Title of Session: Middle Level Science - WebQuests
Moderator: Jan Naher Snowden
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Room: Tree House Conference Room

Jan_NS: We will wait just a minute to see if anyone shows up to join us.

KennieB: I am hoping to gain information that I can share with teachers in my District

BJB2: a reminder that you might want to click on the ACTIONS menu and then click on DETACH, Kennie, to make your chat window larger and easier to read.

KennieB: Thank you that is much better

Jan_NS: Are you familiar with Webquests, Kennie?

KennieB: I have taken a tour

KennieB: oops... yes

KennieB: I have been reading about ways to make better quests

Jan_NS: important to consider - many webquests are not adequate for the purpose.

KennieB: That is so true. I am beginning to realize that what I thought was a webquest was really just questions and answers.

Jan_NS: A tour? Please give me some info.

KennieB: I was thinking of something else. That is what happens when I try to do more than one thing at a time. Sorry.

Jan_NS: no problem - I have the same problem sometimes.

BJB2: Jan, is your topic webquests?

BJB2 . o O (Bernie will be here Thursday. His topic is Experiencing a WebQuest)

Jan_NS: Science Webquests and the nature of science.

BJB2: cool

Jan_NS: And I recommend attending Bernie's session on Thurs. Kennie.

KennieB: Thank you I will try to do that.

Jan_NS: How about introductions?

KennieB: **BJB2** do you teach science?

BJB2: I am an art teacher in Pennsylvania. Kennie

BJB2 . o O (and a science groupie)

Jan_NS: I am part-time faculty at Univ. of Akron in Ohio - Teacher Education, science methods and instructional technology.

Jan_NS: How about you, Kennie?

KennieB: Wow. Pennsylvania!!! that is a long way from Louisiana. I am the Instructional Technology coordinator for our Parish. this is my first year...I am still learning.

BJB2 smiles. A good teacher is always learning, Kennie

KennieB: That is so true!

Jan_NS: More power to you, Kennie - the first year is the hardest.

Jan_NS: So, Science Webquests it is.

ScottWM joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Scott

Jan_NS: We will visit the Webquest Portal. But first, welcome Scott

ScottWM: Thanks

BJB2: Jan is just starting. The topic is Science WebQuests

KennieB: Hi Scott

ScottWM: Hello all

ScottWM: Great...

Jan_NS: I will introduce a URL - please click on the hyperlink, spend a few minutes exploring and then come back to our Tapped In Chat window.

BJB2: if you have a pop up blocker, hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard as you click on the URL

Jan_NS: Then we will examine a few Science based webquests for evidence of Nature of Science and how or if it is part of the webquest.

Jan_NS: Before we launch ourselves, please introduce yourself, Scott

ScottWM: I am a technology coordinator working in Honduras..

KennieB: Awesome

Jan_NS: wow, that is a good place to be.

ScottWM: good.. not so sure..but interesting

ScottWM: thanks

ScottWM: moving back to States in June

ScottWM: permanently

Jan_NS: I was thinking warm as compared to Ohio right now.

Jan_NS: OK - here comes the URL

Jan_NS: http://webquest.org/

ScottWM: Bernie Dodge is excellent

ScottWM: it is almost 100 right now

Jan_NS: wow, that is really warm!

KennieB: We got up to 70 today in Louisiana today. Not near 100

Jan_NS: OK, please check the link above.

KennieB: I did I have looked here recently.

ScottWM: Jan... I have to say that I am at that site regularly.. Bernie Dodge is a great resource to keep up to date with

BJB2: Scott, Bernie is leading a discussion in Tapped In this Thursday

Jan_NS: Yes, I agree, Scott. We are going to check some Science Webquest.

ScottWM: Great .. thanks BjB.. you can subscribe to his forums and put it into Bloglines to keep up with his forums

ScottWM: Are we looking at all of them Jan.. or one in particular?

Jan_NS: Given that everyone is familiar with this site, we will look at several in particular.

Jan_NS: The National Science Education Standards are the basis for our investigation of these Webquests tonight. Shall I give you more information about that first before we look at a Webquest?

ScottWM: I could use some more info

KennieB: sure

Jan_NS: OK - the standards are broken into clusters, the foundational cluster being "Nature of Science"

Jan_NS: NOS deals with the process of science - how it works, how research is conducted with continual peer review. Also, the influence of culture on science understanding, that science is a creative endeavor, that science is tested over and over before the scientific community accepts a line of reasoning to develop a theory, such as Plate Tectonics

Jan_NS: Here are the basics:

Jan_NS: These characteristics of the nature of science include (Lederman, et al., 2001)

Jan_NS: 1.Scientific knowledge is tentative.

Jan_NS: 2.Scientific knowledge has basis in empirical evidence.

Jan_NS: 3.Scientific laws and theories are separate kinds of scientific knowledge.

Jan_NS: 4.Scientific knowledge is based upon observation and inference.

Jan_NS: 5.Scientific knowledge is created from human imagination and logical reasoning.

Jan_NS: 6.Scientific knowledge can be obtained by a variety of scientific methods.

Jan_NS: 7.Scientific knowledge is inherently subjective and based on interpretations.

Jan_NS: 8.Science is a human endeavor influenced by society and culture.

ScottWM: Sorry.. have to leave for now.. thanks...

ScottWM left the room (signed off).

Jan_NS: I had hoped that we could look evidence of these in one or two Webquests.

Jan_NS . o O (hope I didn't scare Scott off with this topic!)

BJB2 smiles. I doubt it, Jan

Jan_NS: Still care to follow this topic, Kennie?

KennieB: I think we should go on

BJB2 agrees

Jan_NS: great.

Jan_NS: here is one WQ to start us.

Jan_NS: go to the Top Webquest link on the left side of the Portal Page, then select Science WQ for grades 9-12

Jan_NS: select "Don't drink the water!"

KennieB: Jan I'm sorry but I don't see Science WQ

KennieB: I am looking at the WebQuest page

Jan_NS: Select "Top" under "Search"

KennieB: Thank you

Jan_NS: then select "Science" for grades "9-12"

BJB2: I'm with you that far

KennieB: I have it now

Jan_NS: then "Don't drink the water"

Jan_NS: explore looking for the 8 characteristics listed above.

BJB2 doesn't see Don't drink the water

KennieB: I had to scroll down. They are listed in ABC order

BJB2 nods...got it

Jan_NS: come back when you have found some evidence

KennieB: I am not a science teacher (Language Arts is more my thing), but I think this lesson is great.

KennieB: Well, students are asked to identify and classify

KennieB: They have to make a prediction and then test it

BJB2: and they are observing and predicting

Jan_NS: so we have knowledge being based on observation and inferences - basic science process skills that are necessary to conduct an investigation of this kind.

BJB2 agrees

Jan_NS: some of the 8 characteristics are less obvious, especially for the students to recognize.

Jan_NS: The task that has been established by the teacher requires logical reasoning and a degree of student imagination to make the leap from the case studies that are provided and the lab report investigation that they must present.

KennieB: But, aren't they using logical reasoning to make the prediction.

Jan_NS: Yes, exactly. To accomplish the task the students must use logical reasoning.

Jan_NS: The students will use empirical evidence as well.

Jan_NS: the challenge with NOS is getting the students to recognize the characteristics in their own work.

KennieB: That is a challenge

Jan_NS: I agree - and difficult to make obvious without drawing specific attention to the characteristics during the task of the Webquest.

Jan_NS: so this WQ had dealt with NOS - although not overtly.

KennieB: Well, I enjoyed it.

KennieB: Thank you for guiding us through it.

KennieB left the room (signed off).

BJB2: Hmmm...

Jan_NS: oops, no closure.

BJB2: must be on a timer

Jan_NS: well, it was a start.

BJB2: yes, it surely was!

BJB2: something to build on for next month?

Jan_NS: I am interested in making NOS more transparent with Web resources - this was a start.