

**Title of Session:** Science Resources K-20+

**Moderator:** Jeff Cooper

**Title of File:** 20061003sciencek20

**Date:** October 3, 2006

Room: Science Resources K-20+ Group

**JeffC:** Welcome to Science Resources K-20+. For those of you who were in the Math Resources group meeting a little while ago, I'll be doing pretty much the same thing.

**JeffC:** Hi Patricia.

**DavidWe:** Except this is SCIENCE and not MATH

**PatriciaCh:** Hi Jeff

**JeffC** waves to Patricia

**BJB2** waves hi to Pat!

**DavidWe** reminds Jeff to substitute the "S" word for the "M" word

**JeffC:** Oh... science... math... is there a difference?

**DavidWe:** Well...sometimes...

**JeffC:** Math teachers will say the difference is "47."

**DavidWe:** That's because it is a prime number

**JeffC:** Science teachers will have to come up with a hypothesis on the difference.

**JeffC:** OK...

**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.

**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 science 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 science teachers here.

**DavidWe:** I'm David Weksler and although I lead a discussion about math education and technology, I'm really a science person (studied chemistry in college). I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

**LauraFD:** Hello I am Laura from Yuma AZ, here to get some links to amazing science sites, I am a preschool teacher at the moment so anything for the little kiddos would be great!

**MaryannA:** I am Maryann and I am an Instructional Technology consultant at a state education agency in Iowa

**ShannanB:** I'm a high school Earth Science teacher in Virginia. I'm working on my MEd and am taking a technology leadership class. I'm required to attend two tapped in sessions, so I'm completely new to this!

**AmyCS:** Hi! My name is Amy, I teach 2nd grade in San Jose, California. I am using tapped in for a class requirement for my masters program. I would like to learn more about science resources

**AnneWi:** Hi, I teach a 4/5 combo in California

**HopeW:** Hi, I'm Hope. I'm in San Diego, California. I teach fourth graders. I'm here today to see how Tapped in works and hopefully get some ideas about teaching science. I too am using this visit to meet a master's requirement.

**AmyCS:** I think we might all be in the same masters program in san diego

**AnneWi** laughs

**HopeW:** Dr. Hayden?

**DavidWe:** Except Laura who is in Yuma, AZ

**AnneWi:** Yup.

**HopeW:** It's an online course.

**DavidWe:** How's the course going?

**AmyCS:** it is a lot of work and I feel like I am lost a lot of the time

**LauraFD:** Nope I am in Hayden's class as well! Online distance learning at its best

**AnneWi:** so far it has been interesting. A lot of new infor for me.

**DavidWe:** Ah-hah!

**AmyCS:** but that's because I am taking other classes and I feel very overwhelmed

**AmyCS:** but I am learning a lot

**HopeW:** Pretty good. It's my first one and I really like the research module.

**JeffC:** OK... let's start by having a quick overview of this room There are a number of Links, Discussion threads, Files, etc. But the major resource here is people... or at least could be. If you click on the "About Us" link on the left of the top frame, you'll see a list of the 149 members of this group.

**ShannanB:** I know how you feel Amy!

**HopeW:** Does anyone know of any great science websites?

**PatriciaCh:** Sorry...I had to walk away....my name is Pat ..I teach math in Florida

**JeffC:** Yes Hope

**DavidWe . o O ( NASA )**

**JeffC:** We're going to get to some in a minute.

**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"). Now... if you see the 149 members in the "About Us" link... you will see when people last logged in. There are a number who haven't logged in since last year... and each month we have a handful of people show up here.

**BJB2:** Pat also leads the FIRST Robotics group in Tapped In

**ShannanB:** Well, it seems like most of you teach kids younger than mine, but I love this website for the solar system: <http://www.solarsystem.org.uk/planet10/>

**PatriciaCh:** thanks

**HopeW:** Oh, I see a picture of you Jeff. Is that what I should see?

**JeffC:** yes Hope

**JeffC:** Shannon... please let us know what you really like about the site (we're skipping ahead a bit here but that's cool).

**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. However... that hasn't been happening. A community without active participants is a virtual ghost town. My goal today is to really start people actively participating with Tapped In in general, and the Science Resources group in particular.

**JeffC:** So in a minute... I'm going to send you all out on a little search... and will report back...

**JeffC:** But if Shannon would like to discuss that solar system site, I'd love to hear it.

**ShannanB:** it's completely interactive. you can take a tour through the solar system, view the planets from many angles, and get good information. They also have a feature where you can create your own planet and place it in our solar system. It's fun to see if it survives or not

**JeffC:** Last year my daughter's class did powerpoints on the solar system... I'll show people the room I used here to facilitate it at the end of the hour.

**ShannanB:** I've actually seen kids pick really bad orbits and crash their planets into other ones

**HopeW:** That sounds really useful Shannan.

**HopeW:** The website not the crashing.

**JeffC:** that really sounds excellent Shannon! (uh... the interactive fun of it... but I bet the kids would rather have planets collide than orbit!).

**ShannanB:** I think the kids like the crashing more!

**AnneWi:** sounds like an interesting site. thanks

**HopeW:** Jeff you actually facilitated the lessons from tapped in?

**JeffC:** yes

**HopeW:** Wow sign me up.

**JeffC:** I hope to get \*all\* of you signed up and creating a K-12 classroom... we'll save that for the end today.

**JeffC:** For now... I'm going to put up a few links for you to take a look at.

**AmyCS:** cool

**JeffC:** First are my public bookmarks at <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> ...click on the "Mr. C's Bookmarks" folder, then the science folder. Hold the Ctrl key down when clicking or you may log out due to your popup blocker.

**JeffC:** The next site is the \*best\* 6-12 lesson site on the net. The New York Times Learning Network Lesson Plan Site.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/science.html>

**JeffC:** Now... I'm not forgetting about the K-6 teachers here:

**JeffC:** <http://www.brainpop.com>

**JeffC:** <http://www.yucky.com>

**JeffC:** There are two for you (there are others in my public bookmarks).

**HopeW:** I love brain pop but can't figure out a way to pay for it.

**LauraFD:** I found that yucky site just yesterday!

**JeffC:** Here is your "fun activity" (much better than a "task"). Take a look at one or more of those links... find some cool stuff... copy/paste the url back here... and write a short paragraph review (you might want to do it in Word). Yes... \$ is always a problem!

**AnneWi:** I agree about brain pop. Great site! What is the yucky site?

**JeffC:** I'll give you 10 minutes exploration time now... feel free to chat here if you like as well... but I'd like to hear back from each of you in ten minutes about any site you'd think is interesting for science teachers.

**LauraFD:** Yucky: Discovery kids, fun science projects for younger students

**MelissaKe:** I am looking for online interactive websites for Forensics....if anyone has any ideas:)

**BJB2:** wasn't there a thread in discussion on forensics, Jeff?

**JeffC:** forensic science or forensics speech?

**MelissaKe:** science

**AnneWi:** I keep going around in circles when I try to open your science folder. What is the trick?

**JeffC:** not sure Anne

**DavidWe:** I'm watching NOVA on PBS at the moment - some great science stuff

**DavidWe:** I can post the NOVA teachers URL if anyone is interested

**BJB2:** go to the SEARCH tab in the top right of the screen and then click on the subtab DISCUSSION

**JeffC:** Here is a forensic science link: <http://cyberbee.com/whodunnit/crimescene.html>

**BJB2:** enter forensics and limit the search to this room

**BJB2:** you'll see the thread. Read the posts by Sharon Bowers

**JeffC:** Some science teachers did work relating to the CSI tv series.

**JeffC** nods to Bj.

**MelissaKe:** Thank you!

**JeffC:** cool

**JeffC:** about 5 more minutes and I'd like to have people report back.

**JeffC:** if you're already ready... feel free to paste in your url and review.

**HopeW:** <http://pbskids.org/backyardjungle/> Students log on and create a map of their backyards and can log in discoveries. Elementary teachers could utilize to link the real world and school. You could even go on a trip to a park near your school and then come back to the computer lab and report what discoveries you made.

**JeffC:** sounds excellent Hope!

**JeffC:** that's ok Melissa... everything will still be in your transcript!

**ShannanB:** How Volcanoes Work [http://www.geology.sdsu.edu/how\\_volcanoes\\_work/](http://www.geology.sdsu.edu/how_volcanoes_work/)

**ShannanB:** This site has good information in a fairly easy to understand format. I wouldn't use it with weak readers, and probably only with high schoolers. It is a credible resource and the scientific explanations are nice and clear. It has wonderful pictures and animations. One of the things I really like is that it is divided up into subtopics, and each one has a little quiz with it. It also has a review crossword and a list of links.

**AnneWi:** <http://www.usatoday.com/weather/resources/basics/thunderstorms.htm>

**JeffC:** excellent Shannon! OK Anne... what can you tell us about the thunderstorm site?

**HopeW:** You know what site I like is this bookmark site. Can anyone sign up and share their bookmarks with their students?

**JeffC:** I've got one of my own to add in a minute. Yes Hope, you may create your own account there and then copy my bookmarks into your own site if you like.

**AnneWi:** This is a great site about thunderstorms. I wish I had known about it last month when I was doing weather reports with my students. Great visuals and tons of links to answer common questions.

**JeffC:** cool Anne!

**ShannanB:** That sounds great! We're about to do storms next!

**BJB2** . o O ( you also might want to visit the NOAA student resource room in the student activity center )

**MelissaKe:** <http://www.fbi.gov/fbikids.htm> My students really enjoyed the FBI and CIA website in the Forensics class!

**LauraFD:** I found Brainpop to be interesting, they say they will have lessons plans soon. If you click on the Teachers button it gives you ideas for how to use the site and resources in the classroom. I am working in a very nice preschool that just happens to not have a single computer for the kids to use, I hope to be changing that. I liked that they gave a suggestions for whole class learning in which the teacher can hook up a single computer to project onto a white board ( I would need some training to figure out that one). I think that would be an excellent way to bring some computer tech to these students. I am sure they would be fascinated!

**LauraFD:** here is the URL:

[http://www.brainpop.com/support/using\\_brainpop.weml?pagetype=s#wgl](http://www.brainpop.com/support/using_brainpop.weml?pagetype=s#wgl)

**MelissaKe:** I used a smart board to do something with Brainpop today, my middle school kids LOVED IT

**JeffC:** At this point you might want to click the "Actions" menu and then "Detach" (and maximize your chat window).

**JeffC:** The site I'm adding is <http://b.whyville.net/smmk/nice> which is a Multi-User Virtual Environment called "Whyville." It was written up in the last issue of "Technology and Learning" and has quite a few interactive science games, and quite a bit more tools for me to discuss. Jennifer Sun is the founder and I'm going to invite her back to discuss it more at length in the future.

**DavidWe:** Cool, Jeff

**LauraFD:** Yes, sorry about all of that text!

**JeffC:** ok... how's everybody doing? no need to apologize Laura!

**HopeW:** Great. A lot of information to choose from.

**JeffC:** The point here is collaborating... getting you to share info, sites, lessons, etc. All this can be read later in your transcript, and you're all encouraged to share this with your peers.

**AnneWi:** Great stuff!

**AnneWi:** When do people have time to sift through all of these fabulous sites and then use them?

**DavidWe:** Good question, Anne

**HopeW:** I find that I get hooked on a site and then use it all the time.

**DavidWe** smiles

**ShannanB:** I think some people enjoy it more than others. One of my coworkers spends hours finding stuff, then emails the rest of us links

**DavidWe:** That's great, Shannan

**ShannanB:** We are all very grateful

**AnneWi:** That would be nice.

**DavidWe:** Tapped In is built on the premise that now that colleague doesn't HAVE to be in the same building as you are in

**MelissaKe:** I love that:)

**JeffC:** That's a very good question you asked Anne... my experience is that teachers don't use sites much at all as a rule... due to access issues, and of course, finding them in the first place.

**JeffC:** OK... who has other sites, etc. to add at this point?

**AnneWi:** Exactly, and as in brainpop, the expense. But when we do use them the kids love it and really get something out of it.



**ShannanB:** As a second year teacher, I find that I use websites a lot for finding material and lesson plans, but don't have my kids use them much because we don't have many computers

**HopeW:** I second that Shannan.

**JeffC** nods

**JeffC:** OK... others may post if they like... but let's move on a bit.

**JeffC:** I want to point you in the direction of the Discussion threads here in this room.

**JeffC:** Reattach your chat (just close it), and click the "Discussion" link on the left of the top frame.

**JeffC:** I'd like you to post (either a new post regarding the site you just visited, or a call for lessons, or a request to collaborate with other teachers). You don't have to do this now... but I encourage all members to post at least once a month.

**JeffC:** After that... we'll finish up in my daughter's class from last year.

**HopeW:** Is the discussion tab in your area (where your picture is?)

**JeffC:** And I'll paste up information on how you may all create a K-12 classroom for your students as well.

**JeffC:** no... click "room view" first Hope.

**JeffC:** or the Discussion link on the left of the top frame (that's where you need to look).

**HopeW:** I see it.

**JeffC:** You may post into the "Personal Introduction" folder, or any other folder, start a new thread or reply to an old one.

**JeffC:** I'll give you a few minutes to do that... I'll be right back.

**HopeW:** I can't figure out how to post in the Personal Intro folder.

**HopeW:** I'm in it.

**JeffC:** The Discussion board here acts as a mini-listserv. Your post will automatically go out via email to everyone in the group.

**HopeW:** How do I create the post?

**AnneWi:** Do people put ideas and/or requests in each folder and then that is emailed to the entire group? Are replies also automatically emailed to everyone?

**JeffC:** Replies have to be made at Tapped In.

**JeffC:** Just drill down in the folder you want.

**JeffC:** But our hour is about up... and I want to show you all my daughter's class.

**JeffC:** So... don't feel the need to post now.

**JeffC:** I'm going to go there... when I leave, please type: /join JeffC

**HopeW:** Let's go

**JeffC** left the room.

Room: Matzke\_Grade2

**BJB2** joined the room.

**JeffC:** everyone here?

**DavidWe** joined the room.

**JeffC** assumes so, since BJB is here!

**MelissaKe** joined the room.

**JeffC:** OK... what you see in the top frame now is a classroom my daughter's class corresponded with, along with a number of portal sites to places I wanted the students to visit.

**BJB2** winks at Jeff

**JeffC:** I'm now going to show you a little trick... after you look at those links for a bit... I'm going to change the look of the top frame.

**JeffC:** OK... if everyone could click the "Welcome" link on the left of the top frame... you'll see something entirely new.

**DavidWe** left the room.

**HopeW:** You rock, Jeff!

**MelissaKe:** Neat:)

**PatriciaCh:** Terrific!

**JeffC:** What I've done is "unfeature" the Image Note of the school as well as the Text Note of the Portal Sites, and "featured" the Image Note of the Hubble pic of Deep Space as well as the Text Note of science links.

**AnneWi:** Very cool.

**JeffC:** In this way... you may create your own different classrooms... just feature items that you want your specific period to see.

**JeffC:** The final thing for today is to paste up the info on how you may create your own K-12 classroom here. The following will scroll your screen:

**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!

**LauraFD:** I love it!

**ShannanB:** cool!

**JeffC:** If you want to create one now (I have to leave... so I won't be around to help you set it up though)... click the Actions menu, then "send to pasteboard" and shrink your main window a bit so you can put the pasteboard side by side.

**JeffC:** If you create a classroom for your own students, I can help with setup (later) as well as facilitate your corresponding with other K-12 science classes here at Tapped In.

**PatriciaCh:** Thanks...

**HopeW:** Thank you, Jeff.

**JeffC:** Of course, all of this will be in your transcript and you are all welcome and encouraged to send it to your peers.

**BJB2:** you also might want to visit the student campus reception...

**AnneWi:** Thanks Jeff. Terrific session.

**ShannanB:** thank you for everything!

**JeffC:** You're all very welcome.

**LauraFD:** Thank you Jeff, for all the great info.

**BJB2:** and visit some of the resource rooms listed under featured passageways

**JeffC:** Any final questions/comments/sites, etc.?

**MelissaKe:** Thanks Jeff, this is my second time here and I hope to have more to offer as I get more teaching experience. I appreciate all that is shared:)

**BJB2** . o O ( there is a NASA resource room and an NOAA resource room that might be useful )

**PatriciaCh:** I am just checking out all the different links...thanks again Jeff

**LauraFD:** not for now, but we know where to find you!

**JeffC:** This room is currently opened to visitors... normally you can't enter a K-12 classroom unless you're a member of the class. You are more than welcome to copy the links on this page and create your own Solar System unit (and I want that interactive site again!).

**BJB2:** <http://www.solarsystem.org.uk/planet10/>

**JeffC:** Yes Bj... there are several excellent K-12 science groups here... as well as Patricia's K-12 Robotics group.

**BJB2** . o O ( but it still has Pluto listed )

**ShannanB:** poor Pluto

**BJB2** nods...thanks for that reminder, Jeff

**PatriciaCh:** Pluto is a planet...taking it away ruins the rhyme

**BJB2** chuckles.

**BJB2** . o O ( very scientific reason, Pat )

**JeffC:** not to mention the need for a new mnemonic!

**LauraFD:** I agree!

**ShannanB:** Pluto just needs to bulk up on the aSTEROID belt

**PatriciaCh:** yes....mnemonics is important to student learning

**JeffC:** You may add this room as a "favorite place" by clicking the link in the top frame.

**LauraFD:** will it always be open to visitors?

**JeffC:** Thanks again for coming everyone... I'm heading out (and will be in my office if you want to join me). I plan on leaving it open, yes Laura. The second graders don't use chat, and this is a very safe and secure environment.

**BJB2:** I see a link to PBS Kids, Jeff...

**JeffC:** Guests aren't allowed in... you have to be a Tapped In member to get here.

**LauraFD:** Thanks Jeff!

**JeffC:** yup... that's one of my top two sites for K-3 students along with <http://www.starfall.com>

**PatriciaCh:** yes this is a secure site

**ShannanB:** thanks again. bye!

**BJB2:** Michael Hutchison is going to have someone from PBS Kids as a guest speaker for the social studies forum

**BJB2** . o O ( I think on Oct 25 )

**BJB2** waves goodnight

**PatriciaCh:** Good night all