

Crowd the Tap in Maine

Three Zoom Workshops and an Invitation to Collaborate

How do we get students back to learning together while working on problems that interest them? Next fall, it is likely that they will sometimes be learning at home and sometimes at school and always in circumstances that make collaboration with teachers and other students challenging. *How can we plan for learning, whatever happens?*



Bringing Learning at Home and School Together



Schoodic Institute invites educators to join in a series of 3 ninety-minute virtual workshops to learn how to use a citizen science project called [Crowd the Tap](#) that connects learning at home with learning in school. (Information about workshop registration is on the next page.)

Crowd the Tap (quoting from the project website) “promotes access to safe drinking water by assisting individuals and groups with investigations of pipe materials that deliver drinking water to homes. ... Crowd the Tap can help understand the pipes’ infrastructure and subsequent influences on the safety of the drinking water. ... This is the first project to engage and empower water consumers with investigating drinking water pipe infrastructure.”

Crowd the Tap will be especially useful for teachers this year because students can do the research at home. They not only collect data about water quality, but also investigate the water delivery systems in their homes and, working together, in their community.

Learning About Systems and How to Collect and Use Data

By supporting students in tracing how water moves from the source to the tap, Crowd the Tap provides a concrete, rich opportunity to engage students in learning to think about systems and about how what is going on in one part of a system has impacts elsewhere. Crowd the Tap also provides an opportunity for students to learn how to collect and make sense of scientific data. Students will learn how to ask researchable questions, explore patterns in data, compare water quality in different places, and use data to support claims. They will do this using Tuva, a data analysis platform that enables online collaboration.

Building a Small Community of Teachers

We hope to recruit a community of teachers who are interested in using Crowd the Tap as the foundation for student projects that can proceed regardless of the learning setting. Depending on teacher response, we will work with teachers to adapt Crowd the Tap to middle and high school and across different science disciplines, as well as math, social studies, and English Language Arts (ELA) (or other!) classes. Crowd the Tap could be especially attractive for teams that want to explore interdisciplinary collaboration. Beyond the initial workshop, we are ready to support teachers into the school year

Although the Crowd the Tap project is well established nationally at the level of community action, it is just now beginning to be used in schools. We are excited to work with this initial teacher cohort to co-create lessons that could be used by more teachers and schools who want to implement this community-based learning experience.

Other Partners

Schoodic Institute is working with several partners to bring Crowd the Tap to schools in Maine. A key partner is North Carolina State University, where the Crowd the Tap program began. The MDI Biological Laboratory is also a partner. Teachers involved in the MDIBL “Data to Action” project, which looks at arsenic contamination in well water, will be able to connect Crowd the Tap to that work.

Registering for the Workshop

Schoodic Institute will offer a series of three ninety-minute virtual workshops at 1 PM each day on August 11-13 to introduce teachers to Crowd the Tap. The goal of the workshops is to form small teams of teachers who will work together, with Schoodic Institute’s support, to begin using Crowd the Tap with students this fall.

- Before the workshops, teachers who pre-register early for the Crowd the Tap series will receive a water quality test kit and instructions about testing water and about how to explore their home water system.
- During the first session, we will introduce the Crowd the Tap program and break into groups to explore how teachers can use it.
- In the second session, participants will use Tuva to look at the kinds of questions students will be able to explore with the data they have gathered.
- In the third and final session, we will plan for continuing work together in August and September as teachers integrate Crowd the Tap into their curriculum.

To register for the workshops (registration is required), go to the [workshop page](#) at [Community Learning for ME](#). As noted above, we will mail water test strips and sample materials to early registrants before the workshop. For more information about the workshops, contact either Bill Zoellick (bzoellick@schoodicinstitute.org) or Sarah Hooper (shooper@schoodicinstitute.org).