

**Title of Session:** K-20 Math Resources

**Moderator:** Jeff Cooper

**Title of File:** 20040803mathk20

**Date:** August 3, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

**JeffC:** Welcome everybody to this month's Math Resources group.

**JeffC:** Let's start with a brief introduction of everybody.

**JeffC:** My name is Jeff Cooper, I volunteer on Helpdesk here, and am currently looking for work in Ed Tech Support. For the past three years I was the Ed Tech Specialist for the College of Education at Pacific University.

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher who loves to integrate math and the arts

**LeannW:** I am Leann Wagerle. I am a new grad student at U of Houston...working toward an MS in Math Ed and a Texas Teaching Certificate.

**LauraLit:** California Kindergarten teacher. Taking CLEAR Computers for Educators class.

**LydiaO:** Hi I'm Lydia a masters student at the university of Houston.

**SusanSi:** Texas-4th grade math & art Previously I homeschooled my children and before that I taught 3rd grade working on TARGET grant

**DavidWe:** I'm David Weksler. I work with teachers helping them integrate technology into their teaching and learning

**LauraLit:** My B.A. was in Art Education

**AmandaY:** Hi I am a new chemistry teacher working on my certificate at Uof Houston. I start teaching this fall.

**PamelaT:** Hi I am Pamela and I'm also at U of Houston working on my doctorate in math ed

**AmberRM** joined the room.

**JeffC:** OK... excellent.... and it looks like a pretty good turnout for August... considering that school is still out. For those who are not members yet, you will need to join the Math Resources K-20+ group, because we will continue the meeting there (since there are no guests here). To join the group: 1) Click the "Search" tab in the top frame 2) Click the "Groups" sub-tab 3) type: Math Resources ...and click the "Find It!" button 4) Click the link to the group 5) Join the group.

**JeffC:** Amber, if you could introduce yourself.

**JeffC:** In the meantime... anyone who is not a member of Math Resources K-20+, please join now.

**AmberRM:** Hi I am Amber and I'm a masters student at the University of San Diego and I wanted to get some math ideas for my class next year

**JeffC:** In a minute I would like to continue this meeting to the Math Resources group... looks like Amanda has joined, and is already there. I'll go there now, if everyone could join me (and David and BJ... facilitate having them join).

**DavidWe** stands ready to help

**JeffC:** Amber and Candice I believe are two members who need to join the group.

Everyone else, just click the Favorite Places menu... and highlight the group, then click the Go! button

**DavidWe** wonders if anyone isn't sure how to join Jeff

**LydiaO**: how do I get there

**DavidWe**: Lydia, click the online tab, left of the chat area

**DavidWe**: click once on **JeffC**

**DavidWe**: click the door icon at the bottom of the window

Room: Math\_Resources

**JeffC**: Still waiting on a couple others.

**JeffC**: In the meantime, please scroll down the top frame and look around a bit.

**PamelaT**: Looks like a full house tonight with a number of people from the same class

**JeffC**: It's possible Pam

**JeffC**: OK... I have a few things to talk about... but let me start by asking if there are any questions.

**PamelaT**: I'm all eyes

**LauraLit** listening

**JeffC**: OK... moving on then.

**JeffC**: If you scroll down the top frame, you'll see a link to the Math/Science public bookmarks.

**JeffC**: The link is <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience> ... I'd like you to click on that... open it up... then come back to this window.

**LydiaO**: ok

**JeffC**: OK... those are the public bookmarks for this group. \*Anyone here may add to them\*.

**SusanSi**: ok

**LeannW**: ok

**WenNingB**: OK

**JeffC**: For those who haven't been here before... I am very big on collaboration... I believe that we can do a lot more as professionals if we all bring our strengths to the table... and share.

**JeffC**: Now... if you would bookmark that site, or the general login:

<http://www.mybookmarks.com> and the login: mathscience password: tappedin ... you will be prepared to collaborate.

**PamelaT**: Absolutely, gone are the times of hoarding

**DavidWe** . o O ( hoarding - bad, collaborating - good )

**LeannW** concurs

**JeffC**: Mybookmarks allows you to upload links from your computer (selectively). I would love it if people spent an hour over the course of the next month (before the next meeting) adding a few links, even consider creating folders (K-3 math, Algebra, etc.). Whatever works.

**JeffC**: I also want you to think a bit outside the box. Now... this goes into the territory of my other group (starting this weekend) called Collaborative Community... but how many of you share links with other educators within your own school or district?

**JeffC**: It's a rhetorical question... because I think the answer is going to be very few.

**PamelaT**: always, I have them on a file to share with all the newbies

**JeffC:** But if you think about it... if all the math teachers, or elem. teachers etc... got together, and shared some of their links... not to mention lessons... they'd all be better off.

**LydiaO:** that is right

**LeannW:** One of our assignments at U of H this summer was to find 3 links and share them. (MaryFT's class)

**JeffC:** That's great Pam... and I think that is the wave of the future... unfortunately... we're living in the present... and you're more of an exception than the rule.

**LauraLit:** You don't have to reinvent the wheel!

**JeffC:** Right Leann... that's a standard assignment in a teacher ed class... how did you share them?

**LeannW:** We added a web page to our online portfolios

**LeannW:** Then posted a link in a discussion board

**JeffC:** OK... and how many of those links are readily available... still used by your peers?

**JeffC:** Or ever looked at again after the course is over?

**LeannW:** I see your point.

**LydiaO:** few

**PamelaT:** In one class I had the professor made a CD for each of us where we all had submitted 12 each

**JeffC:** The same goes here... many students use Tapped In because it's a class assignment... the class is over... and \*poof\*... they disappear.

**PamelaT:** The sites were all reviewed in detail as well

**JeffC:** Do you still have that CD Pam?

**PamelaT:** Yes

**JeffC:** My general point is that we need to be in a \*growing community of practice of math educators\*.

**SusanSi:** I used a link from the festival today--planning for the first days of school

**PamelaT:** I created my favorites links and folders from it

**JeffC:** Very good

**SusanR:** Can you share the link, Susan?

**JeffC:** I think I may be preaching to the choir here as well... the fact that you're here shows that you are definitely interested in sharing, collaborating... moving forward.

**DavidWe** would generalize that to Educators - not JUST math educators

**PamelaT:** My biggest problem is that math classes have very few computers in them

**LydiaO:** but they need it most

**PamelaT:** they have calculators and nothing else is considered necessary

**JeffC:** Now... let's get back to those links at

<http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience>

**JeffC:** You'll notice that the links for the most part are alphabetized... sorted... but the first two for math aren't.

**JeffC:** What I do is every month... add bookmarks... and then after this meeting, resort them. That way... you'll be able to see the new ones at this meeting (if you don't look at it during the month... which... of course... I would encourage you to do!).

**JeffC:** Take a look at those two sites... and I'm going to put up last month's site of interest as well.

**PamelaT:** How can we be of help?

**JeffC:** <http://www.studyit.org.nz/>

**JeffC:** What I'm hoping Pam, is that you will start adding links yourself, to that site, to this group... adding to resources. In a couple minutes, I'll discuss my hopes for the coming school year.

**LeannW:** we get homework!

**PamelaT:** You only get out what you put in

**LeannW** smiles

**JeffC:** Well... if we all do a little... we'll be much better off collectively.

**AmandaY:** In my class at UH I have found a few sites that could be added. How do we add?

**JeffC:** The link I put up: <http://www.studyit.org.nz/> requires registration, but is one of the best interactive sites for Math and Science that I've found... so it deserves some mention. We spent a good deal of time on it last month... and you can look at the transcript for that. I recommend registering there. John Cluett here is involved with that project, so you might want to talk to him about it at some point. His id here is JohnCl

**JeffC:** Yes Amy... to add: 1) Go to <http://www.mybookmarks.com> 2) login: mathscience 3) password: tappedin 4) add link

**LauraLit:** I've bookmarked them to my favorites. Thanks

**JeffC:** Don't feel obligated to do that now though.

**PamelaT:** I didn't see SMILE or Shodor?

**DavidWe:** Good thoughts, Pamela

**LauraLit:** I'm excited!

**JeffC:** You are also encouraged to download the (PC only) program called "Remark"... it allows you to upload/download links from mybookmarks to your computer.

**JeffC:** OK... the two new sites are "Playing with Time" and "Interactive Math" ... I'd like everyone to spend a couple minutes looking at those sites (either one or both), and then coming back here and putting in some first impressions... who would they be good for... ideas on using them... etc.

**JeffC:** The link again to the bookmark site is:

<http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience>

**LeannW:** I just tried to visit the McMath link (<http://home.earthlink.net/~mrmcmath>) the site was no longer there. Can we edit sites in the bookmarks when they are bad?

**JeffC:** PLEASE DO!

**JeffC:** I have tried to keep up... but it's difficult. By all means Leann... if you find a bad link, and are able to correct it... please edit the link so that it works.

**LeannW:** will do cap'n

**DavidWe** grins

**JeffC:** I've google searched for that site... haven't come up with the right link yet...but did come up with another resource site:

[http://www.checkburst.com/Science/Math/Education/Teaching\\_Resources](http://www.checkburst.com/Science/Math/Education/Teaching_Resources) ... there are plenty of resource sites out there. There are also plenty of excellent professionals in the field... my goal is to get the people to network as they haven't before.

**JeffC:** Have people had a chance to look at the two new sites of the month yet?

**AmberRM:** yes

**JeffC:** Or another site or two? I'd like a few comments... then we'll need to move on (there's never enough \*time\* ... hopefully that Playing with Time site will come up with a few solutions).

**LeannW:** I like all the Geometry JavaScript...interaction keeps me interested

**LeannW:** (that's in the interactive Math link)

**DavidWe** nods to Leann

**AmberRM:** I like the math quotes link on interactive math

**LauraLit:** Tried Playing with Time. The fractal tree would be fun for my Kindergarten students to click and drag. They also would be front loading the term "fractal"!

**PamelaT:** the playing with time is a new one for me

**JeffC:** You think that will keep students "edutained" Leann?

**JeffC:** Why did you like them Amber?

**LeannW:** I think so...people like anything they can click on (well almost anything)

**JeffC:** You think it's appropriate for Kindergartners Laura? Please make sure that Susan R in K-3 Resources knows about it then.

**JeffC:** What do you think of Playing with Time Pam? How would you use it?

**DavidWe** looks at Susan R

**LauraLit:** Small children love visuals.

**DavidWe** . o O ( some big children, too )

**JeffC:** Susan, please say hi to Laura. Laura, Susan is in charge of the K-3 Resource group here... a group you \*must\* attend!

**LauraLit** big smile

**SusanR** bows and plays with time

**DavidWe** smiles

**SusanR:** K to 3 is my specialty

**JeffC:** ... and I see that you've already joined her group... excellent!

**ShereeH** joined the room.

**JeffC:** OK... we don't have much time left... so... please type in a response to one of the sites when you get a chance. Hi Sheree! Glad you made it!

**PamelaT:** a little too off topic for my taste in a high school setting

**SusanR:** But I am enjoying the "Did you know that?" on the interactive site

**JeffC:** What I'd like to discuss now is planning for the next year.

**ShereeH:** I had to reload Java scripts to get in.

**JeffC:** Of course... I'm amongst Math teachers... so... spelling doesn't count (unless it's a word problem), right?

**JeffC:** eek... sounds like a drag, Sheree.

**PamelaT:** Word problems are good

**LauraLit:** Do you think it would work? or is it just glitz?-Susan

**LeannW:** I feel sorry for the Physics links...there's only one lonely link

**SusanR:** a bit of glitz

**PamelaT:** interactive sights are my favorites but finding something that helps kids communicate and decode are my particular search interests

**DavidWe** . o O ( for example... )

**JeffC:** OK... I have created a new discussion thread. LOL Leann... there are actually quite a few Physics links... someone created that folder, which belongs inside the Science folder.

**LauraLit:** I have to learn to be more selective

**JeffC:** That's definitely something worth looking into Pam.

**PamelaT:** problem solving sites and contest sites that make them write out their solutions and thoughts

**DavidWe** nods to Pam

**JeffC:** You might want to be a little careful about contest sites... because you might end up at one that basically ends up spamming your email account.

**PamelaT:** thanks I already discovered that

**JeffC:** I'd like everyone to click the Discussion link on the left, and then click on the Planning for the 2004-2005 Math Resource Group thread.

**JeffC:** lol Pam!

**JeffC:** . o O ( the hard way no doubt! )

**JeffC:** But there are good contest sites... math forum used to have some... I think ask dr. math was another... that's the sort of thing that we can help each other with here..

**JeffC:** What I'd like you all to do is look at that Discussion thread... and not feel pressured to respond right now... but commit to making a comment or two during the upcoming month.

**PamelaT:** you already named my faves

**DavidWe** agrees TOTALLY with Jeff's previous comment

**ShereeH:** What site are you discussing?

**JeffC:** This is the monthly \*synchronous\* meeting... but we can stay in touch through the Discussion board... as long as we commit to participating. Not a lot of participating... just a bit. If everyone committed at least 15 minutes a month to this group... there are over 100 members now... we will be really on the way to supporting each other.

**JeffC:** Sheree... Pam was talking about contest sites for math for kids... I mentioned Math Forum and Ask Dr. Math... but we weren't really discussing sites in particular.

**DavidWe:** It's a challenge to contribute - much easier to read - but it really builds the community and sense of collaboration if more people can post things

**LauraLit:** Thank you. I feel this has been a worthwhile first step at becoming a better math teacher.

**ShereeH:** A lot of that type of site have hidden fees required to get additional information. You have to be careful about that too.

**PamelaT:** It would be nice to develop a resource for sharing

**JeffC:** Now... what I really want to leave people with, is that this will not be a didactic "Jeff Cooper as leader" centered group this year. I will facilitate this group... but I won't be the subject matter expert and leader. I can't... I'm not qualified! \*You\* are the subject experts... and I hope that we work out a way to get the ball rolling virtually... not like Sisyphus (up the hill and back down again)... but... oh... like a snowball gathering momentum and crushing everything in its path!

**DavidWe** could use a good-sized snowball right now to cool things down

**LeannW** agrees with David

**PamelaT:** yes

**SusanR:** I am all fired up!

**JeffC:** So... we're about done for today.

**DavidWe** thanks Jeff for a good discussion

**JeffC:** You've seen the bookmarks site... and have the login information... please take a look at the past archives... and please commit to at least reading and posting on the discussion thread I just created.

**AmandaY:** Thanks for the heads up on contest web sites

**LeannW:** Cheers Jeff!

**JeffC:** Together, you will all work as a team... you will find out each others' strengths, and help overcome your own areas of weakness.

**SusanSi** thanks Jeff too

**PamelaT:** thank-you Jeff do you have a topic for next time

**JeffC:** You are free to write me at [jc@JeffCooper.info](mailto:jc@JeffCooper.info) ...but I would prefer it if you typed in your thoughts to the Discussion thread instead.

**AmandaY** thanks Jeff

**LydiaO:** I sure check the links and use them .thanks for sharing them.

**JeffC:** I don't have a topic offhand for next month... but since it will be the first month of school... I'm imagining something that will help everyone get jumpstarted, Pam. Please feel free to post your thoughts on the Discussion.

**JeffC:** You're welcome Lydia.

**JeffC:** I'm now going to go back to ASO... since the Science Resources group meets there in two minutes.

**JeffC:** Thank you everybody for coming.