

**Title of Session:** Middle Level Science

**Moderator:** Jan Naher-Snowden

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Room: Tree House Conference Room

**Jan\_NS:** So, welcome all.

**BJ:** Welcome to Middle Level Science, Everyone!

**LisaSan:** Thanks

**BJ:** We usually start all discussions with introductions

**BJ:** can you each please let us know where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach?

**Jan\_NS** appreciates BJ getting things started tonight.

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In. I love science

**MeredithK:** I'm Meredith in Houston, TX and I want to teach High School Biology

**Jan\_NS** cheers for Biology.

**LisaSan:** I am in Northern Virginia and working on my teaching certificate in biology. I just passed my Praxis II !

**Jan\_NS:** Congratulations!

**MeredithK:** Congrats!!!!

**Jan\_NS:** Another Bio person!

**LisaSan:** Thank you, Can you hear the sigh of relief?

**DianeBB:** I have a very bad dial-up connection and may come and go because I am knocked off line-sorry.

**LisaSan:** Same here Diane.

**Jan\_NS:** No problem Diane.

**Jan\_NS:** We are very patient

**DianeBB:** I teach 6th grade Science in Fredericksburg, Va.

**Jan\_NS:** I'm faculty at the Univ. of Akron (Ohio) - science methods and instructional technology. Also working on my dissertation proposal and pilot research study

**Jan\_NS:** Well, it seems like we have a good group tonight. Anyone here as part of an assignment?

**DianeBB:** I am a career switcher and should be certified and have my Masters in May.

**MeredithK:** I am, for my University of Houston Computers in the Classroom

**LisaSan:** Yes. Part of Tech in the classroom course has us using Tapped In

**Jan\_NS:** Hi, Meredith - we seem to have UH folks around for just about every discussion.

**MeredithK:** Well there are a lot of us.

**DianeBB:** I am here as part of my Leadership in Instructional Technology class.

**Jan\_NS:** Ask any questions that will help you to accomplish your assignment goals, Diane and Meredith.

**MeredithK:** Thank you

**Jan\_NS:** And Lisa. (sorry)

**LisaSan:** No worries

**DianeBB:** I am just supposed to observe and participate if I can. This is my first experience and am not sure what to expect.

**Jan\_NS:** Tonight I have several items on our agenda...

**Jan\_NS** wants everyone to feel comfortable. Just jump in

**LisaSan:** Will do.

**Jan\_NS:** One is to share new and good websites for middle level science.

**Jan\_NS:** The other is to find out what topics you would like to see on the schedule for this discussion for this school year.

**LisaSan:** I am not sure of a website I found because my dial up prevented me from checking it out but it was in this months Discover Magazine

**MeredithK:** I would love to see any helpful sessions and advice for first year science teachers. Although I love science it's a little intimidating.

**Jan\_NS:** Any time a website is given as part of the discussion...

**LisaSan:** I agree Meredith - I am going to need lots of help.

**Jan\_NS:** when you click on the URL, another window will open with the website. Do NOT close the Tapped In window or you will be disconnected.

**MeredithK:** I'm glad I'm not alone

**Jan\_NS:** So we will explore together. Ask any questions that you have.

**DianeBB:** As part of my class and blogging project, we are collecting science websites. Two good ones to use for the periodic chart are:

<http://pearl1.lanl.gov/periodic/default.htm> and [www.chemicalelements.com](http://www.chemicalelements.com)

**Jan\_NS:** Thanks, Diane. How are you organizing the websites in the class?

**DianeBB:** Right now we are just collecting them on our website and haven't quite gotten them organized yet: You have to go to [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) and our site is [scsscience.blogspot.com/](http://scsscience.blogspot.com/)

**LisaSan:** This one supposedly lets you pilot through space

<http://www.shatters.net/celestia> but this old dial up won't let that happen. I keep dropping out.

**LisaSan:** Thanks Diane. I am going to check out your blog!

**MeredithK:** Here's one I found that looked like it would be helpful for students.

<http://highschoolhub.org/hub/hub.cfm>

**Jan\_NS:** Actually - let's all check out their blog. Come back in about five minutes.

**DianeBB:** Lisa, I'll check out yours for our space unit.

**Jan\_NS:** Diane - how do you find your blog once you get to blogger.

**MeredithK:** Those are very cool...I've been looking for virtual dissections.

**MeredithK:** I always thought it might be helpful to have a back up for students who don't want to do physical dissections.

**CindyL** joined the room.

**MeredithK:** Jan go to [scsscience.blogspot.com](http://scsscience.blogspot.com)

**DianeBB:** Jan, I use my link but did you try [scsscience.blogspot.com](http://scsscience.blogspot.com)?

**Jan\_NS:** yes. to both

[Ed note: <http://www.scsscience.blogspot.com/> ]

**Jan\_NS:** let's table getting to blogger.

**Jan\_NS:** Hi, Cindy - we are just checking out some websites.

**DianeBB:** It is required in Virginia now to have a backup for students who do not want to participate in dissections. I think there are nine other states with this law, too.

**Jan\_NS:** Great idea to have some backups in this situation.

**Jan\_NS:** <http://frogguts.com>

**Jan\_NS:** This is a great jump point for virtual dissections

**Jan\_NS:** Check this one to see how student friendly it is. Back in 5 everyone.

**SteveLM** joined the room.

**Jan\_NS:** Hi, Steve. Welcome.

**SteveLM:** Hi everyone

**BJ:** Hi, Steve

**SteveLM:** What are you all chattin' about?

**DianeBB:** hi

**Jan\_NS:** We are checking websites that are useful for middle level science.

**Jan\_NS:** currently, <http://frogguts.com>

**MeredithK:** Those are all great web sites

**SteveLM:** I wish I was on my other computer. I have a bunch of them bookmarked there.

**SteveLM:** My tapped in site has a bunch of good websites.

**SteveLM:** I have been trying to get my colleagues to tell me what they want to see on my site.

**SteveLM:** It is really hard to get people to look at new ideas.

**SteveLM:** I guess they are a little skeptical

**Jan\_NS:** Very true, Steve.

**LisaSan:** Wow great sites everyone!

**MeredithK:** Steve do you teach Middle School Science

**LisaSan:** Steve where is your tapped in site? Can I get to it?

**SteveLM:** seventh grade integrated and one class of advanced earth science for 8th graders.

**Jan\_NS:** We have several preservice teachers here tonight.

**Jan\_NS:** Steve might be a good person to ask about first year science teaching. Are you willing, Steve?

**CindyL:** can you put up the frogguts web again

**SteveLM:** I guess if you just highlight me and click the i at the bottom of the box on the left you will see me profile and it will jump you to my office

**Jan\_NS:** <http://frogguts.com>

**CindyL:** thanks

**SteveLM:** That would be fine

**BJ . o O** ( a reminder that all urls will be in your transcript )

**Jan\_NS:** we will need to stay here for the transcript feature to work, unfortunately.

**DianeBB:** How do you get a transcript?

**SteveLM:** I am mentoring a first year teacher in my building now and have had two student teachers.

**BJ . o O** ( and also a reminder that if you are new to Tapped In, go to the ACTIONS menu in the top right of your chat window and click on DETACH )

**Jan\_NS:** You are a member Diane, you will get a transcript automatically

**BJ:** when you log out you will automatically have your transcript emailed to you

**DianeBB:** thanks

**Jan\_NS:** If you want to check Steve's websites in his office, follow his instructions but come right back.

**Jan\_NS:** I will stay here so you can "join" me again.

**LisaSan:** I have been told that my back will be against the wall during the first year. True? Too busy for anything but school?

**Jan\_NS:** Yes, at least IMHO

**SteveLM:** There is a lot of stuff there but much more that I would like to put on there. Feel free to visit anytime.

**DianeBB:** very true, Lisa

**LisaSan:** Absolute best strategy for coping?

**DianeBB:** How do we visit, Steve?

**BJ** thinks Lisa should join the preservice teachers group

**SteveLM:** If you highlight my name on the left. Click me once.

**BJ:** May I give instructions to get to your office, Steve?

**LisaSan:** I didn't know it existed. Where? When?

**SteveLM:** then click the green i button on the bottom

**DianeBB:** Take one day at a time and don't look too far ahead or you will be overwhelmed.

**BJ . o O** ( so it's in the transcript and people can go there any time, even if Steve is not logged in )

**SteveLM:** that will take you to my profile then just click to enter my office.

**SteveLM:** Leave a message on the whiteboard and let me know what you like and what I can dig up for you.

**BJ . o O** ( if you want to visit Steve's office later, log in, click on SEARCH in the top right, enter SteveLM and then go to his office that is linked from his profile )

**TerriWa** joined the room.

**LisaSan:** Thanks BJ and Steve

**LisaSan:** I will check out the office

**Jan\_NS:** Hi, Terri - we are discussing science websites and first year issues.

**TerriWa:** Thanks Jan, sorry to come in late.

**LisaSan:** How many computers in your classrooms?

**LisaSan:** Do you use the internet as part of your lessons?

**Jan\_NS:** Steve, what would be your first recommendation for first year teachers of science?

**DianeBB:** Lisa, I only have one student computer in my room.

**DianeBB:** I use internet with very strict guidelines in the computer lab.

**LisaSan:** Do you use Excel? Access? How do you use the computer in your class?

**MeredithK:** Do you students need the computer a lot in a science class?

**Jan\_NS:** It is useful for data exploration and for getting additional information.

**LisaSan:** My class this semester is all about integrating tech into the classroom. Kids love computer time so I think it will be useful as a hook to get them interested.

**SteveLM:** First year science teachers?????????

**Jan\_NS:** Yes, Steve!

**DianeBB:** I am trying to integrate as much technology as possible but I don't have to do it. I was planning to use Excel this week but our Excel is down!

**Jan\_NS:** to survive

**SteveLM:** My first year was survival. Unfortunately I didn't have a great support staff where I was my first year.

**Jan\_NS:** Dianne do you have Appleworks?

**DianeBB:** I'm first year with Science but my third year teaching.

**SteveLM:** I would suggest that you do what you need to do to get through.

**DianeBB:** I do not have Appleworks?

**TerriWa:** I agree that first year can be survival. A good curriculum that has a story line is great also.

**SteveLM:** It takes a while to get comfortable with the curriculum unless you end up in a county like Fairfax VA.

**LisaSan:** Diane do you provide the URL's to the students? What kind of guidelines?

**SteveLM:** I taught there for four years and loved it and they have developed an excellent curriculum that I was a part of that makes it real easy to follow and execute.

**MeredithK:** I know this is a Middle School session, but has anyone ever taught High School, or do you think it will be easier or harder for a first year teacher?

**Jan\_NS:** This is a place to talk science - high school is fine too.

**DianeBB:** Yes, I do provide the URL's for the students. They complete the assignment and are only allowed on the sites I have given. I usually give one game site for those who finish early.

**Jan\_NS:** Middle school is about classroom management and motivation

**SteveLM:** I think that it depends on what you are comfortable with. I really do not care for the kid's attitude in HS

**Jan\_NS:** So is hs too, though

**SteveLM:** MS at least some of the students still want to please you.

**LisaSan:** How do you handle one computer for the class? What do the other kids do?

**TerriWa:** I'm taking a Tech in Education class where we developed Web Quests for students to structure their online work.

**MeredithK:** Well that gives me something to look forward to.

**Jan\_NS:** That is a good strategy Terri

**LisaSan:** Sounds interesting Terri? Any examples?

**TerriWa:** I have a link in my office if you want to look.

**SteveLM:** I have also developed a webquest with input form the people in my building.

**SteveLM:** [www.geocities.com/psuloon](http://www.geocities.com/psuloon)

**SteveLM:** on biomes

**Jan\_NS:** great

**SteveLM:** for eighth grade.

**Jan\_NS:** let's go check

**TerriWa:** Mine is on density for eighth grade.

**SteveLM:** but it can be adapted for just about any grade.

**SteveLM:** Terri, do you have it up on the net?

**Jan\_NS:** Terri can you share the URL with us now.

**Jan\_NS:** ?

**TerriWa:** <http://ada.lesley.edu/faculty/ftgoerne/wheatridge/pg040302/sitedocs/index.htm>

**TerriWa:** I had to look it up. It's on a temporary site just now.

**SteveLM:** I wish that I had more time to create more of them

**TerriWa:** I agree that they take a lot of time. Someone suggested once you have one it can be used as a template. I'm not sure.

**Jan\_NS:** When you have the opportunity be sure to attend one discussion session with Bernie Dodge of Webquest fame.

**LisaSan:** Great Web Quests! What resources! Keep them coming...

**Jan\_NS:** Any comments on these webquests?

**Jan\_NS:** Why do you think these are great?

**TerriWa:** I've looked at Bernie Dodge's group and office. They don't seem very active this year. [Ed. Note: Bernie Dodge leads a monthly discussion on WebQuests. Check the calendar of events for dates and times.]

**MeredithK:** That was a great Web Quest!! I haven't seen one before, I'm just learning all of the teaching stuff.

**Jan\_NS:** Comes and goes. Be sure to check the Webquest Page.

**TerriWa:** I have been on the Webquest page.

**Jan\_NS:** Did you look at the examples that are posted there?

**Jan\_NS:** another site for teaching science ....

**LisaSan:** I like the density quest because it hooked me from the start with the "You are so dense" comment at the beginning. I can see kids hearing density/dense and thinking that rather than the scientific definition.

**LisaSan:** Plus it lets the user choose what level they are comfortable with to proceed. It helps us to teach to all levels in the class.

**TerriWa:** Jan, do you mean the sample web quests on the Webquest page? Yes, I did look at them, but didn't find much that I could use for science.

**Jan\_NS:** Great Lisa

**MeredithK:** I think I missed what web page are you looking at

**Jan\_NS:** yes, Terri -

**TerriWa:** I think since I teach physical science, and most are earth and life science.

**Jan\_NS:** Not sure that the examples can be reached. I am having difficulty right at the moment.

**Jan\_NS:** <http://www.k12science.org/collabprojs.html>

**MeredithK:** thank you

**Jan\_NS:** This is another site worth checking out. All can be modified for your own classroom.

**Jan\_NS:** Authentic experiences with real data

**TerriWa:** <http://webquest.sdsu.edu/> is one Jan mentioned I think.

**Jan\_NS:** yes, but I can't get to the examples. [Ed note: <http://www.webquest.org> is Bernie Dodge's webquest page.]

**TerriWa:** I had trouble getting to examples as well. I've participated in the Boiling Point project, but not recently.

**TerriWa:** It was hard to learn very much from the project because a lot of the data is not that good.

**Jan\_NS:** Ah, but what about the process and learning from that?

**TerriWa:** We do labs at least twice a week and get pretty good data on most. So kids weren't that impressed.

**Jan\_NS:** unfortunate

**TerriWa:** I thought so.

**Jan\_NS:** Is everyone familiar with Eisenhower National Clearinghouse?

**MeredithK:** No

**Jan\_NS:** <http://www.enc.org>

**LisaSan:** Confused here, where is the boiling point project?

**TerriWa:** Lisa, thanks for the comments on the web quest. I haven't used it yet. About a month out.

**LisaSan:** I intend to check it out more fully after this session is over. How much time did it take?

**Jan\_NS:** Lisa I gave a link <http://www.k12science.org/collabprojs.html>

**TerriWa:** Mentally, almost a month. I sat down and actually did most of it in a weekend.

**Jan\_NS:** Boiling point project is one of the collaborative online projects.

**LisaSan:** Thanks Jan, just too much info too keep up.

**Jan\_NS:** Eisenhower is a great clearinghouse of links and resources for math and science. Be sure to check Digital Dozen

**SteveLM:** There is a collaborative website called Journey North. I was always interested in it but haven't had the time to spend looking into it.

**TerriWa:** Have you used any of the other collaborative projects? I've been fascinated with the one measuring the size of the earth, but haven't found a way to fit it in.

**Jan\_NS:** Another is a simulation website. Simforest

**LisaSan:** Links for these? Or are they accessed off of k12 site?

**Jan\_NS:** <http://ddc.hampshire.edu/simforest/>

**TerriWa:** Does anyone teach weather? I found a good site today.

**Jan\_NS:** We sure have been jumping around. But unfortunately our time is almost up for this month.

**SteveLM:** <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>

**LisaSan:** Please share?

**Jan\_NS:** yes.

**SteveLM:** Here is the journey north website

**Jan\_NS:** we still have a few minutes

**MeredithK:** I never realized how many cool and helpful web sites there are out there.

**LisaSan:** Thanks Steve

**LisaSan:** I am glad we get summaries for these sessions, I need to bookmark these sites

**Jan\_NS:** Be sure to spend some time at <http://www.enc.org> [Ed. Note: be sure to check the Tapped In calendar of events for ENC presentations.]

**SteveLM:** I really wish that I was on my other machine. I have tons of great things bookmarked on it.

**Jan\_NS:** Please join us next month. Perhaps we can continue the website sharing.

**TerriWa:** Is there a group site where you post links?

**LisaSan:** Can you leave them in your office somehow?

**MeredithK:** I couldn't keep up with all of the web sites people were throwing out there. I am looking forward to checking them out.

**SteveLM:** <http://www.exploratorium.edu/index.html>

**Jan\_NS:** I will post the websites in the group space and to the list for middle level science.

**SteveLM:** This site is great too.

**Jan\_NS:** Thanks for your input everyone.

**LisaSan:** Thanks all!

**SteveLM:** If I am not mistaken, it is out of the San Francisco science museum

**SteveLM:** Thanks

**Jan\_NS:** You will get the links in your transcript too.

**SteveLM:** good night

**LisaSan:** night

**Jan\_NS:** Night all, everyone!

**TerriWa:** Glad I dropped in.

**MeredithK:** Good Night, thanks for all of the insight

**Jan\_NS:** Come back next month!