

Title of Session: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears - Tundra

Moderator: Kimberly Lightle

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Room: Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears Group

BjB: Welcome to this month's Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears.

CamilleL: Thank you!

KimberlySL: Hi everyone - so glad you joined the chat!

BjB: Kim, we usually start with introductions. Do you want to do that?

KimberlySL: I'm starting to recognize some names - let's introduce

CamilleL: Hi, guys, I'm Camille, a Reading Teacher in the Bronx, New York.

KimberlySL: I'm a science educator at Ohio State University in Columbus Ohio

MaryHe joined the room.

BjB waves hi to Mary...just in time for introductions

KimberlySL: Hi Mary - we're introducing ourselves

JessicaLR: I'm Jessica, I am a Gifted Resource Teacher in Virginia

MaryHe: Hi, I'm Mary. I work with Kim Lightle on the Middle School Portal2 project and am with National Middle School Association.

BjB: I'm a retired communication and art teacher located in Pennsylvania. I'm also on Tapped In helpdesk

BjB smiles. Cool, Mary!

AdelleM: Hi I am a Grad Student and taking time off from teaching 1st to stay at home w/ Kids

MaryHe: communication and art teacher. Great combo!

KimberlySL: Excellent - we might have some people come in a little late but let's get started

BjB . o O (welcome to the Tapped In community, Mary! I see you just joined today.)

MaryHe: yes

KimberlySL: Today we are going to investigate the Tundra issue of Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears - an online magazine for K-5 teachers that integrates science and literacy.

KimberlySL: Has anyone spent time in the Beyond Penguins online mag?

MaryHe: I have

CamilleL: Not yet.

JessicaLR: I looked at it a bit today

AdelleM: not yet

KimberlySL: That's just fine -

KimberlySL: Beyond Penguins is funded through National Science Foundation and supports the International Polar Year (IPY).

KimberlySL: Please go to <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org> - This is the current issue - we are going to the April issue - scroll down and click on the image in the bottom left hand corner

AdelleM: IPY?

KimberlySL: International Polar Year - which is going to last through the end of the decade

KimberlySL: You can also get to all of the past issues by clicking on the Archive link in the header

CamilleL: I'm always getting notices to save write to congress to save animals and it seems the polar bears are in a desperate situation, eh?

KimberlySL: About the polar bears - not so good

KimberlySL: You'll see that there are five departments - Professional Learning, Across the Curriculum, Science and Literacy, In the Field, and Polar News and Notes

KimberlySL: Everybody should be at the home page of the Tundra issue of the magazine - are we all there?

JessicaLR: yes

MaryHe: yup

KimberlySL: <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/issue/index.php?date=April2009>

CamilleL: yes,

AdelleM: yes

KimberlySL: oh good

KimberlySL: You'll see that there are five departments - Professional Learning, Across the Curriculum, Science and Literacy, In the Field, and Polar News and Notes

KimberlySL: Every issue of the magazine is laid out the same way

KimberlySL: The same five depts and the same columns under each dept

KimberlySL: I'd like everybody to click on the article Science Content Knowledge under the Professional Learning department

KimberlySL: Each issue covers the science knowledge a teacher would need to teach these concepts - scroll down and look at the images and graphics

KimberlySL: Did you know that there was tundra in the Antarctic?

CamilleL: I just love the one on "algae and lichens" -- I'd like to put that one up in my living room -- beautiful!

BjB: That's new information to me!

CamilleL: no, I think I taught that one to third graders

JeffC joined the room.

BjB: . o O (there was no tundra when I was in third grade...the continents were just drifting into place ;-)

CamilleL: the curriculum is communities and I went to the library to elaborate on the science textbook (1990)

KimberlySL: very funny

CamilleL: oh stop, you're so cute, BjB

KimberlySL: Let's go back to Professional Learning - each issue also focuses on one literacy strategy - this one is writing a research report.

KimberlySL: So each issue covers the science content knowledge and one literacy strategy - they are integrated throughout that issue.

KimberlySL: BTW - you can click on the tabs in the blue green bar to get to the departments too

KimberlySL: each department has a beautiful image associated with it

KimberlySL: We also look at misconceptions, integrating technology (this issue is about Diigo), equity. Each issue has a podcast too.

KimberlySL: All of these columns are always in the Professional Learning department.

KimberlySL: Spend a few minutes looking at the columns in the Professional Learning dept - anything catching your attention?

CamilleL: this is truly the way to teach best -- teaching reading through the content area - great resource!

KimberlySL: BTW - all the podcasts are in one place - look at the header link that says podcasts

AdelleM: I like the section on misconceptions

KimberlySL: The podcasts are really spectacular

CamilleL: I can't wait to play this, "What's For Dinner? Teaching Arctic Food Chains: Podcast Episode 5

KimberlySL: If you would like to see all the misconceptions columns click on the header link that says Browse Columns

KimberlySL: The gal that does our podcasts does the podcasts for the Exploratorium in San Francisco

KimberlySL: She's really good - she interviews scientists and educators and does all sorts of cool stuff

CamilleL: Wow -- what a cool job that is!

KimberlySL: OK everyone - Let's go to the Science and Literacy department next -

KimberlySL: Click on the blue green bar - second tab - everyone with me?

AdelleM: yep

JessicaLR: sure am

MaryHe: yup

KimberlySL: Great

CamilleL: you mean the feature story?

KimberlySL: In this department you'll find lessons and activities that specifically integrate the science and literacy.

KimberlySL: Click on the Lessons and Activities link - have you tried any of these activities?

KimberlySL: Camille - let's go to the Lessons and Activities link first

CamilleL: I recognize a lot of this like, fossils, oceans, etc., from the 3rd grade curriculum.

KimberlySL: The activities go K-4 and the NCTE/IRA and National Science Ed Standards are included

KimberlySL: We try really hard to include activities that would be appropriate for what is taught at those grade levels

CamilleL: Wow -- wish I had this back in 1990!

KimberlySL: Now let's go to the Feature Story - The next article is called Feature Story - this is an informational text story that a children's writer writes for each issue.

KimberlySL: It's available at three grade levels - K-1, 2-3, and 4-5.

KimberlySL: We have the text, PDF printable files, and ebook formats.

AdelleM: I have to go early. I can tell this is a great resource. Thanks for the tour.

KimberlySL: Click on the Feature Story link and cross down to where it says electronic books.

CamilleL: bye Adelle

AdelleM left the room (signed off).

KimberlySL: Thanks Adelle for coming

KimberlySL: Click on one of the versions - click on the icon in the upper right hand corner to have the computer read you the story and the icon in the lower right hand corner to turn the page.

KimberlySL: The ebook will download - then use the icons

KimberlySL: This is a really gross story - but only for grades 4-5. We toned it down for the younger students.

KimberlySL: Bot flies lay their eggs in the noses of caribou - yuck!

MaryHe: does this benefit the caribou in any way?

KimberlySL: I don't think so - but it doesn't harm them either!

JessicaLR: yeah, it is sort of gross

KimberlySL: Were you able to get the ebook to download?

KimberlySL: The ebooks look great on whiteboards

MaryHe: yes. I need to tell my nieces and nephews about these--to use with their kids at home!

JessicaLR: oh, that's a great idea

CamilleL: do you have to have something special hooked up to your computer for it to "read the story"

KimberlySL: nothing special

KimberlySL: parents are using these stories too

KimberlySL: All the Feature Stories can be found in the header link that says - Stories for Students.

KimberlySL: The last column in this dept is Virtual Bookshelf

KimberlySL: The virtual bookshelf includes recommended children's literature books that you can get from most school libraries.

KimberlySL: Go ahead and click on that link - do you recognize any of these titles?

KimberlySL: If you would like to see all of the Virtual Bookshelves - click on Browse

Columns in the header

CamilleL: no, don't think so, but they do look interesting

KimberlySL: We have a children's librarian in a local library help us pick them out

CamilleL: haven't worked with that age group for a while

KimberlySL: Another feature I wanted to point out is that we have Babel Fish on the site which means you can translate the website into 15 languages.

JessicaLR: wow!

KimberlySL: You can find that feature in the header - Change Language

CamilleL: oh wow that comes in handy here in New York!

KimberlySL: It won't translate the electronic books but the text copy of the feature story gets translated

CamilleL: oh, that's the one the kids write, eh

KimberlySL: No - the feature story is the Tundra Tale for this issue

KimberlySL: It just comes in different formats

KimberlySL: <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/information.php?topic=stories> gives you a better explanation of the feature stories

CamilleL: oh that's good -- stronger background info for them

KimberlySL: Some of the issues do have activities that are specifically related to the feature story

BjB : you can also check out <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/> to see if there are translations of the recommended books

KimberlySL: the students read the text and then take notes or what ever happens to be the literacy strategy for that issue

JessicaLR: would those feature story activities be listed under lessons and activities, or with the featured stories?

CamilleL: oh, ok. thanks BJB, that's helpful

KimberlySL: <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/information.php?topic=stories> - go here

and scroll down and look for the links that say related activities

KimberlySL: do you see them?

JessicaLR: yes

KimberlySL: ie - scroll down to White Wolf -

CamilleL: no, under what?

KimberlySL: go to <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/information.php?topic=stories>

KimberlySL: then scroll down and look for hot links that say article

KimberlySL: The - article - hot link will take you to activities that can be used with the feature stories

BjB: These stories introduce students to the life cycle and life of the arctic wolf. The original magazine article includes related activities and templates to help students develop listening comprehension skills during a teacher read-aloud.

BjB: the word "article" is hot linked in that sentence

KimberlySL: it looks like all the feature stories have related activities - both science and literacy

CamilleL: oh my goodness! talk about background information -- wow -- an all in one!

KimberlySL: You can see all the issues here - <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/archive.php>

CamilleL: what a company! I want to work there!

KimberlySL: So far we have had 14 - and 6 more to go!

JessicaLR: I teach summer enrichment each year, I now want to do a beyond penguins unit...

KimberlySL: It really is fun putting together these issues

CamilleL: Don't forget to bring in Fancy Feet:)

JessicaLR: maybe next year... :)

KimberlySL: That would be great! I'm sure Jessica (project director) would give you some help - her contact info is in the Contact link in the Footer

JessicaLR: cool, so will this project continue even after the IPY is up?

KimberlySL: <http://beyondpenguins.nsd.org/archive.php> - look at the past issues - any of them look interesting?

KimberlySL: Jessica - we have 1.5 years left on the project but have every intention of continuing the work

CamilleL: Polar Festivals could be fun.

JessicaLR: thanks (sorry for the sidebar)

JessicaLR: Polar Patterns looks interesting

KimberlySL: no problem!

CamilleL: and definitely Polar Plants -- I want that picture in my living room -- gorgeous!

KimberlySL: so even though these issues have a polar twist there is plenty of science and literacy that could be integrated into any elementary science or literacy curriculum

KimberlySL: our goal is to help elementary teachers use science content when they teach literacy - reading, writing, communicating

BJB: btw, The July Beyond Penguins and Polar Bears session will be on July 1, so please spread the word!

CamilleL: I do that now -- thanks for these most helpful resources!

JessicaLR: thanks!

CamilleL: o.k. BJB will do

KimberlySL: We will also have a photo gallery available in August

KimberlySL: I'm sure Camille will enjoy it!

CamilleL: how'dya know:)

KimberlySL: I love the images too

CamilleL: same photographer?

KimberlySL: About the July 1 date - might have to move that out one week - the NECC

conference is happening

BjB nods to Kim...will you be there?!

KimberlySL: about the photographer - we use images from all sorts of people

BjB . o O (I will be)

KimberlySL: Yep - I'll be there all week - oh good - let's plan on meeting f2f

BjB nods to Kim. And I'll schedule the July session for July 8

BjB . o O (was wondering how I was going to do that ;-)

CamilleL: what are you planning on doing then?

KimberlySL: well - if you have some ideas I'd sure like to hear them

KimberlySL: we could tour another issue of magazine

KimberlySL: or something else

CamilleL: hmmm...I will think about it...

JessicaLR: is there another issue coming out? what's the topic of that issue?

KimberlySL: there are 6 more issues but I can't remember what the August issue is - sorry

KimberlySL: we're taking the summer off!

CamilleL: good for you!

JessicaLR: that's ok, the suspense will keep me coming back

KimberlySL: oh good!

CamilleL: there is so much here now to plan around.

CamilleL: perhaps you could address the middle school teachers somehow next time?

KimberlySL: there is a ton - we're thinking of ways to help teachers figure out how to incorporate these resources into their teaching

KimberlySL: to make the process easier

CamilleL: oh, that's easy...download

CamilleL: the students could use the materials as research projects...

CamilleL: and then presentations before their class.

JessicaLR: there's just so much information-its just a matter of spreading the word, letting people know this is here

KimberlySL: that's not what I meant - I mean how do we help teachers meaningfully incorporate specific resources into their teaching

KimberlySL: these can be overwhelming

BjB nods at Jess...that's why I asked you to spread the word ;-)

CamilleL: not if you saw how poorly constructed our science textbooks are -- they need supplementary materials such as yours.

KimberlySL: very good point

JessicaLR: it is a really cool resource, and I think when looking at what's here, and how much prep is cut out of having to find everything for yourself, teachers would be pleased

KimberlySL: we were thinking some case studies

BjB : the trick is that not all educators are as adept at using the resources available as you are, Camille

KimberlySL: another good point - we have really distilled what is available to the best of the best

JessicaLR: well I would love to use this next year with my students in gifted resource,

CamilleL: oh, sorry to hear that.

BjB . o O (otherwise there would be 50 people here for this chat)

KimberlySL: I didn't say that right - we've distilled the bazillions of resources down to just the few best ones for everybody to use

CamilleL: we need to advertise more --

BjB . o O (and 20,000 Tapped In members)

CamilleL: putting this on Twitter or NING

BjB : Thanks, Kim, for another wonderful discussion

KimberlySL: We've done quite a bit - but any ideas and help would be greatly appreciated

BjB : thanks, Mary for joining Tapped In

CamilleL: bye, bye **BJB**, and thanks Kimberly!

BjB : Camille, I tweet and posted this session and quoted a comment you made!

JessicaLR: thanks for your time!

KimberlySL: Well it is about time to go - thanks everyone for coming! Hopefully everyone we be back next month

CamilleL: oh, you're too good, BJB!

MaryHe: bye

JessicaLR: bye!

BjB waves bye.

CamilleL: chow!

KimberlySL: we have the MSP2 tappedin chat next Monday at 3:30pm EST - Middle School Wiki Page

CamilleL: thanks, I'll write that down!

KimberlySL: Great - see you then!