Each One Teach One was used at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge to teach students about various items in nature. The naturalist showed and taught Student 1 about a bird’s nest (station 1). That student taught Student 2 about the bird’s nest, and then the naturalist showed and taught Student 2 about a caterpillar (station 2). Student 3 learned about the bird’s nest from Student 1, the caterpillar from Student 2, and then the naturalist taught Student 3 about prairie grass (station 3). Student 1 continued to teach every student about the bird’s nest, and when all students were through, Student 1 then went to all other stations to learn from those students. Each student was able to be an expert in a specific area of nature, and all students were able to learn from each other.

This concept could be used in the classroom at the beginning of the school year, to teach students the different areas of the classroom and the expectations in each of those areas. It could also be used as a review of concepts in science or social studies. If you have fewer concepts than the number of students in your classroom, simply group the students and have them “team teach”. It is helpful to have two adults available during this activity: one to initially instruct each student/group and the other to monitor the accuracy of the information being given by the students. Students love being the teacher - you will be amazed by the high level of student engagement you see during this activity!