

## Internship Reflection

This summer I was given the opportunity to work at the Florida Museum of Natural History. This opportunity was provided by the UFTeach program. The internship at the museum has helped me in many ways. It has created and honed skills that I will be able to utilize in both a teaching environment, and in other aspects of life, as well.

The biggest impact the internship has had is in the area of teaching skills. Prior to the summer I had only experienced a classroom setting three times, each occasion comprising of an hour long lesson. Working at the museum allowed me a much more immersive teaching experience. I was responsible for preparing and teaching a weeklong camp on Natural Disasters. I was required to complete a lesson plan, create a materials list, and teach the weeklong camp. This gave me another twenty hours of teaching experience and has greatly improved my confidence and my awareness of what is required to teach. The hands-on experience has helped me to better gauge the level of mastery I will need of the material I am teaching and helped me get a better idea of time as it passes when in charge of a group of children.

Working at the museum has provided me experience in a number of other ways, as well. This was one of my first working experiences in a professional setting. My other jobs have been in restaurants and retail stores, and were hardly good preparation for a professional career. Working at the museum allowed me to be part of a team and see how a professional institute operates. This internship has cemented the importance of team work in my mind and showed me how a team can do well if each person takes responsibility and does what they are expected to do.

Apart from teaching, my other responsibility over the summer was to aid in the creation of the curriculum guides that are made for each camp topic. The curriculum guides were a challenge because the topics were often general, and it is the author's responsibility to take a lot of information and condense it into a three page summary. Working on the guides helped build my communication skills. In

many jobs, especially teaching, it is important to be able to condense a large amount of information into a clear and concise summary.

In conclusion, I have greatly benefited from the internship provided by UFTeach. I believe I have grown as a teacher and a profession over the summer. I am very thankful for the opportunity and looking forward to continuing in the fall.