

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

Title of File: 20041208ssf

Date: December 8, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

MichaelH: let's go ahead and get started with tonight's session...

MichaelH: and if we have latecomers, we'll just get them up to speed as they come in
SaraGst24 joined the room.

BJB2: Sara, are you here for the social studies forum?

SaraGst24: I guess, just trying this out

MichaelH: Well, Sara, why don't you just stick around and relax a bit?

MichaelH: Welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum session

MichaelH: since tonight is our last session of 2004, we'll celebrate by having our annual "holiday gift exchange".

MichaelH: Now, don't worry if you didn't check everyone's sweater size, or if you didn't go to Wal-mart shopping tonight

BJB2 chortles

MichaelH: Links to your favorite resources, projects, and so on work just as well, so that's what we'll exchange

MichaelH: BTW: Just in case anyone DOES have money to burn, I would really like an I-POD

BJB2 rolls her eyes

MichaelH: Anyway, let's start tonight like we always do... would everyone take a moment or two and introduce themselves? Who you are, what you teach, where you are geographically located?

MichaelH is a technology curriculum facilitator in southwestern Indiana

BJB2 . o O (if you're new to Tapped in, please click on DETACH under the ACTIONS menu in the top right of this chat window)

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a ssforum groupie

IanMa: preservice science teacher at the U of Houston

MichaelH: Hey, guys, don't be afraid to speak up... BJ and I won't bite (too hard)

MelindaL: Hi, Melinda, Houston, TX. Working MEd in Art Education but just started teaching first grade and need help making social studies interesting for my 6-year olds. It's the last thing we do each day and their attention spans are gone by 2:00.

MichaelH: oh, Melinda I might have a project just for you

SaraGst24: A high school Social Studies [teacher] in Vermont

MichaelH: Sheri?

MichaelH: well, Sheri might find the keyboard in a bit.

MichaelH: Melinda, would you like to receive the first gift tonight?

MelindaL: oh goody! yes!

MichaelH: ok, well first, I need to have you tell me a bit about your kids... what are you studying re: social studies

MichaelH: and maybe a bit about state standards

MelindaL: right now we are talking about freedom....continuing on from thanksgiving and moving toward founding fathers and such.

SheriGst19: Sorry. I am just checking in to see what these discussions are like.

MichaelH: ok... anything as far as geography goes?

MelindaL: just u.s. geography, maps of the colonies, etc.

MichaelH: Are you familiar with the Iditarod race?

MelindaL: yes, and one of my kids asked yesterday if we could go to Alaska for the next field trip!

MichaelH: do you think your kids would like an online project about the race?

MelindaL: I know at least one that would! They are very interested in stories about my dog, so a lesson with dogs might work!

MichaelH: ok, I'm going to share with you a neat little project that you can sign up for right now...

MichaelH: it's free...

MichaelH: and very "teacher-friendly"

MichaelH: something you can do as you get closer to "race day"...

MelindaL: the suspense is killin' me here! pass the gift! when is race day?

MichaelH: here's the link... take a minute and look at it, and then mush right back here and I'll tell you a bit more about it.

MichaelH: <http://www.surfaquarium.com/eIDITAROD/index.htm>

MichaelH: . o O (just click on the link, and the page will open in a new browser window)

MelindaL: got it. I can tell from the barks and the snow that this would work before the holiday break!

MichaelH: Ian, don't worry, I haven't forgotten you yet...

MichaelH: well, Melinda, part of this is following the mushers in the race in the late winter, but you could get the kids interested now.

MichaelH: Walter McKenzie, who operates this project, is a great guy, and if you have questions, you can e-mail him directly and he can give you some ideas and thoughts about using this project with young children

MichaelH: tell him I suggested you e-mail him.

MelindaL: fabulous! I just read the overview. totally cool. we sent letters to Iraq and they loved hearing back from the troops (i.e. my brother) so I know they'd be interested in this! THANKS!!!!

MichaelH: sure, no problem. Walter also has another project on his site about Presidents (Since you mentioned leaders before). You'd do web pages on presidents. Feel up to that?

MelindaL: certainly. I am just wrapping up a technology course, so I now know how to do that!

MichaelH: I'll pass the link on to you for that one... you might like to do it too, or instead...

MichaelH: <http://www.surfaquarium.com/PP/index.htm>

MichaelH: Check that one out when you have some free time. It's a good one also.

MichaelH: BTW: You'd love Walter's Surfaquarium site... all sorts of stuff there. He's very big in multiple intelligences research

MichaelH: it's at <http://www.surfaquarium.com>

MelindaL: Thanks! I have so much to research over the holidays now!

MichaelH: Ok, Ian, are you ready?

MichaelH: Tell me a little about what your science interests are.... what areas are you licensed to teach, or do you want to teach?

IanMa: I am entering student teaching this semester

IanMa: I will be certified 4-8

MichaelH: Melinda, don't go too far... I have some holiday information for you too

MelindaL: fabulous, thanks!

IanMa: St. teaching 8th grade

MichaelH: ok, Ian, are you teaching life science, physical science?

IanMa: well, it's both...this semester will focus on phys.

MichaelH: remember, you're talking to a social studies teacher here

MichaelH: are you familiar with NOVA?

IanMa: I'm more interested in the life science...in TX, that's 7th grade

IanMa: NOVA, the PBS show?

MichaelH: I've got a life science site for you, too

MichaelH: yep

IanMa: k

MichaelH: ever thought about using that in your classroom?

IanMa: I haven't browsed through their site yet

IanMa: need to

IanMa: but definitely would use it

AnnGst28: I'm new here, and checking this website out. What is the purpose of this session?

MichaelH: what if I told you you could find hundreds of lessons on life science and physical science that you could match to your grade level and state standards?

MichaelH: Ann, this is the social studies forum

IanMa: that would work out nicely, I think

MichaelH: want me to show you where and how?

AnnGst28: Thanks, is there a specific topic or just open-ended discussion?

MichaelH: By the way, you don't necessarily need the PBS programming to use the lessons

MichaelH: Ann, tonight's our annual Christmas "gift exchange" (we're exchanging lesson plans, online resources, etc.)

AnnGst28: cool

MichaelH: Ian, check out <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource>

AnnGst28: I have one.

AnnGst28: Have you heard about Friends and Flags?

MichaelH listens to Ann...

MichaelH: go ahead...I haven't heard of that one

MichaelH: Ian, I'll tell you a bit about TeacherSource in a sec.

AnnGst28: There is a lady in Europe who connects classrooms around the world. The website is friendsandflags.org

MichaelH: Ann is this sort of like a collaborative classroom thing? Sort of like an e-pal relationship?

AnnGst28: I have a triangle group this year. We have partner classes in Canada and Israel

MichaelH: Is this site for any grade level?

AnnGst28: We are going to send each class a box that represents our country in January and they do the same for us. All grade levels may participate. She connects you with similar age groups. It's very interesting. The sign ups are in the spring, but there are other activities available throughout the year

AnnGst28: You can have 2, 3, or 6 classes in a group.

MichaelH: Great! Melinda, Ian, any questions about this site for Ann?

MelindaL: No. Sounds cool, though!

AnnGst28: This is my first year, but it's an exciting opportunity. Really, check out the website and see what you think.

MichaelH: Hey, Ian, are your students into sports? I got a cool science lesson if they are...

MichaelH: maybe I should say "I HAVE a cool science lesson..."

MichaelH: . o O (hope no one is a language arts teacher...)

IanMa: many

MichaelH: baseball fans?

IanMa: with Clemens, Bagwell, and Beltran, many Astros fans

MelindaL: Definitely - Go Astros!!!

IanMa: also, I'm a football/basketball ref for the Houston area....

MichaelH: ok, Ian, take a couple of minutes to check this out, and tell me what you think. This is probably more geared to middle school than elementary

MichaelH: <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/baseball/teachers/lesson4.html>

IanMa: so, they like that they can see me at varsity games on Friday nights

AnnGst28: I'm going to visit more of this site. Thanks. bye

MichaelH: ok, so this might be interesting to you as well... right?

IanMa: yes

IanMa: there have been a couple who have asked me about how the ball moves around in the air

MichaelH: now, this is just one lesson on a PBS site you can use.

BJB2: a site for high school students that might be cross curricular is

<http://www.timeproject.org/>

IanMa: so I've helped them see through a gizmo from explorelearning.com

BJB2: Bee Dieu, a member of Tapped in is very active in This Is My Time Project

MichaelH: BJ, is this an offshoot of the "Blanket the World With Peace Project" or something different?

BJB2: something completely unrelated to the Peace Blanket

MichaelH: ok... I hadn't seen this mentioned in MEET ME, and I didn't know if it was the same thing, or related to it

BJB2: There may be an archived script that Bee did on the our time project

BJB2: . o O (www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

MichaelH: Ian, if you go to the TeacherSource site (<http://www.pbs.org/teachersource>), you can search for science projects for your grade level and subject area (physics, chem, life science, etc.)

IanMa: alright

BJB2 . o O (you might want to invite her as a guest for a future ssf)

MichaelH: BTW: I promised you a neat life science site, so here it is...

MichaelH . o O (good idea, BJ)

MichaelH: <http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/frog/home.html> is a good virtual frog dissection site

IanMa: ah

IanMa: much of the whole dissection process done by teachers is simply the gross out factor....this would help the kids actually learn from it

MichaelH: I can check for Bee's email address through her membership profile, right?

MichaelH: Hey, Melinda, I haven't forgot about the holidays...

MelindaL: still here!

MichaelH: do you belong to any listservs?

MelindaL: not for social studies or school.

MichaelH: wanna see one you can join?

MelindaL: of course!

MichaelH: Classroom Connect hosts a social studies teachers list that you might be interested in...

MichaelH: the reason I mention this is because we had a discussion about holiday lessons in last week's archive.

MichaelH: so, if you join the list, you can take part in those discussions, and of course, you can always view the archive (it's searchable) to find out what we talked about as far as lessons

MichaelH: here's the link. (It's long)

MichaelH: <http://www.classroom.com/community/email/archives.jhtml?A0=SOCIAL-STUDIES>

MichaelH: There's also a link there to subscribe to the list.

MichaelH: Ian, there's also a science teachers' list, although I don't know how active it is.

MichaelH: check this out:

MichaelH: <http://www.classroom.com/community/email/>

MichaelH: it has information about how to subscribe if you are interested

MelindaL: thanks!

MichaelH: If you look at the /community/email page, I'd also suggest the "Library Hot 5" list. That

MichaelH: whoops

MichaelH: that's another good one

MichaelH: Melinda, there's also a K-2 list, but I don't know how active it is.

MelindaL: ok. I will do some browsing. Thanks for all the links!

MichaelH: Melinda, check the Nov, week 5 archives for the holiday lessons

MichaelH wonders if everyone is overwhelmed with links....?

IanMa: not really

IanMa: have a link page that is on my teacher website that I update...so, I've added a few to it

IanMa: very helpful

MichaelH: Ian, do you have any link suggestions for science you might share with Melinda... maybe something for early elementary she could use in teaching science?

MichaelH: maybe you could give Melinda your science page link, and she could see some of the resources?

IanMa: yeah, let me find the url

BJB2 wonders if Melinda is a member of the K-3 Resources group?

MelindaL: I participated in the science k-20 yesterday and got lots of links from that.

IanMa: <http://viking.coe.uh.edu/~imacinty/links/index.htm>

MichaelH: BTW: Ian, this might fit science as well as social studies... I'm working on getting a SS forum session about using GPS in the classroom hopefully after the start of the New Year

IanMa: have descriptions under the links as well

SusanR joined the room.

MichaelH waves to Sue

BJB2: Melinda, Sue is the leader of the k-3 Resources group

BJB2 . o O (speak of the devil)

SusanR: Hi Sorry I am late

MichaelH wonders if Sue has ESP?

SusanR: Hi Melinda

MelindaL: I will be joining the k-3 group! thanks.

SusanR: possibly

JeannemarR joined the room.

MichaelH: Sue's who you want to talk to about that, Melinda...

BJB2 waves hi again to Jeannemarie

JeannemarR: now I see people here

BJB2 cheers

SusanR: Welcome Jeanne

MichaelH applauds for Jeanne

JeannemarR: how do you wave and cheer? I feel so "new" at this

JeannemarR: thanks

MichaelH: not hard to do at all, Jeanne

MelindaL: what do I search for in "groups?" the only thing I found is "NJ reading coaches" when I searched for "k-3."

CalvinC joined the room.

MichaelH: just do this... put a colon (:) and then cheers, applauds, smiles, whatever you want to do...

SusanR: search for "K to 3 Resource"

SusanR: no quotes

SusanR: or Resource Room

JeannemarR smiles

MichaelH: there you go!

JeannemarR smiles again big

JeannemarR: I think I got it

MichaelH: me too

MelindaL: Thanks! Found it!

MichaelH: BJ, too bad we can't do signs or sing... we could do carols...

MichaelH: Chestnuts roasting, on an open fire...

BJB2 wraps Michael in curling ribbon

BJB2 . o O (and puts a big bow on the top of his head)
JeannemarR sings Christmas carols but is glad no one can hear
MichaelH: Well, I'd make a nice package
CalvinC: (Lurker response): That was so funny
JeannemarR: ...Jack Frost nipping at your nose
MichaelH: We used to be able to "sing" in the old interface... but mercifully, we don't anymore
MichaelH: Christmas carols, being sung by a fire...
MichaelH: and...
SusanR: Jack Frost nipping at your nose Yuletide carols being sung by a choir. ...
JeannemarR: ...folks dressed up like Eskimos
MichaelH: oh, thought it was "Christmas Carols" ...
MichaelH: and of course, don't forget the immortal...
JeannemarR: everybody knows a turkey and some mistletoe
MichaelH: "Grandma got run over by a reindeer...
SusanR: And folks dressed up like Eskimos.
JeannemarR: Grandma got...LOL you beat me to it
MichaelH: BJ, you had better cut off my supply of root beer...
SusanR: Eskimos are called Inuit here in Canada
MichaelH: "folks dressed up like Inuit"....
JeannemarR: doesn't rhyme
MichaelH: oh, well,....
JeannemarR: my son is practicing his Christmas carols on his trumpet right now
MichaelH: wonders if anyone brought mugs of hot chocolate and candy canes...?
JeannemarR: are you a traditional candy cane kind of guy or the new colors and flavors?
MichaelH: umm... to be honest, don't care much for candy canes...
BJB2 . o O (we just got some bob the builder candy canes)
MichaelH: wow, don't think I've heard of those, BJ
BJB2 . o O (helps if you have a grandson)
JeannemarR: I have to go help my daughter study for her Social Studies test...but this has been fun
MichaelH: well, it's about time for West Wing
IanMa: Sounds good
MelindaL: Thanks, all. I have gained a lot!
IanMa: thanks a lot for everything
MichaelH: we'll get together again after the start of the new year...
JeannemarR: sounds great! thanks
MichaelH: can't remember the second Wed. in Jan., but that's when we'll do it.
BJB2: happy holidays, Michael!
MichaelH waves bye for now
BJB2 . o O (January 12)
MichaelH: Happy holidays to you too, BJ
JeannemarR waves goodbye too
JeannemarR: Happy Holidays, goodbye