Blandy Experimental Farm

Virtual Exploration
Background Information

- Blandy Experimental Farm is a field ecology research station and home to the State Arboretum of Virginia.

- The Environmental Education programs reaches over 2,000 students in the Fall and over 3,000 each spring.
  - We teach all ages!
  - Preschool through 12th grade
  - Up to 120 students per day
Question:

- Does Blandy need to build an Education building?
  - If so, where should we put it?

- If Blandy does not need an education building, what other resources could we use instead?

The purpose of this virtual exploration of Blandy is to give you the opportunity to learn the buildings and land at the Arboretum are used. Most questions require you to make observations and predictions; there are no right or wrong answers.
Further things to think about

- Why do we need to think about the landscape as well as geological (earth) and hydrological (water) processes when deciding WHERE to build a building?

- What land use factors (current and historical) do we need to think about when constructing a building?

- If it rains or snows, where will we teach? Where will the students eat their lunches?
Welcome to Blandy Experimental Farm

- Locate the Quarters Building.
- Locate Lake Georgette.

If we are at the Quarters and looking to observe critters at Lake Georgette, in which cardinal direction would we need to go (N, S, E, or W)?
This building contains most of Blandy’s offices and dorm rooms for visiting students, teachers, and researchers.

As you look at the videos and pictures in this exploration, think about how to describe the landscape. Flat? Steep? Hilly? Mountainous?
• The east side of this building was built in the 1830s. This is prior to what major historical event?

• The rest of the Quarters was built in the 1940s. The architects tried to make the new structure match the older section. Why was it important to have the newer section complement the older section?
We are now exploring at Lake Georgette.
Lake Georgette

How does water get into Lake Georgette?
(think of various ways)
• What type of rocks do you see? Are they the same or different types?

• What are some of the ways humans have used these rocks?

• What are some other ways humans may use rocks as resources?
Walking from Lake Georgette to the Native Plant Meadow
The Native Plant Meadow is important habitat for ground-dwelling animals.

Can you think of some animals that live on or near the ground & would be adapted to this habitat?
Rattlesnake Springs

There is no evidence of rattlesnakes at the Spring.

We do not know why it is named Rattlesnake Spring.
Fact: It takes 6th grade students 5 minutes to walk from the bus parking area to the Quarters building.
Based on the information given, make an inference:

- How long (in minutes) do you think it would take you to walk from the bus parking area to Rattlesnake Springs?

Do Blandy Educators only teach 6th grade students?

- How long do you think it will take a Kindergartener to walk to Rattlesnake Springs?
This is a road from the days when this land was part of a plantation. It runs east to west from the Tuleyries estate and cuts through the Arboretum.

• What type of surface(s) is this road made of?

• What do you think happens to rain that falls on this road?
Our Route
Dogwood Lane
Peetwood Pavilion

What are the different ways this building could be used?

How many people do you think would fit (seated at tables) in this building?
Walking to the Blandy Community Classroom and Field Lab
These are the two newest buildings at Blandy. The BCC was installed in 2010 and the Lab was opened in 2012.

What impacts do you think the construction of these buildings had on the land?
Walking to the Bus Parking Area
Bus Parking Area

This is our main parking area for buses and for large events when we need a lot of parking availability for visitors. Where would we park cars if this area were not available?
The greenhouse was built in the 1940s.

• How old is it?

• What is a greenhouse used for?

• What is the condition of this building?
Research Greenhouse

- What should be done with this building?
- Explain your reasoning.
Walking to the Parkfield Learning Center
PARKFIELD LEARNING CENTER
This is the main building for Blandy’s Education Programs. We can fit six six-foot tables inside for students. How many people do you think can fit into this classroom building?
Parkfield Learning Center
Now that you have virtually explored Blandy Experimental Farm....

Use the information you gathered on the exploration along with the hydrogeology experiment and the historic primary and secondary sources to form your thoughts about a new building at Blandy.

- Do we need an Education Building?
  - If Yes, Where should a new building be placed? Why?
  - If No, Explain why.