

**Title of Session:** e-Toys Open House

**Moderator:** Randall Caton

**Title of File:** 20061120etoys

**Date:** November 20, 2006

Room: eToys Group (K-12)

**RandallCa:** Leontyne, what can I tell you about etoys.

**LeontyneA:** what is it?

**RandallCa:** It is a free, multimedia authoring environment where young learners can simulate almost anything.

**RandallCa:** Have you tried downloading Squeak?

**LeontyneA:** how can I use it in 8th grade science?

**LeontyneA:** yes. I did

**SharonWB:** Randy ... Leontyne may want to see some of the challenges you've created for NASA CONNECT

**SharonWB:** Leontyne ... do you teach Earth or Physical science?

**RandallCa:** You can have your students model motion, forces and energy or you can use some of the projects I have created.

**LeontyneA:** I teach a little of Earth, Physical and Life science

**RandallCa:** I have created several projects for middle school related to our NASA CONNECT programs.

**LeontyneA:** right now we are moving from physical science into earth science.

**LeontyneA:** can I see some of your projects?

**RandallCa:** First you need to install Squeak on your computer.

**LeontyneA:** I did

**SharonWB:** Randy ... what about the Extrasolar Challenge

**RandallCa:** Then you can try some of the links in the lower right pane. Just click them.

**RandallCa:** Leontyne, did you try either of the two links?

**DesiraeSt** joined the room.

**BjB:** welcome, Desirae!

**SharonWB:** Hello Desirae!

**DesiraeSt:** thank u

**BjB:** Randy, Desirae is a student

**RandallCa:** Has everyone installed etoys following the link in the upper left pane?

**BjB:** Desirae, can you tell us what grade you are in?

**SharonWB:** I have.

**DesiraeSt:** 7

**DavidWe** hasn't

**LeontyneA:** yes, I'm looking at launch

**DavidWe** waves to Desirae

**SharonWB:** Desirae, have you downloaded Squeak to your computer?

**RandallCa:** Leontyne, good. There is a book you can read on the right by clicking the arrows.

**DesiraeSt:** I have to go in 5 I still have homework so when do u guys have this

**DesiraeSt:** no I haven't downloaded it

**SharonWB:** When you have time, go to [www.squeakland.org](http://www.squeakland.org) and download the program

**DavidWe:** Good luck with your homework, Desirae

**RandallCa:** Desirae, It is very important to do your homework.

**BjB:** If you don't have time to stay, Desirae, come back to this room and explore the stuff here later.

**BjB:** you could tell your teacher about what's here

**SharonWB:** and then ... when you have time go to <http://connect.larc.nasa.gov/squeak.html> and you'll find lots of Squeak programs that you can run

**DesiraeSt:** k

**SharonWB:** and then teach your teacher how to use Squeak

**DesiraeSt:** I think she already knows

**BjB:** if she has any questions, she can come here too...

**DesiraeSt:** how old r u guys and girls

**BjB:** or email Randy or Sharon

**DesiraeSt:** k

**DavidWe:** Way past high school, Desirae

**BjB .** o O ( we're old, Desirae )

**DesiraeSt:** wow

**RandallCa:** Desirae, if your teacher knows have your teacher show you how to use Squeak.

**DesiraeSt:** g2g

**DavidWe:** I downloaded Squeak and it started up an application, but I may not have installed the plugin

**DesiraeSt** left the room (signed off).

**DavidWe:** Do I need to restart my browser?

**DavidWe .** o O ( Safari )

**DavidWe** thought he remembered that Squeak derived from Smalltalk

**LeontyneA:** I looked at some of the samples. How do I use squeak?

**SharonWB:** Leontyne, Randy has created more web challenges that you can find at <http://connect.larc.nasa.gov/squeak.html>

**SharonWB:** You can use these challenges to help your students understand a variety of science topics

**LeontyneA:** I'll have to take a look at them!

**SharonWB:** I especially like the Sundial challenge

**SharonWB:** and Extrsolar Challenge

**RandallCa:** David, Squeak runs with any browser.

**SharonWB:** Leontyne ... what is your next topic in science?

**LeontyneA:** we will be going over cycles.

**LeontyneA:** carbon, nitrogen, and water

**SharonWB:** Leontyne ... did you see the Laser challenge?

**LeontyneA:** I think so, was that the one with the aerosols?

**SharonWB:** Yes ...

**LeontyneA:** I like it. I will come back later to read the instructions.

**SharonWB:** Once you and your students understand how Squeak works

**SharonWB:** you can create your own challenges

**SharonWB:** and they can create their own challenges

**SharonWB:** Leontyne ... try this Squeak challenge ...

<http://www.squeakland.org/project.jsp?> <http://www.pcs.cnu.edu/~rcaton/graph.009.pr>

**LeontyneA:** which one was that? I was looking at the introduction to etoys

**RandallCa:** Leontyne, you could have your earth science students build a model of various processes, like rock weathering, once they know etoys.

**LeontyneA:** I think that I like that idea

**RandallCa:** Student have done some very nice environmental simulations and at least one is at the Squeakland.org site.

**SharonWB:** Leontyne ... I just went to [www.squeakland.org](http://www.squeakland.org) and found a great water cycle. Go to ..

**SharonWB:**

<http://squeakland.org/project.jsp?http://www.taskilu.ca/Squeak/How%20WATER%20CYCLE%20works!.002.pr>

**SharonWB:** Did you find the water cycle, Leontyne?

**LeontyneA:** yes

**DavidWe:** What's the advantage of Squeak over something like FLASH?

**SharonWB:** Your students could create this on their own, too.

**RandallCa:** David, in etoys the students can have full access to authoring and create their own projects.

**DavidWe:** Isn't that true of something like FLASH - granted, it costs more

**RandallCa:** It is a much better learning experience. Flash is more like a game.

**SharonWB:** Isn't etoys easier?

**SharonWB:** and more intuitive?

**RandallCa:** etoys is designed so 10 year olds can create, Flash isn't.

**DavidWe** nods

**DavidWe** knows some pretty bright 10 year olds

**SharonWB:** Digital natives ...

**RandallCa:** 10 year olds would have a hard time creating in Flash.

**RandallCa:** etoys is also open source and there is a global community of learners using etoys.

**DavidWe:** That's great

**DavidWe:** My guess is there is a global community of FLASH users, too

**RandallCa:** Squeak will be on the OLPC.

**DavidWe:** My niece (now 15) did this in 30 minutes - with some help from her uncle:

**DavidWe:** <http://www.eskimo.com/~wex/1+1.swf>

**RandallCa:** The global community in Squeak is learners, in Flash I don't know.

**DavidWe** agrees

**DavidWe:** Just asking questions

**DavidWe:** Both are multi-media authoring tools, right?

**RandallCa:** I find the people in open source movements very creative and dedicated and extremely intelligent and capable.

**DavidWe** smiles

**SharonWB:** Leontyne ... do you have a Squeak project up right now?

**LeontyneA:** Not at the moment, I was just looking at the water cycle one.

**RandallCa:** Yes both are multimedia, but Squeak was designed by Alan Kay to be a learning and thinking environment.

**SharonWB:** Do you see the "Navigator" tab at the bottom?

**LeontyneA:** it's much better than the paper wheels some of the other classes are doing

**DavidWe:** Have teachers using Squeak presented at conferences like NECC?

**LeontyneA:** yes, I saw it

**RandallCa:** Yes.

**DavidWe:** Great

**SharonWB:** Randy ... can you talk Leontyne through how to use the Navigator tab?

**RandallCa:** Yes, what project do you have open?

**SharonWB:** she's at the water cycle from the home page

**RandallCa:** Let me go there too.

**SharonWB:** Leontyne ... right click on the Navigator tab

**LeontyneA:** it's open

**RandallCa:** Leontyne, have you clicked the navigator tab?

**LeontyneA:** yes

**RandallCa:** Actually, left click.

**SharonWB:** sorry

**RandallCa:** Now you see some options. Click the paint brush.

**LeontyneA:** yes

**RandallCa:** Click it.

**LeontyneA:** okay

**RandallCa:** Sharon, actually right and left click do the same thing on navigator.

**RandallCa:** You should see painting tools.

**RandallCa:** In the upper right.

**LeontyneA:** okay

**RandallCa:** try drawing with them

**RandallCa:** then click keep to save your drawing.

**RandallCa:** Leontyne, did you save a drawing yet?

**LeontyneA:** not yet. I'm a terrible artist

**RandallCa:** While Leontyne is running Squeak over the Internet, it can also be run locally on your computer. And it looks and works bit-identically on any platform.

**RandallCa:** The OLPC project will use Linux and Squeak works fine there.

**DavidWe:** cool

**RandallCa:** Leontyne, draw something simple and keep it and then I can show you more.

**RandallCa:** Tell me when you have a drawing.

**LeontyneA:** So, students can use the paint tools to create their own projects

**RandallCa:** Yes, but that is just the very beginning.

**RandallCa:** Do you have a drawing?

**SharonWB:** Randy ... I just went to your Northern Lights challenge and you can see a script there.

**LeontyneA:** Okay.

**SharonWB:** Do you think that would be a good thing to show Leontyne?

**LeontyneA:** I have a star.

**RandallCa:** I want to show Leontyne how to make her drawing perform.

**RandallCa:** Leontyne, are you on a Mac or PC?

**LeontyneA:** pc

**BjB .** o O ( our next dancing with the stars? )

**RandallCa:** Okay. Now hold down the alt key and click on your star.

**LeontyneA:** okay

**RandallCa:** You will see a halo of circles around the star. Click the blue one on the left.

**RandallCa:** That is a viewer.

**LeontyneA:** okay

**RandallCa:** You should have a lot of stuff in the upper right.

**LeontyneA:** I see it

**RandallCa:** There is a basic category, Click on any yellow exclamation mark.

**RandallCa:** That runs a script to make your star perform.

**LeontyneA:** okay

**RandallCa:** Now kids can write a script by pulling out graphical tiles. Click the forward by tile and pull it out onto the workspace.

**RandallCa:** Were you able to drag it out?

**LeontyneA:** yes, but it's not doing anything.

**RandallCa:** If you where, you now have a script editor.

**RandallCa:** Click the clock.

**RandallCa:** Click the clock again to stop.

**RandallCa:** Now grab the "turn by" tile and pull it onto the script editor below the "forward by" tile.

**RandallCa:** Do you have a clock?

**LeontyneA:** no

**LeontyneA:** I'll keep playing with it and I'll email you if I have questions.

**LeontyneA:** thanks for the help

**RandallCa** left the room (signed off).

**SharonWB:** Leontyne ... before you go ... I found something about the Carbon Cycle that you may like

**SharonWB:** Go to ... <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Library/CarbonCycle/>

**SharonWB:** It may be something you could use with your students.

**RandallCa:** I am back, but can't see the last remarks.

**LeontyneA:** thanks!

**LeontyneA:** see you later!

**DavidWe:** I'd like to play with Squeak some and explore some math concepts - I'm not a classroom teacher but a teacher educator

**DavidWe:** One project about creating a situation and then being able to graph it dynamically seems very interesting

**BjB:** Randy, thanks for setting this resource room up and for leading this discussion.

**DavidWe:** Yes, Randy. Thanks

**RandallCa:** David, Alan Kay developed etoys so students could learn mathematics so it might be very useful to you.

**DavidWe:** Yes...I know a bit about Alan Kay

**DavidWe** . o O ( and Seymour Papert )

**DavidWe** . o O ( LOGO )

**DavidWe:** Do you know about the Math Forum - [www.mathforum.org](http://www.mathforum.org) - big web site for math education?

**RandallCa:** No, but I will check in out.

**SharonWB:** Randy, BJ, and David ... I'm going to sign off.

**DavidWe:** Big web site started with NSF funds in 1993

**SharonWB:** Good talking with all of you.

**DavidWe** waves to Sharon

**BjB:** thanks for all your help, Sharon

**SharonWB:** Good night!

**DavidWe:** Bye

**BjB** waves goodnight

**SharonWB:** Randy ... I'll see you tomorrow.

**RandallCa:** Goodnight.

**SharonWB:** Bye.

**SharonWB** left the room (signed off).

**RandallCa:** Mathforum looks interesting.

**DavidWe:** Randy, would you be interested in speaking about Squeak in the context of my math education and technology discussion?

**DavidWe:** It's VERY interesting

**DavidWe** smiles

**RandallCa:** Certainly, do you mean chatting?

**DavidWe:** We met the Tapped In folks at the beginning of the TI project as we were both NSF-supported projects

**DavidWe:** I lead a discussion - in fact, it is tomorrow at 7:30pm - but I'm not asking you to do it tomorrow

**DavidWe:** It's the 3rd Tuesday of each month

**DavidWe:** . o O ( at 7:30pm )

**RandallCa:** As you can see I'm a very slow typist, but would be glad to join.

**DavidWe:** It would be helpful to demonstrate some math activities

**DavidWe:** Well, I would be happy to type faster, but you know a lot more about Squeak than I do

**BjB:** David, you might want to ask Randy to invite you to join the group

**DavidWe:** If you could send me some references (web pages) for math activities in Squeak, I would review them

**RandallCa:** Could everyone have Squeak installed, then I could make a list of URLs.

**BjB:** and put a passageway to this room from your mathedtech room

**DavidWe:** Yes, we could make that happen, hopefully, ahead of time

**DavidWe:** I could make an announcement a couple of days before - no doubt, we'll get last minute stragglers, but that always happens

**DavidWe:** Thank you

**BjB:** thanks again, Randy.