Title of Session: Virtual Field Trips
Moderator: Kim Foley
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Room: On Tap Cafe

BJ: are you familiar with the field trips page?
AudreyL: not at all
BJ: there are some great field trips already created...
BJ: Have you participated in a discussion in Tapped In before, Audrey?

BJ . o O (we'll give you a private lesson   )
AudreyL: nope, this will be my first
BJ: then let's give you some basics...
AudreyL: ok
BJ: sometimes, when there are a lot of people logged in, the text scrolls really fast...
BJ: so, you want to go to the Actions drop down menu in the top right of your chat window
BJ: and scroll down to DETACH
BJ: that will make your chat window larger and easier to read
AudreyL: ok, I just did it
AudreyL: that is much easier to view
BJ: good, Audrey.
BJ: the next thing is that we always start all the discussions here in Tapped In with introductions...
BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania
AudreyL: I am a pre-student teacher from Houston

BJ: great, Audrey. Glad you're here
AudreyL: thanks
BJ: I'm going to show you the url for the field trips, Audrey
BJ: all you have to do is click on the hyperlink to open a new webpage
AudreyL: ok
BJ: www.field-trips.org
AudreyL: ok, I'm there
BJ: scroll down to virtual field trips
AudreyL: I see it
KimFo joined the room.
BJ: then click on FIELD TRIPS THIS WAY
BJ waves hi to Kim. You made it!
KimFo: Hi BJ
KimFo: Hi Audrey. Sorry I'm late. how are you?
BJ: Audrey, Kim is the official leader of this discussion
AudreyL: I'm fine Kim, BJ got me started
KimFo: Great! Have you used field trips before?
AudreyL: no, I'm not even sure what it is all about
KimFo: How did you hear about this session?>

AudreyL: I noticed it on the October calendar and thought that it sounded like something I would want to use in the classroom

KimFo: What grade do you teach? and where?

AudreyL: I am a pre-student teacher from the University of Houston. I plan on teaching early childhood.

KimFo: ok...then I'll show you some of the field trips we have. Most are geared toward a middle school age but ALL of them can be adapted for any age.

KimFo: you can also use them as a resource when you are teaching a particular subject.

AudreyL: ok, that would be great!

KimFo: BJ said she showed you the page?

AudreyL: yes

KimFo: OK...give me a sec here....

KimFo: ok, Audrey, are you on this page?

KimFo: http://www.tramline.com/trips.htm

AudreyL: yes, that is the page I'm on

KimFo: alright....I'm going to give you some background info first, ok?

AudreyL: ok

KimFo: Tramline's Field Trips Site currently features 40 virtual field trips on a variety of topics visiting some of the best sites on a subject. Teacher's resources are included for most trips. You will find trips on deserts, hurricanes, oceans, rainforests, endangered species, and more.

KimFo: Also, tell me if I move too quickly.

AudreyL: ok

KimFo: these trips were all created with TourMaker software. This creates a set of field trips with a consistent interface, and an easy to use control panel that keeps students from getting lost on the web.

KimFo: Each field trip consists of a set of "stops."

KimFo: Each stop is a different web page visited on the trip. Each stop also has some accompanying narration that can point out something specific at the visited site.

KimFo: also, jump in with any questions whenever.

AudreyL: ok

KimFo: you'll find hundreds and/or thousands of virtual field trips on the web these days.

KimFo: One thing that makes these field trips unique from others is the control panel, which has several features to prevent students from getting lost.

KimFo: The Control Panel is located in the lower right hand corner of all field trips located at Field Trips Site. We'll talk more about the Control Panel when we get into one of the field trips.

KimFo: which trips did you look at so far?

MaryLouD joined the room.

AudreyL: I haven't looked at any yet.

KimFo: ok.

KimFo: Each field trip available at this site has an identical format.

KimFo: All field trips except for a couple labeled tour only, include an Intro (or Trailhead) page, a Teacher's Resource page AND the actual field trip.

KimFo: Hi MaryLou are you here for the field trips session?

JenniferDa joined the room.

MaryLouD: Yes, but I know I am late so I will try to catch up.

KimFo: you're doing just fine....we're just getting started.

KimFo: Trailhead pages usually have terms to learn, concepts, objectives, or an intro paragraph about the trip.

KimFo: Resource pages have web sites that didn't fit with the actual field trip but yet still have value for the teacher... you just can't create a sensible field trip that has 90 stops!

KimFo: if you create a trip, the number of stops you choose for your trip should depend on your subject and your audience, but a good trip size ranges from 8-14 stops. I have to admit that a number of ours are a little longer.

JoDeneGst2 joined the room.

KimFo: what age do you teach MaryLou?

MaryLouD: 11th and 12th grade - I am interested in this for a course called Travel and Tourism

KimFo: Jennifer and JoDene, we're going to look at a virtual field trip or two...are you here for this session and if so what grades do you teach?

JoDeneGst2: I teach high school math

KimFo: ahhh...we have 1 field trip on Pi. You should take a look at it later on.

JenniferDa: Yes I am. I teach young adult computer applications.

KimFo: for those of you who don't have the URL yet, go to this page and wait for further instructions.

KimFo: http://www.tramline.com/trips.htm

KimFo: Great Jennifer.

KimFo: As I was telling Audrey, the field trips are geared to a variety of age groups and some of them are marked...but don't let a specified age range stop you from taking a look.

KimFo: these trips are HIGHLY adaptable to many ages.

KimFo: any questions yet?

AudreyL: no, I don't have any yet

KimFo: I'm going to start with one of my tried and true favorites...I can show you many of the features available with our Tramline field trips using this trip.

KimFo: Once you use one of these field trips, you will know how to use ALL of them.

KimFo: ready to start?

AudreyL: ready

FrancinaF joined the room.

JoDeneGst2 left the room.

KimFo likes feedback so that she knows everyone is with her....

JenniferDa: Yes Ready

MaryLouD: Ready

KimFo smiles

FrancinaF: Hi. Is this the room for virtual field trips

KimFo: Yes Francina. go to http://www.field-trips.org/trips.htm

KimFo: Everyone click on Oceans.

KimFo: See how you come right to the Trailhead page?

KimFo: again....Trailhead pages usually have terms to learn, concepts, objectives, or an intro paragraph about the trip.

AudreyL: yes, I see

KimFo: Now go ahead and click on the Teacher's Resources link.

MaryLouD: Yes, is there anyway to keep this chat room up in the corner, while we look at the field trip?

FrancinaF: Thank you for that

KimFo: you're welcome!

KimFo: and again...Resource pages have web sites that didn't fit with the actual field trip but yet still have value for the teacher...

KimFo: And again, click Trailhead... I just want you to see how easy it is to move between them

KimFo: Before we start the actual field trip I want to give you a heads up....

KimFo: Please stay with me so you don't get lost along the way. We have a limited time and there are many features I want to share with you.

AudreyL: ok

KimFo: again, feedback is good so I know you're still with me and I REALLY appreciate it :))

KimFo: OK. Let's all click on the Start Field Trip link then come right back here BEFORE you explore so I can explain a few things.

KimFo: Once you've clicked Start Field Trip, you should see a black background with a few instructions....do you all see that?

JenniferDa: yes

AudreyL: yes

KimFo: All virtual field trips made with TourMaker software have the window is broken up into 4 frames....

KimFo: the control panel is on the lower right

KimFo: the site frame is the large upper frame and it's where the visited web sites are displayed..

KimFo: the narration frame is the bottom center, and the logo frame lower left.

KimFo: The narration is the custom info entered by the person who creates the field trip.

KimFo: Let's say you are creating a trip and you want your students to locate specific information at the visited site. You can put directions here.

KimFo: The narration frame also toggles to a scrollable field trip Itinerary (or contents) which is what is visible when you first enter a trip

KimFo: what we're seeing right now in fact.

KimFo: see Stop 1?Welcome, Stop 2-The Water Planet and so on?

AudreyL: yes

KimFo: Do you all see that in the narration frame?

KimFo: again, the bottom center frame?

KimFo: The nice thing about the Itinerary is that you can see right at the start how long the field trip is....go ahead and scroll the contents.

KimFo: Now go ahead and use the control panel's Next button (right arrow) to move to Stop 1.

KimFo: and again to go to Stop 2.

AudreyL: ok

KimFo: Is everyone on Stop 2-The Water Planet?

KimFo: Jennifer, Francina?

JenniferDa: yes

KimFo: ok...well moving on....

KimFo: this is a fun site put together by the Navy.

KimFo: Hi MaryLou...sorry I didn't see your question earlier...did you figure out how to see a field trip and the TI window

MaryLouD: No sorry

KimFo: we're looking at the Oceans field trip and we're on Stop 3.

MaryLouD: OK

KimFo: This is yet another page from the Navy.

BJ: You can click on the Actions drop down menu in the top right of your screen and scroll down to DETACH

BJ: then you can move your chat window and resize it

KimFo: back to the narration frame (narframe) for a sec. The URL for every visited page is at the bottom of the narframe. Go ahead and scroll the narframe to the bottom. See it?

MaryLouD: Thanks

KimFo: so if you want to know the URL of the web page you're currently visiting, that's where you'll find it.

AudreyL: yes

KimFo: Ready for a fun feature?

AudreyL: yes

KimFo: Click Largest and Deepest in the main site frame.

KimFo: Notice how the page in the site frame has changed?

AudreyL: yes

JenniferDa: ok

MaryLouD: ok

KimFo: scroll to the bottom of that page and click on the link that says.

KimFo: Student's Sea of Knowledge

JenniferDa: ok

MaryLouD: ok

KimFo: then click Ocean Quest

AudreyL: ok

JenniferDa: ok

KimFo: and on THAT page click Ocean History

KimFo: Lastly, click Seamonsters, Mermaids, and Other Sea Myths.

KimFo: are you all there?

JenniferDa: yes

MaryLouD: yes

KimFo: Do your students ever click on links on web pages they visit?

MaryLouD: yes

JenniferDa: yes

KimFo: and click on more links and more?

KimFo: until they're long gone from the original page?

JenniferDa: yes

AudreyL: yes

KimFo: Well imagine they've gone off exploring while they're exploring one of these field trips? The student has clicked who knows how many links away from the actual itinerary of this field trip.

KimFo: now....

KimFo: Click on the Return to Tour button on the control panel....that's the train button in the top row.

KimFo: You're back to the actual field trip page from which you started....the page that is part of the itinerary.

KimFo: It should be the Ocean Trivia page.

MaryLouD: the page with Marine Life, Man and Sea, etc?

KimFo: yes.

JenniferDa: ok

AudreyL: yes

MaryLouD: Also, there are great pictures on this tour, is there any sound or oral explanation?

KimFo: do you see how if this allows a student to freely explore a page or pages on the field trip....and then with 1 click of a button they are back on the itinerary of the field trip?

MaryLouD: yes

AudreyL: yes, that is cool

KimFo: Mary Lou....on this trip there isn't any sound but if you were to create your own field trip you can certainly use sound.

MaryLouD: I thought so --

KimFo: any other questions so far?

AudreyL: no

MaryLouD: Our students seem to want action when they are on the Internet.

MaryLouD: no further questions

KimFo: ready to see another feature?

MaryLouD: yes

AudreyL: yes

JenniferDa: sure

KimFo: Now, say you decide that you want to see the Itinerary again, while you're somewhere along the field trip.

MaryLouD: ok

KimFo: Click the Itinerary button (the compass on the left middle of control panel)

KimFo: Notice how the contents has replaced the narration?

KimFo: You can now go to any other stop on the field trip.

KimFo: It allows you to explore in a random fashion through the trip, you don't have to move from stop 1 to stop 2, to stop 3. It's good if a student wants to revisit a trip later but only wants to revisit certain stops.

JenniferDa: nice

MaryLouD: ok

KimFo: It's also nice if you forget how many stops are on a given trip and you just want to refresh your memory, or see where you're at within a given field trip.

MaryLouD: customized tour

KimFo: what about a customized tour?

MaryLouD: That is what this is like -- I am relating it to our course.

KimFo: ah.....:))

MaryLouD: nice feature

KimFo: Let's say all you wanted to do was check the number of stops, see where you were, and now you want to see the narration again for the stop you are at.

KimFo: Click the Return to Tour button again (the train) and the narration for that stop should replace the Itinerary.

KimFo: So? just by clicking the Itinerary button and the Return to Tour, you can easily move between the contents and the narration no matter where in the field trip you happen to be.

MaryLouD: yes

KimFo: Want to see another feature?

MaryLouD: yes

AudreyL: ok

JenniferDa: ok

KimFo: Click the button in the center of the Control Panel....this button is called the Expanded Itinerary.

KimFo: This is something you the teacher can print out so that you know the stops visited, the URLs, and the narration that accompanies each site.

MaryLouD: ok

AudreyL: nice

KimFo: Now, go ahead and click the Exit button.

MaryLouD: ok

KimFo: You should be back at the Oceans Trailhead or Teacher's Resource page.

MaryLouD: yes

JenniferDa: yes

AudreyL: yes

KimFo: All trips from this site bring you right back to the starting point.

KimFo: now click on Field Trip List.

AudreyL: ok

MaryLouD: ok

JenniferDa: ok

KimFo: Click the Poet's Pantry trip.

AudreyL: ok

KimFo: see how the layout of Trailhead, Teacher's Resources and Start field trip is identical to the last?

JenniferDa: yes

KimFo: Basically, once you've figured out how one Field Trips Site trip works, the rest of them work the same.

AudreyL: yes

MaryLouD: yes

KimFo: Go ahead and click Start Field Trip.

MaryLouD: ok

AudreyL: ok

KimFo: click to Stop 2.

MaryLouD: ok

AudreyL: ok

JenniferDa: ok

KimFo: click exit.

KimFo: who teacher high school?
KimFo: I mean teaches?
MaryLouD: me
JenniferDa: I will soon
KimFo: Mary Lou, what did you say you teach. Jennifer what will you teach?
JenniferDa: Computer Applications MSxp
MaryLouD: A program called the Travel and tourism academy
KimFo: Go back to Field Trip List.
KimFo: Click on the Windows on the World trip.
KimFo: Go ahead and click Start Field Trip.
KimFo: are you there?
MaryLouD: yes
JenniferDa: yes
KimFo: MaryLou, you may find some really interesting sites on this trip for your students. it's a LOT of fun and very resourceful.
MaryLouD: Ok thanks
KimFo: Does anyone have any questions? comments?
JenniferDa: not yet
MaryLouD: No questions, I just would love to have some sound as I click on some of these great pictures. Does the full version of the software have sound and/or animation.
KimFo: I hope you got some ideas for how you and your students can use these in your classrooms. we have a book out on using and creating field trips and if you get really inspired, you can easily create your own with our software.
KimFo: Mary Lou...
KimFo: the full version of the software allows you to string together web pages.....these web pages...
MaryLouD: OK sounds good
KimFo: can have sound, movies whatever....
KimFo: so whatever any web page can have, you can use these web pages on your field trip. custom pages as well.
KimFo: any more questions?
MaryLouD: OK thanks
AudreyL: No, I just want to thank you for the tour
JenniferDa: not at this time
MaryLouD: Thank you
KimFo: I hope you all found some useful information today and have an idea of how to use these trips. Feel free to email me.
KimFo: and thanks for coming!
MaryLouD: Thank you for your time.
KimFo: you're welcome.
AudreyL: your welcome
JenniferDa: Thanks for the information and your time. Enjoyed!
KimFo: Good, I'm glad!
MaryLouD: Also thanks BJ for yet another tip.
KimFo: BJ rules!
JenniferDa: ditto

MaryLouD Sure does
KimFo: Have a great evening everyone.
AudreyL: you too, good bye
KimFo: good night.
JenniferDa: goodbye guys
MaryLouD: night
KimFo waves