

Title of Session: Math Resources K-20+

Moderator: Jeff Cooper

Title of File: 20061003mathk20

Date: October 3, 2006

Room: Math Resources K-20 Group

JeffC: OK... let's get started.

JeffC: I'd like people to start by introducing themselves, and telling a little bit about what you're looking for in terms of support from this group.

ValerieAW: My name is Valerie and I am a high school math teacher

LoidaC: I'm a student teacher EC-4.

JeffK: I teach middle school mathematics in Murrieta, CA. I am always looking for new ideas to try in my classroom. I am most interested in incorporating technology into my curriculum.

JeffC: I'm Jeff Cooper, live in Forest Grove Oregon, I'm on Tapped In Helpdesk and facilitate this group. However, I am *not* a math educator. I'm looking for others to really start collaborating with each other. To that end I will show you several techniques, a number of resources, and encourage you to create a K-12 classroom here for your students and possibly have them work with other math teachers here.

MichelleLM: I am a middle school math teacher. Same as Jeff K-looking to incorporate more technology into my curriculum

ValerieAW: I am very interested in using my "office space" for discussion with my students

JeffC: ok

JeffC: I see that Michelle and Jeff, you're both in the Cal State San Marcos class... are you also teaching in the same district?

MichelleLM: no, I am in San Marcos

JeffK: No

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler...and everything Jeff says. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

DavidWe puts in a plug for the Math Forum - www.mathforum.org

ValerieAW: I have also gotten some great ideas from the forum

JeffC: OK... let's start by having a quick overview of this room.

JeffC: There are a number of Links, Discussion threads, Files, etc.

JeffC: But the major resource here is people... or at least could be.

JeffC: If you click on the "About Us" link on the left of the top frame, you'll see a list of the 169 members of this group.

JeffC: If you're not yet a member of this group, please take the time to join... you'll need to go to the Welcome screen for that and pull up the group profile (it's in the Welcome box... just click the little "i" in the green circle and then click the link to "join this group").

JeffC: Now... if you see the 169 members in the "About Us" link... you will see when people last logged in.

JeffC: There are a number who haven't logged in since last year... and each month we have a handful of people show up here.

JeffC: I've been trying to get people to participate more... even if they can't show up to the monthly meetings, they could post to Discussion.

JeffC: However... that hasn't been happening.

JeffC: A community without active participants is a virtual ghost town.

JeffC: My goal today is to really start people actively participating with Tapped In in general, and the Math Resources group in particular.

JeffC: I will say that if anyone really wants to get involved with this group, I will make you a Moderator of this group (which will grant you special privileges).

JeffC: I'm looking for people who may facilitate these sessions in the future (with my support), find guest speakers, post to Discussion, any and all of the above.

JeffC: Now... while you're mulling that over... let me share a few resources for the new teachers.

JeffC: at <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> are my public bookmarks, and if you click on the "Mr.C's" Bookmarks you'll see a folder for Math, and there are a number of math sites within that.

JeffC: Hold the Ctrl key down when clicking, and you'll have a new window popup.

JeffC: If you have popup blockers, don't click the link unless you hold the Ctrl key down.

JeffC: or you might get logged out. I recommend enabling popups from *this site*... there is a way to do that in both Internet Explorer and Firefox.

JeffC: At some point today, before this group ends... I will invite you to create your own K-12 classroom here at Tapped In.

JeffC: Valarie indicated she wanted an office space for discussion with students... the way to do that is by creating a K-12 classroom.

JeffC: This assumes that your students have access... either at school or at home (preferably both!).

JeffK: What kind of activities can you do with your students on line? Tutoring? Actual lessons?

JeffC: That's a great question Jeff.

JeffC: The Whiteboard here doesn't have the features that I'd like... it's text only... but if they get it so that it's interactive, students could write on it... and problem solve collaboratively... there are other sites where that is possible.

JeffC: Tapped In would allow two classes to get together, discuss math problems, etc... perhaps work on the weekly math problems at mathforum, etc.

JeffC: Math is not one of the subjects where a lot of ideas for collaboration immediately come to mind.

JeffK: That sounds great!

DavidWe . o O (students working in groups)

JeffC: However, here are some ideas regarding that from the MathForum:
http://mathforum.org/library/resource_types/projects/

JeffK: A great way to encourage our students to verbalize their math thoughts

DavidWe: Explaining one's answers

JeffC nods

JeffK: Exactly

JeffC: I'm going to put up other links throughout this session... others are welcome to do the same.

JeffC: All of this will be in your transcript after you logout.

LoidaC: Thanks

JeffC: My favorite lesson plan site is the New York Times Learning Network. They have 74 highly articulated math lessons for grades 6-12:
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/learning.html>

JeffC: OK... now... is there anyone here who hasn't joined this group yet?

JeffC: If you haven't and need help doing so, please let us know and we'll give you help.

JeffK: oops! I wasn't successful trying earlier

AmyCS left the room (signed off).

JeffC: ok... click the Welcome link on the left of the top frame, then scroll down the top frame. In the "Welcome to Math Resources K-20+" box at the end is a little "i" in a green circle next to a link for this group. Click the "i" or the link to pull up the group profile page. Then click the link to "join this group."

JeffC: for those who are already members, I'd like you to spend about 10 minutes perusing some of those lessons at the NYT page.

JeffC: Here is that link again: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/learning.html>

JeffK: Got it ! Thanks

JeffC: cool

JeffC: and/or some of the links from the mathforum site:
http://mathforum.org/library/resource_types/projects/

JeffC: as you look at the lessons and/or projects, think about how you would incorporate them into your class as well as what obstacles (or indeed encouragement) you would have to do so.

JeffC: we'll discuss these in about 10 minutes... that gives you a little time to peruse at least.

JeffC: if people have questions/comments etc. along the way, feel free to ask.

JeffC: when you come back (in about 5 minutes) if you have found particularly interesting projects/links/etc. please copy and paste the url into chat here so the others may utilize the site(s) in the future.

ValerieAW: I liked the lesson plan The shapes of our world

ValerieAW:

http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20060124tuesday.html?searchpv=learning_lessons

JeffC: OK... I nominate Valarie to go first and give a brief description, discussion, etc. of what she likes about it, and how she envisions using it in her class.

JeffC: Others may write up a brief review in Word, etc. and be prepared to copy/paste what you've found back here.

ValerieAW: The basis of this lesson was for students to map a course from point A in your classroom to point B using at least 4 geometric terms.

ValerieAW: They want you to introduce the lesson by playing charades first. I am not sold on that aspect.

ValerieAW: We are currently going over the distance formula in my class so this may be a good way to end that unit

JeffC: That sounds great Valarie.

JeffC: OK... is anyone else ready to go... or has everyone fallen asleep?

LoidaC: Well, I had a few minutes.

ValerieAW: I liked how these lessons plans incorporate an article in the beginning and then the students follow up with a writing activity

LoidaC: I went to the 100th day of school celebration page.

MichelleLM: Lost in Translation sounds interesting. Some of the mathematics discussion would need to be taken down a notch for middle school. It is applying math to general audiences and that even mathematicians struggle with this. I like the interdisciplinary connections. Maybe do a ppt instead of brochure per group.

JeffC: One of the great things about NYTimes Valarie, is they often have lessons that teach across the curriculum.

JeffC: url for that Michelle?

JeffC: and Loida... get ready to paste in your info in a minute regarding 100th day activities.

MichelleLM: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20040525tuesday.html>

JeffC: thanks Michelle. Do you have much teaching across the curriculum in your school (this is an open ended question for everybody as well).

MichelleLM: Not since we left our village system. Math is its own island now. Feels lonely...

DavidWe: It's too bad you can't integrate it with science, especially, but also other topics

DavidWe: . o O (social studies, art, etc.)

JeffK: I liked the lesson about taxes for my math students. What a lesson for real life!
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/20050607tuesday.html>

JeffC: nods to Michelle. I fear that is one of the real drawbacks of old style pedagogy... even though we know that students need collaborative skills to work well in the 21st Century, schools for the most part are still stuck in the 20th Century. OK Jeff... care to discuss it a bit?

MichelleLM: Our system is like the high school system. I could have 5 different language arts teachers associated with my one period Algebra class.

JeffC: I would think that with a little imagination, many of these lessons could be team taught between teachers. Most schools now have some sort of "grouping of students" where teachers operate in "houses" etc. and share students. To me that should be a natural invitation to work together with teachers in different subjects.

JeffC: That's unfortunate that you don't share students Michelle.

MichelleLM: On the tax issue Jeff K- one of my students asked if I pay myself today. He says that tax payers pay teacher's salaries and we pay taxes on our salary-So we are really paying our own salary!

JeffK: There are articles about possible tax cuts, etc. Students find tax brackets on the internet and calculate taxes due for various taxable income. They then discuss what they think. Is it fair etc. I think that students would be motivated by this

JeffK: laughs

JeffC: One thing people might want to do here at this point is Detach your chat screens... click the "Actions" menu then Detach (and maximize).

DavidWe smiles

JeffC: you may also increase your font size.

MichelleLM: Jeff C we used to have so much fun and much tighter home-school communication when we were in villages.

JeffC: Loida... how are you doing... ready to paste in some feedback on the site you visited?

LoidaC: yes

JeffC: So Michelle... a giant step backwards then in your school?

JeffC: go for it Loida.

MichelleLM: I believe so but hey what do I know!?!?!?!?

JeffC: It will be okay now if the discussion flows in several directions simultaneously...

LoidaC: Well, I am a student teacher EC-4 hence the information I gathered

JeffC: more than the admins Michelle... more than the admins!

LoidaC: <http://www.siec.k12.in.us/~west/proj/100th/act.htm>

LoidaC: Here are a few ideas I found that I think would be very fun

LoidaC: Say hello in 100 languages.

LoidaC: Each of the children colored and decorated one foot, and then combined with the other children in other classes, we taped the footprints down the hall and marked off every 10 feet until we reached 100, so the children could see exactly how many 100 footprints are.

JeffC: That's a project you've already done Loida?

LoidaC: No, I found it on the forum link Jeff provided.

MichelleLM: I feel a number line also with this project and some integer work.

LoidaC: This activity also links to our goal of getting our kids to count to 100

LoidaC: by end of kinder

LoidaC: Class book: If I had \$100.00 I would buy_____. I Xeroxed a \$100.00 bill onto the classbook page, and each child wrote and drew what they would buy. We worked together with other classes in our building (a multiage activity) on this project.

LoidaC: Here is another one linking language arts and perhaps art

ValerieAW: Loida at that age are they able to comprehend how much \$100 will really buy

LoidaC: Well, no but perhaps in second grade they will. You can give examples, read books, etc.

LoidaC: to try to get the idea across

ValerieAW: how about helping them do some Internet searches?

LoidaC: on how much they could buy?

ValerieAW: Perhaps have them brainstorm ahead of time and then look up some actual prices and see how close they came.

JeffC: OK... we have 15 minutes left... here's what I'd like you to do at this point. Click on "Discussion" on the left of the top frame and post a new topic (you may also post a reply to others). Feel free to discuss in a little more depth the site you just visited, or introduce yourself, or put out a call for collaboration with other math teachers. We will still chat here about everything... so I'm looking for some multitasking.

LoidaC: That's a great idea.

AmyCS: got it

JeffC: I'm going to give one other task... of course it's completely voluntary! I'm about to paste up the instructions for creating your own K-12 classroom here. If you are interested in doing that, click the Actions menu, then "send to pasteboard" and tile your windows so you may see your instructions while following through.

MichelleLM: What do you mean tile your window?

BJB2: overlap the screens

JeffC: The pasteboard will open in a separate window... resize the main window down a bit so you can put them side by side.

JeffC: Here's the pasted instructions:

JeffC: K-12 Student Group Creation

JeffC: 1) Click the Tapped In tab in the top frame

JeffC: 2) Click the Groups subtab

JeffC: 3) Click the Create a new K-12 Student group link

JeffC: 4) Read all the terms... (recommend copy/pasting the agreement into Word for later use)... check the box saying you agree to the terms... click Continue

JeffC: 5a) Name your group: (ex. Mr. Cooper's AP English) 28 characters maximum.

JeffC: 5b) Nickname: Give it a nickname (ex. cooper_ap) 10 characters maximum and *no spaces* This will be the name of your group room. Empower your students by asking what they want the nickname to be (panthers, peacenicks, etc.)

JeffC: 5c) Purpose: The purpose can be what you want... teach online with your class, collaborate with other classes, etc. This shows up on your group profile page (and may be edited later).

JeffC: 5d) Topics: Select up to three topics that relate to the group (ex. ESL, Language Arts, Technology Education) for your group's profile.

JeffC: 5e) URL: You may type in your school's homepage or any appropriate link. Be aware that this will also show up in the group's profile. If you are looking to collaborate with other K-12 educators, consider giving the teacher's homepage with information that you are looking to collaborate with other teachers and students.

JeffC: 5f) Duration of Group: Defaults to 3 months, can be up to 12 months. The group may be renewed later by the Owner or Moderator.

JeffC: 5g) Grade Level: Elementary, Middle, or High School

JeffC: 5h) Number of Accounts: Select the number of students in your class and add 5 (just in case). If you have more than 50 students select 50 (more may be added manually later). Also consider creating more than one K-12 group.

JeffC: 5i) Prefix: Prefix may be no longer than 6 characters. Prefix will generate default student names (student names can be edited later) If you don't plan on changing their user names, these names will be used by the students with numbers attached. (ex. choose "coops" to autogenerate coops01St coops02St etc.). All students automatically have the St suffix added to their user names.

JeffC: 5j) Click Next

JeffC: 6a) Specify a password: Type it twice, at least 5 characters. All students will login initially with this password. Once logged in, they should immediately change it so that other students cannot use each other's accounts. (more on this in the Quicknote K-12 Group Management). Owners and Moderators may change individual passwords at any time.

JeffC: 6b) Join K-12 Students Box: Check the box to join the K-12 Students group. This is a support group for educators with K-12 students. In addition to posting questions regarding help for your group, you may also post requests for collaboration, lessons, etc. This group has over 400 members at Tapped In.

JeffC: 6c) Click: Create Group: This will create your group. If you are unsatisfied or need to make any changes, simply click the Back button instead.

JeffC: 7) You may now click the link at the bottom of the page to enter your K-12 Class!

MichelleLM: I have four layers of window right now. A little dizzy here...

JeffC: Of course... these instructions will be in your transcript as well... you can always do this later!

JeffC: So... discuss the sites, post to discussion, create your own K-12 class, etc.

AmyCS: I have a lot going as well

JeffC: Is anyone's brain hurting yet?

AmyCS: but will for sure check it out later

AmyCS: MINE IS!!!

LoidaC: Thanks for the info.

JeffC: hehe... try: <http://www.brainpop.com> !!!

ValerieAW: thanks for the terrific links

MaryannA: Hi, Looks like an interesting discussion

MichelleLM laughing till the tears are streaming

AmyCS: I like brainpop

JeffK huh

JeffK: I will have to try this later! I am still a beginner

JeffC: I tend to go very quickly with my sessions... knowing that educators will get a transcript and can digest the info later.

AmyCS: true that!

MichelleLM Ooooooh paste board not whiteboard

LoidaC: That does help

JeffC: My goal here was to get people into a mode of collaboration and participation. All of you did great in finding a site or two and posting back to the group.

JeffC: Actions menu-- Send to Pasteboard.

JeffK: I appreciate that! I feel like I am getting a tour as well

JeffC: With almost 170 math educators in this group, you could all be helping each other throughout the school year rather than being confined to your individual classrooms.

AmyCS: I love it!

JeffC: My hope is that people will take a more active role here, and post back to Discussion at least once (or three times!) a month... with ideas, lessons, calls for collaboration, etc.

JeffC: In that way, if I can even get 10% of the members going, we will make this group one of the most active ones at Tapped In.

JeffK: I think that this is a great resource. I'll be back!

LoidaC: I agree.

MichelleLM: Thank you Jeff C. It does sound like a great resource

AmyCS: THANKS!!!

JeffC: OK all... thanks very much for coming.

LoidaC: Thanks!!

MichelleLM: Good evening all

JeffC: And please consider finding guest speakers, becoming a moderator of this group, etc....

JeffK: Thanks Jeff, You have been awesome

DavidWe will consider guest speakers

JeffC: We only meet once a month, but we can stay in touch continuously here!