do you think hand sanitizer is going to become more preferred to use rather than soap and water? Has it already? What could be possible disadvantages to this?

Posted by Emily Johnson at [6:42 AM](#) ● [0 comments](#)

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2010

● ● ● The "Science" of Tattooing

Tattoos are not a new concept. In the past, tattooing was geared toward sailors and bikers; now tattoos have become an art form and a unique way to express one's individuality.



What is the science behind this art form?

Read this article: ["How Tattoos Work"](#) and tell me 5 scientific facts about tattooing?

(Explore the article. There are several pages and visuals to show the concepts.)

Posted by Emily Johnson at [11:10 AM](#) ● [0 comments](#)

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2010

● ● ● Cell Phones



[Cell Phones](#) Most of you have cell phones. Why not? They're becoming so common that, in some circumstances, children as young as 5 years old are being given one. Cell phones are convenient, handy and easy to use. Some can access the internet, play music or take pictures. Most people see their cell phone as a "must have" before

leaving the house. Duh, right... what's the point??

Please read the article on "Cell Phones" attached to this post and explore some of the pros/cons of cell phone usage. Form an opinion. Is this

technological gadget being overused? Do people need to monitor the amount of time spent using a cell phone? Are there health risks? OR, are cell phones perfectly safe, dependable and harmless? Think about it!

Posted by Emily Johnson at [5:26 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2010

● ● ● American Robin: Taxonomy



Just today, I discovered a robin's nest nestled on top of an outdoor light fixture at my dad's house. My dad had seen this already and informed me that a tiny, blue eggshell had fallen from it early

that morning. I was curious enough to peak over, however was aware that I could be risking both my eyes getting pecked out by the parents (luckily they were gone!); the sight of this newborn bird was awesome. How small and defenseless it is and yet, this is how life begins for all creatures!

Seeing this baby American Robin made me want to know more about their species. The American Robin is widely dispersed throughout N. America and is the state bird of Connecticut, Michigan and Wisconsin. Like other birds, the males are more vibrantly colored with grayish, black upperparts (head, back and feathers), streaked with occasional white highlights, and a very distinctive reddish-orange breast. The nests are built entirely by the females using long grass, twigs, paper and feathers; and a new nest is built for each set of chicks.

If you've ever wondered what kind of bird is waking you up at 5am with a cheery little melody: it may just be the American Robin. These birds are often first to sing in the morning and last to sing at the day's end.

Classify this animal! Tell me the Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species.

Posted by Emily Johnson at [6:03 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

MONDAY, MAY 31, 2010

● ● ● Drilling Rig Explosion



On April 20, 2010 an explosion occurred on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig platform in the Gulf of Mexico. This has caused at least 20 million gallons of oil to spill into the ocean spreading for miles. Various legal issues arise between the chief executive of BP and environmentalists and researchers.

The chief executive of BP downplays the situation and denies the possibility of deepwater effects, since most oil floats to the surface; however, many researchers are concerned how this spill could affect the lives of various fish and invertebrates. Oil spills have happened in the past, but how is this affecting sea life, their food chain, and overall way of living? Also, how does a disaster such as this affect us in North Dakota? Are we impacted directly? Do effects happen immediately, or do they take time?

Posted by Emily Johnson at [6:39 PM](#) [0 comments](#)

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Vertical Spacecraft Simulator



Located at UND, this simulator can replicate all spaceflight missions of Apollo, Soyuz, Gemini, etc

Spacesuit Training at UND



Mrs. Johnson working with Pablo in the Space Studies department from 07-09: spacesuit design and testing, and simulator training.

