Discovering and Understanding Misconceptions in Fifth grade Academic Content Standards

ADAM HICKS, JENNIFER BLUE, Miami University — Misconceptions are known to be prevalent among students, especially younger students. However, misconceptions can become engrained in the scientific thought process and linger throughout a person’s life. This study examines the results on test questions regarding the physical and space science from the fifth grade Ohio Academic Content Standards (Ohio Department of Education, 2003). Tests have been developed to evaluate the Southwest Ohio Science Institutes (http://www.units.muohio.edu/sosi), which teach content knowledge to teachers. These tests have been given to fifth grade teachers who participated in the institutes and to their students. The same questions were also given to university students. Eventually, the results from all three groups will be compared to find the persistence of misconceptions. This presentation will focus on the results from the university students.

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