

**Title of Session:** Social Studies Forum - Baseball

**Moderator:** Michael Hutchison

**Title of File:** 20041027ssfbaseball

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Room: After School Online Room

**MichaelH:** Kristin, just remember the watchword this evening is ABC....

**KristinDP:** ok

**MichaelH:** . o O ( Anybody But Cardinals )

**MichaelH:** waves to Shannan

**KatherinBr:** joined the room.

**MichaelH:** I'd like to see the Sox win, just to see them win their first since.... anyone know what year?

**MichaelH:** waves to Katherin

**KristinDP:** 1918

**MichaelH:** yep... who was president then?

**MichaelH:** listens as the pages rustle in everyone's US History books

**KristinDP:** pass

**MichaelH:** nope, that's not it

**BJ:** groans

**MichaelH:** Darryl, Soo... any guesses?

**DarrylM:** Woody Wilson

**MichaelH:** yep

**SooK:** Wilson

**MichaelH:** ok... now, what's the Red Sox curse?

**SooK:** sorry, don't know much about sports

**KatherinBr:** the curse of Babe Ruth, traded him to Yankees

**MichaelH:** oh, this transcends sports, Soo

**ShannanM:** ha Thanks

**MichaelH:** well, we do know a bit about baseball

**ShannanM:** you are always there to help!

**MichaelH:** what position did Babe play when they traded him?

**KatherinBr:** To tell the truth I had to ask my husband, he is the sports trivia man.

**MichaelH:** ask him about what position did the Babe play?

**KatherinBr:** Perhaps the pitcher or first baseman??

**MichaelH:** which one?

**ShannanM:** pitcher

**KristinDP:** first base

**MichaelH:** yep

**MichaelH:** pitcher

**ShannanM:** darn

**MichaelH:** hard to believe someone who could hit the ball like that would be a pitcher

**ShannanM:** ha true

**KristinDP:** no kidding

**MichaelH:** today, he wouldn't touch the bat because of the DH rule

**KatherinBr:** That is the position he started as I believe.

**MichaelH:** ok, one more question before we start the forum tonight... a tough trivia question

**MichaelH:** why did Babe have the jersey number he did?

**MichaelH:** . o O ( when he played for the Yankees... )

**KristinDP:** have no idea

**MichaelH:** BTW: he was #3

**MichaelH:** anyone else with a guess?

**KatherinBr:** Baffled on this one

**SooK:** if you wait a moment I can try to find that online

**MichaelH:** BJ, maybe we better start while Soo does her search...

**BJ:** . o O ( sounds like the old man vs machine contest we had one year for the Festival, Michael. )

**MichaelH:** Welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum

**BJ:** nods. Good Idea.

**MichaelH:** oh, yeah, I remember that

**MichaelH:** since we're in the middle of those TWO great American institutions, the World Series and the presidential campaign...

**MichaelH:** tonight's topic will deal with using baseball to teach social studies...

**MichaelH:** Soo, have you found the answer yet?

**MichaelH:** smiles

**SooK:** not yet

**MichaelH:** wonders how many of his friends from U of H think Texas will go for Kerry?

**OrquideaT:** hi everyone, sorry, I am late

**DarrylM:** ha not many

**KristinDP:** haha

**OrquideaT:** politics

**MichaelH:** so you guys don't think Texas is a battlefield state?

**MichaelH:** . o O ( whoops battleground )

**DarrylM:** nooo we don't even get ads

**KatherinBr:** I think that depends on if you live in a small town or a city

**MichaelH:** waves to Orquidea

**MichaelH:** is in Indiana, and it's solidly Bush-league also

**OrquideaT:** finally

**ShannanM:** well if you live in Deer Park, you cannot even have a Kerry sign

**BJ:** PA is a swing state.

**MichaelH:** I've seen polls which have PA going either way, BJ

**BJ:** Bush was in Lancaster today

**BJ:** nods...it's really close

**MichaelH:** Isn't Kerry there this weekend (in PA)?

**KatherinBr:** Is that because your neighbors will take your sign down?

**MichaelH:** . o O ( better get back to the forum.... )

**MichaelH:** let's start this evening with introductions... who you are... where you teach... how many electoral votes you have...

**ShannanM:** yes. I have seen signs go up around town and they only last one day

**KristinDP:** I am a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston

**MichaelH** is a technology curriculum facilitator in a small school district in southwestern Indiana and has 11 electoral votes

**SooK**: I give up about the jersey

**MichaelH**: oh, Soo, here's the story...

**MichaelH**: the Yankees were the first team to ever put numbers on their jerseys.

**MichaelH**: they didn't know what to do...

**MichaelH**: so they put the numbers according to the batting order of the player...

**KatherinBr**: I am a pre-service teacher in the PUMA program at U of H, and hope to teach the first grade after I graduate in May

**MichaelH**: Babe battled #3... so...

**ShannanM**: I am a teaching fellow at UH for the HHP dept

**MichaelH** wonders why no one is telling how many electoral votes they have?

**DarrylM**: I'm Darryl and I am finishing my history cert. this semester at UH and I personally don't have any elec. votes

**MichaelH**: Darryl, your state has a bunch, though

**ShannanM**: ha

**DarrylM**: yes it does

**SooK**: I am also a student from UH in the PUMA program

**ShannanM**: how many?

**MichaelH**: Oh, forgot to mention... does everyone know how to "detach" the chat window to get more room so they can see the discussion

**KatherinBr**: I am in the Alief cluster and do not know exactly how many electoral votes Texas has

**MichaelH**: 32, I think

**ShannanM**: please remind me how

**KristinDP**: I am in the spring branch cluster

**SooK**: yes

**MichaelH**: ok, here's a question for all of you... like I haven't asked enough already

**KatherinBr**: thanks for the reminder

**OrquideaT**: well ask me

**MichaelH**: how can we utilize baseball in the social studies?

**OrquideaT**: history, Cuba, Venezuela,

**MichaelH**: Orquidea, can you expand on that?

**SooK**: talk about how sports came about

**DarrylM**: use it to show how the US has grown along side baseball

**KatherinBr**: match events in history to different world series

**OrquideaT**: well, we can start with the history of baseball, and their starts.

**MichaelH**: let's expand on ALL that...

**ShannanM**: use the teams location

**MichaelH**: Orquidea, I think you are talking about the impact of international players on baseball?

**OrquideaT**: no, just a general overview, it is hard to talk about baseball without the impact of other countries.

**MichaelH**: ok, since you guys have some ideas, let's see if you can put them together in a lesson format...

**KatherinBr:** We could talk about the "culture" that has developed around the game of baseball

**OrquideaT:** well, it would take me hours, sleepy

**MichaelH:** sometimes a teacher has to get lessons ready even if they're sleepy

**SookK:** yes because it is a whole different world for me

**OrquideaT:** good point

**MichaelH:** ok... let's see if we can come up with some ideas to help us...

**ShannanM:** If we are going to learn about the history of a city.... you can have the students pick their favorite baseball team and have them investigate that location or the history of that city

**MichaelH:** maybe I guess I should ask if there's a value in using baseball to teach about history?

**OrquideaT:** a good topic will be important player of baseball in the fifties and sixties, remember, finding Bud Mckinkey

**SookK:** I think sports is a good way to get students interested in subjects if they are motivated by sports

**ShannanM:** there is always value in cross disciplinary lessons

**MichaelH:** me too

**MichaelH:** ok, what resources would you use, then?

**ShannanM:** it keeps lessons interesting and fresh and not redundant

**MichaelH:** remember, you all are in a state with two professional baseball teams

**OrquideaT:** technology, and pictures

**MichaelH:** and the general manager of one of them was....

**OrquideaT:** the Astros, I forget

**MichaelH:** o O ( the other team's in Arlington.... )

**ShannanM:** Rangers

**ShannanM:** come on now

**MichaelH:** and the general manager of that team at one time was...

**DarrylM:** G. Wah

**OrquideaT:** names please

**MichaelH:** and his claim to fame was....

**MichaelH:** Orquidea, it was some guy named George W. Bush

**SookK:** ?

**ShannanM:** presidency

**MichaelH:** oh, I meant as GM of the Rangers

**OrquideaT:** funny

**OrquideaT:** seriously

**MichaelH:** no, it was Bush...

**OrquideaT:** left me refresh my mind

**MichaelH:** give you a hint... he traded a guy to the Chicago White Sox....

**MichaelH:** and that guy's name was...

**KatherinBr:** who?

**OrquideaT:** I know the team names, not the players

**MichaelH:** Sammy Sosa

**ShannanM:** what?!

**ShannanM:** for real?

**MichaelH:** yep... he traded Sosa to the Sox (don't ask me who for...)

**DarrylM:** O my god you are so right

**KatherinBr:** you have got to be kidding

**OrquideaT:** are you serious?

**MichaelH:** nope

**DarrylM:** hahaha

**MichaelH:** he did

**MichaelH:** he traded Sosa to the Sox, and the Sox traded him to the Cubs

**OrquideaT:** now, tell me the whole history

**MichaelH:** ok, Sosa played for the Rangers. Bush traded him (I don't know who he traded him for), to the White Sox. The White Sox traded him to the Cubs

**MichaelH:** Who knows who the Cubs will trade Sosa to...

**OrquideaT:** thanks

**MichaelH:** I want to go back to the idea about international players as well as the "migration" of teams south and west

**MichaelH:** it's hard to believe that just 50 years ago or so, the farthest west and southern team in the US was....

**MichaelH:** the St. Louis Cardinal

**MichaelH:** . o O ( Cardinals )

**OrquideaT:** to whoever plays for his service, he is little expensive

**MichaelH:** there were no Astros, no Rangers, no Braves, no Marlins, etc.

**OrquideaT:** the cardinals are in the final or the pre-liminations

**ShannanM:** the other was?

**ShannanM:** oh.... and

**MichaelH:** Well, it probably would have been the Dodgers, but they were close to still being the Brooklyn Dodgers...

**MichaelH:** I don't think the Giants had made the move yet...

**MichaelH:** let's think of some audio-visual-web resources we could use for a lesson (or lessons) on Baseball

**ShannanM:** well the students could research the teams players and where they came from

**MichaelH:** ahh... good idea...

**DarrylM:** People started moving around more and local town teams were expanding their tours to more small towns

**OrquideaT:** excellent idea

**ShannanM:** and the progress of the sport in their country

**MichaelH:** add to it that the population of the US shifted, as well

**MichaelH:** so now, you have bigger population centers in cities like Houston, Phoenix, Miami, Tampa Bay, etc.

**MichaelH:** I know you've heard of baseball... but have you heard of "Baseball"?

**ShannanM:** true.... that could lead into a discussion of the emigration of particular countries

**OrquideaT:** more money, people want to see more sport too

**DarrylM:** people in the big cities had more expendable cash than ever before

**MichaelH:** how about "Baseball"... anyone know about it?

**ShannanM:** what do you mean?

**MichaelH:** well, we're now talking about something that would be more audio-visual...

**DarrylM:** Field of dreams ?

**MichaelH:** has anyone here ever heard of a guy named Ken Burns?

**KristinDP:** no

**KelliC:** nope

**OrquideaT:** noo

**ShannanM:** no sorry

**SookK:** no

**BJ:** Yes, Michael, I have

**KatherinBr:** no idea

**MichaelH:** gosh, BJ, I hope you have

**MichaelH:** ok, how about "The Civil War", "Horatio's Drive", "Mark Twain", "Jazz", etc.

**OrquideaT:** please tell us

**ShannanM:** ok and how do they relate?

**MichaelH:** he's only the greatest documentary filmmaker of our age

**BJ** thinks someone's education is sadly lacking!

**MichaelH** checks to see if anyone watches PBS

**ShannanM** -(

**MichaelH:** hold on, a second, folks... let's do History 101 this evening

**ShannanM:** I do watch PBS!

**ShannanM:** ok

**MichaelH:** Here's just ONE of Ken's films

**MichaelH:** <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/baseball/>

**KatherinBr:** I watched the biography of Dr. Seuss last nite, but haven't seen any others

**OrquideaT:** I do watch pbs but not sport or basse

**MichaelH:** Orquidea, we're really not talking about sports here, but actually more American culture

**ShannanM:** I'm usually either watching politics or animals on PBS

**MichaelH:** oh, but if you aren't watching Ken's stuff, you are missing a wonderful opportunity to get some real American History under your belt

**DarrylM:** They show one of his docs. about once a month on our pbs station

**MichaelH:** click on the link I gave you for a second, and look at just one thing Ken has done

**ShannanM:** will do

**OrquideaT:** me too too

**MichaelH:** here's another <http://www.pbs.org/civilwar>

**KatherinBr:** ok

**SookK:** ok

**MichaelH:** go ahead, click on the link... it won't hurt (too bad)

**OrquideaT:** okey

**MichaelH** gets the plasma and bandages

**MichaelH:** anyone looking at a site yet?

**DarrylM:** ya the civil war

**MichaelH:** does that ring a bell re: a Ken Burns film?

**DarrylM:** yep

**MichaelH** . o O ( Ken Jennings won again... )

**OrquideaT:** yes Mike

**MichaelH:** ok, I wanted you to look at a baseball lesson that hit on many of the same themes we talked about this evening... here it is...

**MichaelH:** <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/baseball/teachers/lesson8.html>

**MichaelH:** take just a couple of minutes to look at this, and come back and tell me how you would use it.

**MichaelH:** I'm going to be your professor tonight...

**OrquideaT:** wonderful

**MichaelH:** Orquidea, how would you use this sort of a lesson?

**OrquideaT:** how or when

**MichaelH:** your choice... let's go with "how"

**ShannanM:** cool site.... now I will have to look for him on PBS now

**SooK:** my social studies teacher would enjoy this

**DarrylM:** as a part of a post WWII unit on the growth of the nation

**MichaelH:** Soo, this lesson is always available for you to use, or share

**DarrylM:** and the effects of new technology

**OrquideaT:** well it would depend on the circumstances, I would use in baseball season to get my students' attention, but first I would see if the stud

**MichaelH:** oh, by the way, who wrote this lesson...?

**SooK:** can you use this with elementary students (grade 1)

**OrquideaT:** yes

**MichaelH:** well, Soo, I guess the question would be how could you adapt it?

**SooK:** yes

**MichaelH:** how WOULD you adapt it? (remember, I'm the professor this evening, and you're the class :))

**SooK:** I know you would have to water it down a lot, but how much?

**MichaelH:** That would depend on the first grade class... and the first grade teacher...

**OrquideaT:** 1. by asking about anything that the students know about baseball,  
2. connecting the present with the past

**MichaelH:** you might always ask the guy who wrote the lesson if HE has any ideas....

**MichaelH:** do you know how to contact him, Soo?

**OrquideaT:** check the students knowledge first then give them a choice

**ShannanM:** And ask if we can use his lesson?

**DarrylM:** Do you have any idea mister author

**MichaelH:** well, the lesson is available, Shannan... so you don't have to ask.. but I know this guy pretty well, and he'd probably be proud you used his lesson

**MichaelH:** sure do, Darryl

**MichaelH:** here's what I would do...

**MichaelH:** get a map.

**DarrylM:** ok

**MichaelH:** work with the kids to put pushpins in the map about where the teams were and where they are now...

**ShannanM:** cool...because I like the idea!

**MichaelH:** ask the kids if they've ever been to a game

**MichaelH:** ask where they went... what they saw... who they went with...

**OrquideaT:** great idea

**MichaelH:** maybe, something like this:

**MichaelH:** <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/baseball/teachers/lesson3.html>

**MichaelH:** I know this lesson author pretty well too, but not as well as the other one

**DarrylM:** funny

**MichaelH:** oh, just a little levity to make the day go faster

**MichaelH:** I'm going to ask a silly question... how many of you have NEVER been to a major league baseball game?

**SooK:** me

**OrquideaT:** never

**MichaelH:** oh, you would love it, Soo, there's so much to see and observe

**MichaelH:** not even the Astros?

**SooK:** why pay to go see it when you can get great free seats at home? no not even the Astros

**SooK:** I know I know, it's not the same.

**MichaelH:** oh, but Soo, there's a lot of things going on... the crowds, watching the teams warm up, watching the bullpen, having a hot dog and a cold beer... watching the Astro turf grow, all sorts of things

**ShannanM:** I've been to hundreds of Astros games

**MichaelH:** I hate hot dogs, but I always have one when I go to a ballgame...

**MichaelH:** almost seems unAmerican not to do that

**SooK:** I have been to a basketball game though.

**MichaelH:** Rockets?

**ShannanM:** I even went to Chicago one season to watch them lose..... haha

**SooK:** yes

**OrquideaT:** better

**MichaelH:** you'd love a baseball game...

**SooK:** I even work for a caterer who caters to them and boy are they tall!!!

**MichaelH:** Shannan, so you've been to Wrigley?

**ShannanM:** Yeah... it was pretty cool

**MichaelH:** It is a neat place to see a game...

**ShannanM:** I've been to Turner field also

**MichaelH:** I've never been to Turner...

**MichaelH:** oh, and everyone can sing "Take Me Out To The Ballgame"...

**OrquideaT:** golf, Mike

**MichaelH:** "take me out with the crowd"

**MichaelH:** "buy me some peanuts and crackerjack"

**MichaelH:** "I don't care if I ever get back..."

**ShannanM:** It's alright.... after being in Minute Maid, it's hard to be impressed

**MichaelH:** You never got to the Dome?

**ShannanM:** I didn't get into baseball until Minute Maid was born

**MichaelH:** Cardinals just threw out Ramirez at the plate

**DarrylM:** Ah the Dome I miss it so

**MichaelH:** And of course, you know why they used artificial turf there...

**ShannanM:** No way..... nothing beats the top down.

**ShannanM:** no sunshine?

**MichaelH:** The Texans don't play at Minute Maid, do they?

**ShannanM:** No

**DarrylM:** no

**KristinDP:** no, Reliant

**OrquideaT:** yes, they had

**DarrylM:** reliant st.

**MichaelH:** wasn't sure where they played...

**OrquideaT:** are you sure?

**DarrylM:** yes Reliant

**SooK:** That's all I've been hearing about lately... sports sports sports!!!!

**MichaelH:** they seem to be on the verge... I know they aren't winning, but they're going to be a good team soon...

**SooK:** I live right across the Reliant by the way and there is so much traffic when there is a Texans game

**DarrylM:** big big field makes the dome look like an ant

**MichaelH:** is about ready to call it a night...

**ShannanM:** better than Bush and Kerry isn't it? LOL

**KristinDP:** good idea

**MichaelH:** oh, by the way... you can tell who will win the election by who wins the World Series, you know...

**ShannanM:** ok....

**ShannanM:** how's that?

**MichaelH:** ok, here's how,...

**OrquideaT:** left support the teams in general

**MichaelH:** if the National League team wins the series, then the Democratic candidate generally wins the election

**MichaelH:** if the American league team wins, then the Republican triumphs

**MichaelH:** and this year it would be very ironic if the American League wins, because....????

**ShannanM:** funny

**OrquideaT:** sound like a deal

**ShannanM:** Nader? I don't think so!

**MichaelH:** why would it be weird if the American League wins the series, based on the information I gave you?

**MichaelH:** well, I'll let you ponder on that one...

**ShannanM:** because they are going to tie? I don't know.

**MichaelH:** waves goodnight to all...

**SooK:** ...bye Michael and everyone!

**KristinDP:** good night to you

**MichaelH:** BJ, so long until next time

**BJ:** waves goodnight

**ShannanM:** Thanks Michael for the lesson plan ideas.