

**Title of Session:** ENC Focus: Exploring weekly topics for Math and Science teachers

**Moderator:** Gail Hoskins

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Room: After School Online

**SusanR:** Gail is our moderator for this session. Do give her your fullest attention!!!

**GailH:** My name is Gail and this is the room for the K-12 math and science ENC Focus event.

**GailH:** I hope all of you have had a chance to read the 10 steps for a Tapped In successful chat.

**GailH:** We will be practicing those ideas today in this session.

**GailH:** I am going to speak for a few minutes and I ask for your attention.

**GailH:** Then I am going to stop and ask about questions.

**GailH:** I am Gail Hoskins. I am Senior Outreach Coordinator at Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC). I am responsible for the conference presence (presentations and exhibits) and for training.

**GailH:** I have been with ENC since it began in 1992. Before then I was a high school math teacher and a K-12 math coordinator. I welcome email at <mailto:ghoskins@enc.org>

**GailH:** The Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC) is U.S. Department of Education funded. We are a K-12 math and science teacher center. All ENC resources and services are free. Print products can only be mailed within the U.S. Since ENC began, almost twelve years ago, we have distributed almost 8.5 million print and cd-rom products. Our homepage is <http://www.enc.org> and we get over two million page views per month.

**GailH:** I have paused for a moment to let you read. I am going to speak a bit more now.

**GailH:** One part of our site is ENC Focus (where we feature our weekly online topic <http://www.enc.org/features/focus> - which is totally archived). That is what we will look at today.

**GailH:** You are doing a wonderful job of following the 10 steps. I am now going to proceed.

**GailH:** I'm going to display the url of the ENC Focus area again. Please click on that blue url .

**GailH:** <http://www.enc.org/features/focus>

**GailH:** On both the ENC home page and on the Focus page you'll see THIS week's issue of ENC Focus very prominently displayed. That is the Graphic Organizers for Science. Each Thursday we feature a new focus (and all of them are always available in the archive of past issues - which you can see in the left navigation bar under ENC Focus. So tomorrow (a Thursday), there will be a different Focus featured when you return to ENC Online.

**DianaRoble:** good information

**GailH:** Each issue tackles a new topic for math and science teachers. You can read teacher-written articles, and see what experts in the field are saying, and find professional development and classroom resources. A real strength of this is how you can find a topic that really matches YOU (and don't have to settle for a one-size-fits-all approach). Once you've selected your Focus, you can explore a few bite-sized chunks on that topic.

**ConnieA:** This seems like a very useful site

**GailH:** We are going to do a small group activity in just a moment.

**DianaRoble:** it looks like it will be a great resource

**GailH:** Before we do that, I am going to show you what you'll be looking for.

**GailH:** Please watch and listen for just a bit more (then we'll be more active!).

**GailH:** I am going to name some of the Focus topics that we might choose to visit today. I ask for now that you do NOT click on the blue url. (They'll all be in the transcript that you get at the end of this session.) My purpose now is to show you the variety of topics, and I figured it would be nice to make it easy for you to get to the one dearest to your interest later. I will now name some of the ENC Focus topics available.

**GailH:** so just read and do NOT click on them now, please.

**GailH:** Among the ones we may visit today are Classroom Ideas for Elementary Math  
<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/ideaselmath/>

**GailH:** And Classroom Ideas for Middle School Math  
<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/ideasmmath/>

**GailH:** And Classroom Ideas for High School Math  
<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/ideashsmath/>

**GailH:** And Picturebooks for K-4 Science  
<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/sciencepicturebooks/>

**GailH:** and some more now...

**GailH:** Others that we might visit include Helping Parents of Young Science  
<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/scienceparents/>

**GailH:** And Connected Kids: Using the Internet to Teach PreK-2 Mathematics  
<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/youngmath/>

**GailH:** and this last batch

**GailH:** And Webquests as Powerful Teaching Tools for Math and Science  
<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/webquests/>

**GailH:** And Misconceptions in Science  
<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/misconceptions/>

**GailH:** And Literature in High School Math  
<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/mathlit/>

**GailH:** Do you see that there are lots of topics? and hopefully one that you could find useful? Or lots that you can use!

**DianaRoble:** yes there are many options to choose from

**GailH:** I am going to ask that we all look at one together before we do an activity. I am going to tell you the name of an issue of Focus and provide the (blue url) link for you to click on. But once there, I want to direct your attention to the right side of the page and the little navigation bar where you will see the three to six parts of that particular Focus.

**GailH:** Notice I said the navigation on the RIGHT, right?

**GailH:** For my example please click on the blue url and go to this Focus that addresses algebra at the K-5 grade level. There is a clever little title for the whole issue. When you look at <http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/k5algebra/> notice that title <so you can tell me in just a moment> and then pick ONE of the articles on the RIGHT (like Students Discover the Magic of Algebra) and follow the link there to quickly scroll/scan that article. Then return to this chat window. (My purpose here is not for you to absorb the content of the article – just for us to practice looking at an individual issue of Focus.)

**GailH:** Would someone tell us what the "clever" title of that Focus is?

**BradGst58:** The x's and wh"y"s

**GailH:** Thanks.

**GailH:** If you couldn't FIND the articles on the right - like students discover the magic of algebra, please say Help. otherwise remain silent, please.

**JenniferKG:** Katie etc.-check Take it to the classroom, there's a book about family math

**GailH** likes participation and is making the best of a large group, which is exciting.

**GailH:** I would like to create small groups briefly.

**GailH:** They will be based on your month of birth.

**GailH:** When you go to your assigned issue of Focus, you will have five minutes to explore. Five minutes is really a fairly long time in an online situation. I am setting my timer and I will not go "forward" until it rings. (I will help folks and answer questions, so you'll see the chat window scroll – and everything that is said will be in the transcript. What I am asking you to do is to scan those links that you'll see on the RIGHT in that little navigation bar for the issue of Focus. When we regroup in five minutes I would like volunteers to comment about what they saw and its usefulness for themselves or teachers at that grade / discipline level.

**GailH:** Once we are all ready, then I will give the group assignments.

**GailH:** Are we OK to do this? If you have QUESTIONS or mean NO, then please answer now.

**GailH:** Afterwards, you will share. I will assign a very specific place depending on your birthday.

**ConnieA:** okay

**GailH:** So in a moment, when I display the assignment, you go there and have five minutes in that little area.

**GailH:** If your birth month is Jan or Feb, please look at this

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/ideasmmath/>

**GailH:** If your birth month is Mar or Apr, please look at this

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/sciencepicturebooks/>

**GailH:** If your birth month is May or June, please look at this

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/webquests/>

**GailH:** If your birth month is July or Aug, please look at this

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/misconceptions/>

**GailH:** If your birth month is Sept or Oct, please look at this

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/mathlit/>

**GailH:** If your number is Nov or Dec, please look at this

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/midgeometry/>

**GailH:** The five minutes is beginning. I will answer questions or help folks here who need some more explanation.

**GailH:** Anyone having trouble?

**GailH:** If you don't like where you were assigned try this instead

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/webeval/>

**GailH** is ready to help if anyone need her.

**ButhainaA:** Where do I look on the url of the birth month, please?

**GailH:** Look over to the left and the four or five sections there.

**GailH:** What is your month Buthaina?

**ButhainaA:** October

**GailH:** Briana If your birth month is Sept or Oct, please look at this <http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/mathlit/>

**MegBr:** My birth month is June

**GailH:** Briana, do you things like using picturebooks over on the right? If so, look at that or a similar article.

**GailH:** Meg, for June

**GailH:** If your birth month is May or June, please look at this <http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/webquests/>

**MegBr:** Thanks

**ButhainaA:** Shall go to Lessons & Activities, Gail?

**GailH:** The categories on the right -- I believe Lessons and Activities is on the left. I will help in a moment.

**GailH:** The five minutes is up.

**DianaRoble:** I'm back the variety of books are very interesting because students can learn through different books. Using different books will help students to see concepts differently.

**GailH:** You guys are being WONDERFUL practicers of the 10 steps. I do SO appreciate that.

**GailH:** In a moment (not immediately after I say this) I would like volunteers to comment about what they saw and its usefulness for themselves or teachers at that grade / discipline level.

**ChrisCGst61:** the dice game article was really interesting, it took me some time to get a solution

**GailH:** Because you can all get the transcript, and then know the url that goes with the months, we'll report out in a way that lets this be useful afterwards.

**GailH:** Chris, what is your month?

**GailH:** Chris mentioned dice game. Which months saw the dice game?

**ChrisCGst61:** Jan/Feb

**DianaRoble:** Ok I liked the variety of textbooks that can be used for one topic and the idea of having a list of these books I can use for future reference.

**ConnieA:** I did the Jan/Feb. The site I visited was great because it has lots of good information that I feel will be very useful for my future classroom. I liked the Petal Around the Rose: Building Positive Attitudes.

**BenGst57:** As an August Birthee, I looked at the Misconceptions in Science part

**SusanR:** Like the recommended K to 2 picture books and how they can be integrated into numerous subject areas

**GailH:** Those who looked at the url that was assigned for Jan and Feb - did you see a dice game. It is in the middle school math and is called petals around the rose.

**GregoryS:** I enjoyed petals

**ConnieA:** I did

**GailH:** OK, for the May-June group, what did you like?

**ConnieA:** Looks like a very interesting activity.

**MegBr:** I liked the easy was the articles were references and obtainable

**CindyWC:** I can't wait to try look at it

**GailH:** OK, comments are now in order, but please "say" your month in your comment so others can know where to look later using the transcript.

**SheriG:** July/Aug-The common misconceptions in science was interesting. Many teachers teach these misconceptions every day. It shows you how to question and find answers.

**CorinneW:** What age range is this targeted at please (sorry, I am a latecomer)

**GregoryS:** Feb.

**DianaRoble:** I went and looked at some lesson about computation and how to get students interested in math

**EdithR:** I think it gives many useful resources for the use of Webquests

**MRobertGst60:** I looked at the May article and took a view at the tides web site; I thought it was informative but it would be hard to make that a central theme in a biology class

**MegBr:** June/ was for past issues - many articles are obtainable from the past issue

**BrittGst25:** Nov/Dec: I loved the integration of art and math

**GailH:** Connie, ENC is K-12 math & science, but the parts of it may be very grade specific or discipline specific.

**SusanSi:** Nov/Dec printable lesson plans & up- to- date research for fractals at the el. level

**BradgGst58:** Sep/Oct I had never really thought of using stories and literature in math classes. It makes sense in that reading a story about a math topic will help connect the students to that topic.

**EdithR:** June/July The activities are interesting and creative

**DougMai:** I looked at the picture books for high school as another way to introduce topics to them. Sept

**GailH:** The Literature in High School Math

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/archive/mathlit/> is one that BJ used as the basis for an event that she did on Tapped In last November in the Arts and Literacy area. I am pointing that out both because I am proud that BJ found it worthy of her use and, in particular, to illustrate how these various ENC Focus topics can be just the right size to share with others, formally or informally, in a presentation or one-on-one.

**LorraineFG:** I liked the variety of great picture books that would b helpful in teaching science concepts.

**ConnieA:** I see what you mean.

**JessiefGst44:** Mar-Apr, I found the article about Walter Wick's photography and illustrations very useful for elementary or even middle level students

**GeorgeH:** "Finally: A mathematical Enigma" Liked the idea for a project

**CindyWC:** Nov/Dec. I liked the curriculum outlines and the printable lesson plans, too.

**LeighAnGst54:** Mar/Apr - I enjoyed the idea of integrating picture books for science into the classroom. The site was designed for elementary educators, however I think this resource can be useful at higher grades as well if used appropriately.

**MegBr:** Inter relating of material is very important to help the students learn the importance of the material being taught

**DavidZ:** Nov/Dec --- a variety of articles, printable lesson plans, current research, easy access

**EdithR:** June/July It seems like they are related to real world events so it might be more interesting to students

**SusanR:** March/April..Like the recommended K to 2 picture books and how they can be integrated into numerous subject areas...quality books..with related websites to extend and enhance the learning

**BrittGst25:** Nov/Dec: helpful links for the articles looked

**JeffC:** Sep/Oct Excellent all around. Linking literature to high school math... the Animal Farm percentages, Sherlock Holmes (very thorough lessons... aligned to standards, etc.).

**ConnieA:** Looks like everyone found some interesting sites.

**DianaRoble:** links to a variety of websites and lesson plans.

**RitaC:** January: The Petals around the Rose game is very intriguing, and somewhat frustrating.

**GailH** waits for the conversation to slow down and will THEN ask another question.

**GailH:** **RitaC**, the answer to the Petals game IS in the article, just not real obvious.

**GailH:** If you have more to say about what you saw, please continue now.

**ShereeH:** Nov/Dec-the article divided activities into categories: hands-on, interactive, applied and artistic - to cover all the learning styles of middle schoolers.

**SusanSi:** lots of links

**GailH** would now like to continue to another question.

**EdithR:** many resources

**BrittGst25:** I agree with Sheree- it was a good way to tap into all different learning styles

**GeorgeH:** Are the books from the articles easy to find?

**DougMai:** I liked the cover page and its reference that elementary students be exposed to algebra. That should start to help us in the high school!

**ButhainaA:** Wow, the projects for science students are fabulous..thanks, Gail

**GailH:** May I have your attention (and silence is a yes) so I can go on now?

**LeeAM:** printable lesson plans were great

**ChrisCGst61:** read the solution to petals then go back and look at the dice problems, it seems so easy

**GailH:** Yes George, they are.

**DianaRoble:** also the variety of links to the different websites make it very accessible

**GailH:** I am going to ask a question now, but I am asking that there be wait and think time before we respond.

**RitaC:** Visit the Classroom Ideas for Middle School Math site. The first two activities are not geared to elementary students, but the game can be

**GailH:** I am going to begin saying things about the question.

**GailH:** But think silently (or at least let your fingers be silent for a moment).

**GailH:** We have talked about what the various issues of ENC Focus contain and how they are stuff that we as teachers can use.

**GailH:** I'd like to turn our attention to if and how we can share them with other teachers.

**DianaRoble:** ok

**GailH:** There is often one-on-one sharing.

**GregoryS:** ok

**GailH** waits for everyone's attention for a moment.

**ButhainaA:** sure

**GailH:** I am not saying that every teacher is going to do a presentation at a state or local meeting of math or science or elementary teachers or whatever.

**GailH:** But I am asking for your ideas on how you think you (or someone like you) might USE this to help another teacher.

**ErinDa:** just give them the name of the site

**GailH:** Help in the sense of sharing - not help in the sense of fixing something that is bad or broken.

**DianaRoble:** e-mail can also be possible

**GailH:** OK -- go for it? How?

**GeorgeH:** get Tapped In

**ButhainaA:** Recommend an activity , the URL of the site

**KathleenEH:** offer info during one of our study groups

**MegBr:** Research an area of need for the other teacher and give them a printed article with suggestions

**ScottieGst56:** Look at the site together to discuss new ways to present old material

**ButhainaA:** or show her/him results or outcome from students' feedback on an activity

**EdithR:** recommend the site as a resource

**GregoryS:** invite a teacher into ur class when teaching a lesson

**JeffC:** I will add this to the list of resources in both the Math and

**MegBr:** Often when in need you need to be given the answer you often feel overwhelmed

**JeffC:** Science Resource groups here

**EdithR:** get ideas for activities

**EdithR:** or games

**SheriG:** Offer the site to a principal or mentor that has access to teachers in need.

**LeighAnGst54:** You could incorporate some of the information/activities you learned from the website in a team development meeting or a staff meeting.

**DavidZ:** design lessons with other teachers "begin with the end in mind."

**GregoryS:** lol

**DougMai:** Get a great new introduction to a new topic

**BenGst57:** debunking misconceptions in science is a fun way to get students to learn!

**EdithR:** I agree sharing it at staff meetings may be effective

**MRobertGst60:** the site has valuable jumping off points so a printed list of certain subjects at the site would allow a small conference beginning conversation material

**DianaRoble:** in meetings a lot can be shared

**ButhainaA:** I can also add a link to ENC on my homepage and invite teachers to use it.

**EdithR:** that's a good idea also

**GailH:** I am tremendously impressed with your ideas. And I welcome you to share ideas or questions with me at <mailto:ghoskins@enc.org> anytime. Part of my JOB here at ENC is to provide assistance to people doing exactly what some of you have suggested.

**DianaRoble:** Buthaina has a great idea I agree

**GailH:** We will not be looking at it now, but I am sharing another part of our site here that you can explore later.

**ButhainaA:** Add a bookmark to my yahoo group and invite students and teachers to use

**GailH:** . o O ( more great ideas! )

**GailH:** Another part of our site is our Classroom Calendar (entries to supplement K-12 math and science lessons) <http://www.enc.org/features/calendar/> -- where the lessons certainly don't have to be used on the associated dates. The list sorted by category at <http://www.enc.org/features/calendar/category/> is particularly helpful.

**ButhainaA:** thanks, Diana

**RitaC:** Share or investigate site at grade level meetings within your building

**SusanR:** I will be featuring K to 2 Science Picture Books in my Great Resources session here at TI

**MegBr:** I'm excited about all the internet site given in this session

**DianaRoble:** thanks for the interesting website Gail

**GailH:** There are many other parts of ENC Online. Once you get the transcript to this session you may want to look at a sample ENC Update

<http://www.enc.org/features/focus/updates/> and see our daily Education Headlines

<http://www.enc.org/educationheadlines/> . Those are both electronic services you may choose to select if you register at <http://www.enc.org/register/> with ENC.

**ButhainaA:** thanks Gail for the email address.

**DianaRoble:** I am going to do a lot of exploring myself to see what I can use the future

**JeffC:** The Digital Dozen is a must subscribe imho

**WexGst4** agrees

**GailH:** Yes, Digital Dozen is 9 years old. Nine years times...

**ConnieA:** Thanks for the websties Gail they seem useful.

**GailH:** 12 months a year times...

**GailH:** 12 sites a month.

**GailH:** makes for a lot of good stuff.

**GailH:** May I THANK each of you for your wonderful participation. A group of 64 is fun and scary and I hope you have found this model of presenting OK.

**ChrisCGst61:** thanks for your patience Gail

**MegBr:** Thanks for the information

**SusanR:** An inspiring session, Gail

**SheriG:** Thanks for the great information.

**GailH** is glad that you came!

**ConnieA:** Thanks for all the great sites and the information Gail

**DavidZ:** thanks

**WexGst4** applauds Gail's presentation

**CindyWC:** Thanks for the helpful information and websites, Gail

**DougMai:** Wonderful presentation, Gail! Thanks!

**GregoryS:** props Gail

**GailH** hopes that you will use ENC Online and find it helpful in your work.

**ButhainaA:** I will definitely use it with my freshmen students, in Fall 2004, Gail..It is a great resource for my ESP, English for Science class.