

The Wilderness Classroom Presents The Trans-Amazon Expedition

The Trans America Expedition is a live, web-based educational program that enables K-12 students to become involved in the expeditions of real explorers as they travel the length of South America's Amazon River by canoe. Through Online Expeditions, students learn basic academic skills, make travel decisions for the expedition team, strengthen computer skills, and embrace all types of diversity.



(right) Dave Freeman holds a baby caiman that he found during last year's online expedition Project Peru 2006.

Since 2001, The Wilderness Classroom has linked tens of thousands of elementary and middle school students with teams of scientists, educators, and explorers in remote locations around the globe. Wilderness Classroom has successfully completed 9 online expeditions using traditional travel methods to discover the world's boreal forest and tropical rainforests. A 132 page teacher's guide, which is aligned to Illinois state standards, is available for download through the teacher resources section of our website www.wildernessclassroom.com.

The Trans-Amazon Expedition



You and your students can join a team of Scientists and explorers on this 3,000 mile journey!

The Trans-Amazon Expedition will occur between March 2007 and November 2009. During this time, WCO will conduct a series of 3 online expeditions, between 6 and 8 weeks in length, as Dave Freeman and Eric Frost lead a team of scientists, journalists, and educators on a 3,000 mile journey across the Amazon Basin.

Students, teachers, and learners of all ages will participate daily in the live expeditions through photos, videos, and text posted to the Internet via satellite throughout the expeditions.

During the first stage of the Trans America Expedition (March-May 2007), the team will hike and canoe from Lima, Peru to Iquitos, Peru. During the first two weeks of the journey, expedition members will walk from the Pacific Ocean up and over the Andes Mountains, introducing students to as many ecosystems as can be found between The North Pole and Equator. Students will also get a chance to witness Andean culture in an effort to draw parallels between ancient Incan civilization and modern Peruvian culture. Geography, history, politics and world cultures become more relevant to students as they communicate directly with others from distant locations.

After crossing the Andes, the team will trade their hiking boots for canoes and spend 5 weeks canoeing through the lowland Amazon rainforest to Iquitos, Peru, the largest city in the world inaccessible by car or truck. The Amazon Rainforest is one of the most bio-diverse places in the entire world. As the team explores the Amazon Basin students will encounter all sorts of interesting plants, animals, and people.

The second and third stages of the Trans Amazon Expedition (March-May 2008 and October-November 2008) will highlight the seasonal changes of the Amazon River and their impact on the people, plants, and animals that live in the rainforest. During the second stage, students will witness how the rainforest's inhabitants adapt to extreme rises in water level. During the third and final stage, students will compare and contrast life in the flooded rainforest to that of October and November's low-water season.



To learn more visit www.wildernessclassroom.com!