

**Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning - Social Studies**  
**Moderator: Linda Ullah (BJ Berquist)**  
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Started recording in After School Online Room (#1460)[TappedIn] at Thu  
Apr 24 16:12:27 2003 PDT.

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "Let's start with introductions.."

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "I'm a teacher in Pennsylvania and will be your substitute host for this discussion"

ChristopherGM says, "I am science teacher in Northern VA,"

KevinWh says, "I am a teacher in Kansas Cith--11th grade"

DaveSa [HelpDesk] says, "I'm a student in New Jersey--7th Grade."

Melanie [guest] says, "Hi, I'm Melanie and I'm taking a graduate class in education and I am not currently teaching- but subbing. In NY"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "Linda Ullah is usually the discussion leader for the Global PBL forum..."

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "but she is unable to log in. She sent me some information she wanted to share."

Melanie [guest] says, "Sounds good"

DaveSa [HelpDesk] says, "Okay."

ChristopherGM says, "cool"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "I'll go over the sites she sent, and then you can ask questions"

BJ [HelpDesk] exclaims, "the first site Linda wanted to share is Africa Matters!"

BJ [HelpDesk] projects the URL:  
<http://www.africamatters.org/>

BJ [HelpDesk] checks to see if everyone got that projection

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "I'll give you a minute to take a look and then you can ask questions"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "take a few moments to look through the site and then we'll meet back here to discuss"

Melanie [guest] says, "okay"

KevinWh says, "OK--I think I am ready--"

Melanie [guest] says, "Me too."

BJ [HelpDesk] asks, "comments? How is this site project based?"

ChristopherGM says, "This is more first time with this session. This is more general rather than specific to the site, which I like so far. What is Global Project Based Learning"

Melanie [guest] asks, "I hope this isn't a silly question, but since I'm not a ss teacher, could you briefly tell me what project based is?"

ChristopherGM asks, "What is Global Project Based Learning?"

BJ [HelpDesk] exclaims, "good question!"

KevinWh says, "Well, to answer the question and for the purposes of information, it includes info based on various projects."

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "project based learning is when a group of learners does research and works with others to reach conclusions about an issue or topic"

Melanie [guest] asks, "So is it interactive learning, in a way?"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "thanks, Kevin"

BJ [HelpDesk] nods to Melanie

KevinWh says, "So, because a group, specifically artists, teachers, and scientists are working together to solve a problem/learn it is project based"

ChristopherGM says, "Ok, thank you."

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "I like how the arts are being included"

ChristopherGM says, "How does an issue or topic start."

Melanie [guest] asks, "Well then was that site the research of different groups?"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "Chris, it can be two schools comparing data"

KevinWh says, "True, but how could this be applied to a high school classroom? This seems a little advanced to me and not applicable to that setting."

ChristopherGM says, "I would assume the many online collaborative tools have made it easier for greater input"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "I'm going to project a url....it's the projects page for Africa Matters"

BJ [HelpDesk] projects the URL:  
<http://www.africamatters.org/projects1.htm>

Melanie [guest] asks, "What should we be doing now?"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "take a look at the projects, Melanie, please"

Melanie [guest] says, "okay"

KevinWh asks, "I have seen project based learning that can really engage students. Am I incorrect to think that this is more informational?"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "It appears to be that way to me also, Kevin"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "unless there is some kind of communication among various schools with the Africa Matters researchers"

ChristopherGM says, "Do they have a message board or chat oriented forum that allows for the sharing of information"

KevinWh says, "Yes, that is true, but when you click on how can you help, it mentions money . . ."

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "I'm not sure what Linda had in mind. The partners might give us a clue."

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "let's move on to the next site Linda sent....ARCH, American Russian Communication Headquarters"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "this is a Global Schoolhouse project"

BJ [HelpDesk] projects the URL:  
<http://arch.foxcitieskurgan.org/>

ChristopherGM asks, "Is there a site for Global School House Projects?"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "yes, Chris, there is ...do a google search"

KevinWh says, "Now THAT is a site that engages students"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "the topic is certainly timely"

Melanie [guest] says, "This site is interesting, it's wonderful to see students working together in such a way! I agree, it will engage students."

BJ [HelpDesk] asks, "I'm assuming from the silence that you are all engaged in the Global School house site?"

KevinWh says, "Yep"

Melanie [guest] asks, "I'm still here, are we still discussing the site?"

ChristopherGM says, "yes"

BJ [HelpDesk] asks, "what do you think of that site, Melanie?"

BJ [HelpDesk] asks, "what age group do you think it would be appropriate for?"

Melanie [guest] says, "I found it very interactive."

KevinWh says, "Age group would definitely be UPPER level high school/college"

Melanie [guest] says, "For high school students, maybe 11th or 12th grade."

BJ [HelpDesk] agrees

Melanie [guest] asks, "How does something like that get started?"

ChristopherGM says, "High school students could definitely benefit from it. See other kids your age like the ones from the ARCh team in Wisconsin."

Melanie [guest] says, "It is much more beneficial for children to learn that way, then simply through a text."

BJ [HelpDesk] nods...that's what project based learning is, Melanie

Melanie [guest] says, "okay"

BJ [HelpDesk] asks, "ready for the last site Linda shared?"

Melanie [guest] asks, "What kind of direction and guidelines are provided for students as they begin a project based learning?"

KevinWh says, "Yes"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "Melanie, it depends on how the project is set up"

Melanie [guest] asks, "Well, how would a teacher go about setting up such a project?"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "some use email, some construct webpages...there is usually some kind of electronic communication"

Melanie [guest] says, "ok"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "epals is used by some projects"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "some projects have their own private system"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "could be a message board ...blogging seems to be becoming a popular avenue also"

ChristopherGM asks, "blogging?"

Melanie [guest] says, "same here"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "blogging is short for Web Logs"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "kind of like an electronic diary"

Melanie [guest] says, "I see"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "Bernie Dodge led a discussion on blogs and webquests last Thursday"

Melanie [guest] says, "To bad I missed it"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "the transcript is archived at [www.tappedin.org/transcripts](http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts)"

Melanie [guest] says, "I'll have to look into it"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "the next url that Linda sent brings us full circle..."

BJ [HelpDesk] projects the URL:  
<http://www.earthteam.net/>

BJ [HelpDesk] asks, "does that url look vaguely familiar?"

BJ . o O ( they're one of the partners of Africa Matters! )

KevinWh says, "I like how this site ties the projects to various performance standards."

Melanie [guest] says, "Yes, because that is important"

KevinWh exclaims, "And it offers a realistic way for schools/students to get involved for free!"

BJ . o O ( free is good :- )

Melanie [guest] says, "Certainly"

Melanie [guest] asks, "anything else?"

KevinWh says, "I think this one relates to Social Studies at the high school level the best."

Melanie [guest] says, "agreed"

ChristopherGM says, "And as science I could use it as well."

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "nice interdisciplinary lessons. That is an important feature of a good PBL project"

Melanie [guest] exclaims, "True!"

KevinWh exclaims, "Well, I have got to run. Enjoyed the discussion!"

Melanie [guest] says, "I did as well, thanks for all of your thoughts."

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "perhaps knowing that the earthteam site is a partner of Africa Matters will help to understand that project better"

BJ [HelpDesk] says, "thanks for joining the discussion"

Melanie [guest] says, "Bye"

BJ . o O ( and thanks for contributing to the ideas )