

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum - Mesopotamia

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

Guest Speaker Wendy Ennes

Title of File: 20060426ssfmepotamia

Date: April 26, 2006

Room: Social Studies Forum Group

MichaelH: Wendy, whenever you want to start... take your time

WendyEnn: Should we reschedule or do I go ahead?

BjB: Hi, Wendy. I'm an art teacher, but I always enjoy the information that Michael and his guests present

WendyEnn: Thanks BJ

MichaelH: let me introduce the session

MichaelH . o O (that will make it look like a legitimate transcript and session)

WendyEnn: Welcome! My name is Wendy Ennes and I'm the Teacher Services and e-Learning Coordinator in the Museum Education Department of the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago.

WendyEnn: I'm thrilled to have this opportunity to share our new resource, Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, with all of you tonight. To visit this site you will need the latest browsers and Quicktime, Flash and Shockwave. If you don't have those plug-ins right now - that's O.K., as you can always come back to the site and check out the bells and whistles at a later time!

WendyEnn: Let's click on this link to go to the Museum Education site:

http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/ED/Museum_Ed.html

WendyEnn: Let's click on this link to go to the Museum Education site:

http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/ED/Museum_Ed.html

WendyEnn: Go to the Teacher Resource Center now.

WendyEnn: http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/ED/TRC/trc_home.html

WendyEnn: At this moment in time, the Oriental Institute Museum Education website features a Teacher Resource Center with information on ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. At the end of July 2006 we will also feature another online area, very much like the Egypt site, on ancient Nubia.

WendyEnn: Click on either of the links on this page to enter the home page for Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History

WendyEnn: <http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/>

WendyEnn: Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History contains three major educator resources...

WendyEnn: . The Learning Collection, which is a collection of teacher-chosen artifacts from the Oriental Institute Museum's Mesopotamian Gallery.

WendyEnn: 2. An online course on ancient Mesopotamia – which will be available to educators nationwide for graduate credit.

WendyEnn: 3. An Flash interactive entitled "Dig Into History."

WendyEnn: We created this online resource with federal financial support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the creativity and energy of our partners here at the University of Chicago, and the advisory assistance of educators and technology coordinators from the Chicago Public Schools. The teachers told us what they wanted and we tried to deliver.

WendyEnn: Are there any questions before we continue on to examine the resource?

WendyEnn: I'd like to mention here that I'll present an area of the site first, then answer questions at the end of each section.

WendyEnn: Can everyone see the home page OK?

MichaelH: yep

BjB: yes

WendyEnn: Great - On the home page you see the links to the different areas in the resource.

WendyEnn: Now let's go to the "Life in Mesopotamia" Section at:

WendyEnn: <http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/mesopotamialife/index.php>

WendyEnn: This section contains synopses of various aspects of life in Mesopotamia. For example click on Archaeology at:

WendyEnn:
<http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/learningcollection/search.php?theme=Archaeology>

MichaelH: these pages look, super, Wendy

BjB: fascinating topic!

WendyEnn: Thanks, do you have this link -
<http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/mesopotamialife/article.php?theme=Archaeology>

WendyEnn: In each section of "Life in Mesopotamia" we feature one artifact, give an overview of the content, and a link to Lesson Plans...but you can also access specific artifacts relating to each theme the Learning Collection from these pages.

WendyEnn: Let's click on the lesson plan link at the end of the synopsis.

WendyEnn:
<http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/teacherresources/article.php?m=Lesson%20Plans>

WendyEnn: The Lesson plans are exemplary lessons created by Chicago Public School teachers who have attended our in-house seminars on ancient Mesopotamia. Some are also derived from our "Life in Ancient Mesopotamia" curriculum guides. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to download these lessons.

WendyEnn: Does anyone have any questions about this area before we continue on to the Learning Collection?

BjB: I really like the cross curricular lessons

WendyEnn: Yes, there are lots of art lessons as well

WendyEnn: Math too

WendyEnn: OK O.K. Let's go to now to the Learning Collection to see the various ways this resource can be used.

WendyEnn: Click on the Learning Collection.

WendyEnn: <http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/learningcollection/index.php>

WendyEnn: As you can see there are many ways to find artifacts in the Learning Collection. You and or your students can conduct a search or browse the artifacts in a myriad of ways. You can also do a search with your students via Visual Exploration – this is to encourage a facilitation technique that is easily implemented in the classroom called "Visual Thinking Strategies" or VTS.

MichaelH loves the flash animations

WendyEnn: I'll give you a couple of minutes to check out the "Browse by" categories:

WendyEnn: Name

WendyEnn: Object Type

WendyEnn: Material

WendyEnn: Time Period

WendyEnn: Archaeological Site Map

WendyEnn: and...

WendyEnn: Cultural Theme (this is a different doorway to the "Life in Mesopotamia" section)

WendyEnn: As you will notice the Time Period and Site Map sections are Flash interactives. Students can get a good sense of the various time periods in Mesopotamian history by scrolling over the dates. They can also gauge how sophisticated the Mesopotamians became as they moved forward in time.

WendyEnn: The Archaeological Site Map shows all the sites the Oriental Institute excavated and where specific artifacts were recovered.

WendyEnn: Are there any questions before we move ahead?

MichaelH: this is great how everything is arranged so that it can be accessed easily

WendyEnn: I happy to hear that you like it!

WendyEnn: Let's choose an artifact from the Learning Collection... try...

WendyEnn:

<http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/learningcollection/search.php?a=name&lcid=46>

WendyEnn: Cylinder Seal with Sun God in Boat

WendyEnn: You can toggle between the Artifact Description and a Visual Exploration with all the artifacts. In the visual exploration section there are questions to spur strictly visual exploration and questions to spur discussions or for teachers to use for assignments.

WendyEnn: The other big thing here is that users can zoom in on all the artifacts to really get up close.

WendyEnn: Kids love the Zoomify

WendyEnn: Are there any questions?

MichaelH: Wendy, would you see teachers use this with an LCD projector, or...

MichaelH: kids more likely to use this in a lab setting?

WendyEnn: Absolutely

MichaelH: . o O (computer lab)

WendyEnn: Both in fact

MichaelH: I knew you were field testing... and I didn't know if you were seeing teachers favor one way to another

WendyEnn: We note ways to use the resource in the Teacher Materials section

MichaelH: our situation is that I have a LCD projector, but lab space is at a premium in my school

WendyEnn: Teachers seem to like both

WendyEnn: Let's go to the Teaching Materials and Online Course section:

WendyEnn: <http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/teacherresources/index.php>

WendyEnn: Here's where we hope we answer lots of your questions about how to use the resource, where you find lesson plans and how to use VTS. Then there's the online course – this is something we hope to launch in the fall. The eight-week course uses Blackboard Course Management software and the latest scholarship about ancient Iraq from University of Chicago scholars to enhance learning. I will facilitate the course with University of Chicago faculty.

WendyEnn: Take a few moments to explore this resource.

WendyEnn: As you can see the resource is aligned with NCSS standards

MichaelH: good to see a "contact us" link on the site, Wendy

WendyEnn: My projector function won't work - thank you Michael for helping out!

WendyEnn: Yeah, we really would like to hear from teachers

MichaelH: actually, we can just post the URLs, and Sue (and everyone else) can just click on the link, and it should open in a new browser window

WendyEnn: Does anyone have any questions concerning the Teacher Materials section?

MichaelH: very comprehensive, Wendy

MichaelH: If I recall, you've been working on this site for some time to get it ready....

WendyEnn: Thanks - we had a great team

WendyEnn: 2 years

MichaelH: it shows... very comprehensive and complete

BjB agrees

WendyEnn: Lastly, let's go to the Interactives area:

WendyEnn: <http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/interactives/index.php>

MichaelH is there

WendyEnn: Here there are a variety of interactives that teachers can integrate into lesson plans or students can explore.

SusanR: very useful...fits nicely with our ancient civilizations curriculum here in Ontario

WendyEnn: Super to hear - what part of Ontario?

SusanR: PDF file opened beautifully

SusanR: Ottawa, Ontario

BjB: Michael, think about this idea: a social studies room in the SAC with links to sites like the Oriental Institute website

MichaelH: we could do that, BJ....

BjB: I'm already trying to get a science room there with links to NASA

SusanR: lived in Mooney's Bay

SusanR: raised in Montreal

WendyEnn: Oh yes - Mooney's!

WendyEnn: By mid-May this area will also house the main interactive “Dig Into History.” The next link I’m about to give to you is only to be used tonight. This is a field test version of the interactive – so it’s still buggy and incomplete. This will, however, give you a good idea of what the game will be like.

MichaelH is listening to Gordon Lightfoot right now... does that make me an "honorary Canadian"?

WendyEnn: You bet!

JeffC: http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/ED/Museum_Ed.html

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JeffC:
<http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/learningcollection/search.php?a=name&lcid=46>

JeffC: <http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/teacherresources/index.php>

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SusanR: absolutely, Michael...more so if you listen to Anne Murray and Snowbird

WendyEnn: Here’s a very abbreviated description of game play -

WendyEnn: A student will choose a quest statement, go dig up artifacts to support the statement, catalogue the artifacts in the field, encounter events that can increase or decrease their supply of time, money and team happiness. The game ends with them writing and curating a museum exhibition of four artifacts that support their original quest statement.

WendyEnn: Here's the capper!

WendyEnn: Let’s take about 5 minutes to explore the interactive...

WendyEnn: <http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/fieldtest/>

WendyEnn: We still need to simplify the game play instructions...

MichaelH: sorry, Wendy, I was busy digging

WendyEnn: Great! Did you find anything yet?

SusanR: o O (wonders if our tech coordinators know about this RESOURCE!!)

MichaelH: hmmm... just found a bronze mirror

SusanR: found a vase

WendyEnn: Don't pass out the last URL please...it will be online in a matter of weeks on the website...

WendyEnn: But do share the resource with other educators - we really want the word to get out!

WendyEnn: Found anything else?

MichaelH has a cast of a jar with palm trees (leaves)?

SusanR: I have the same one

SusanR: from Diyala

WendyEnn: Palm trees - does it support the agriculture quest statement?

MichaelH: hmmm... I've got to navigate back...

WendyEnn: Any final questions before we wrap things up?

MichaelH: this is great, Wendy... when do you think the interactive part of the site will be up and running? (the field test)?

WendyEnn: In a couple of weeks we hope...

SusanR: I am terribly impressed

MichaelH: that'll be great for when we start school at the end of summer

WendyEnn: This won't be the correct URL - you'll find Dig Into History on the Mesopotamian website

WendyEnn: I'm glad you all seem to like the resource.

MichaelH: I'll want to come back here and look at stuff before the start of school anyway... so I'll check it

MichaelH: It's an excellent one, Wendy

SusanR: great for September..teacher planning

MichaelH: Are you considering other similar resources for other ancient civilizations?

WendyEnn: I'll keep you posted Michael - announce when it's launched in the website

MichaelH: yes... we'll want to post that in the listservs, and maybe do another session then?

WendyEnn: I would love to do this for Egypt and Nubia - we just need more \$\$\$

SusanR: will this be fee based

JeffC: Wendy, do you have that list of sites with names included? They could be reposted to Discussion here. I could go back and enter the titles, thought I'd ask you first.

WendyEnn: For sure I'll do another session

WendyEnn: No it's not fee based - it's free to all

SusanR: good!

WendyEnn: No I don't have a list - except what I have in my script - I could email you though

MichaelH: if it's up and running by July, maybe we could do a festival session on this, BJ?

JeffC: that's ok Wendy, I'll add the titles and repost here.

WendyEnn: Ok

WendyEnn: For sure Sue I'll email you too!

MichaelH: Wendy, if you are free in mid-July, that might be a great time to do a follow-up session

SusanR: Thank you, Wendy

WendyEnn: I think I'm running a Nubia seminar - so I'll be around

MichaelH: Wendy, do you want to post contact information (e-mail) in case Sue or Jeff would like to e-mail you?

WendyEnn: Thank you to everyone for coming. I'm happy to hear you enjoyed it. I can be reached at...

WendyEnn: wennes@uchicago.edu

MichaelH: Thank you for joining us, Wendy. This has been a great session....

MichaelH: Don't forget possibly presenting at the Indiana Council for the Social Studies conference next spring

WendyEnn: Say hello to Canada for me - I really miss it sometimes and thank you for this opportunity!

SusanR: This was a pleasant surprise, Wendy

WendyEnn: I haven't forgotten ICSS!

WendyEnn: Thanks Susan.

SusanR: ICSS ??

MichaelH: great!

MichaelH . o O (Indiana Council for the Social Studies)

WendyEnn: Bye all!

MichaelH: I'm trying to see if Wendy might want to come to Indianapolis next year and present at a session there

SusanR: bye Wendy

MichaelH . o O (session)

BjB: thanks, Wendy

MichaelH waves to Wendy

WendyEnn: Bye

MichaelH: Thanks!

JeffC: Thanks Wendy

SusanR: Thanks again