

Title of Session: Global Project Based Learning

Moderator: Linda Ullah

Title of File: 20040923gpbl

Date: September 23, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

LindaU: Hi I'm Linda Ullah, I teach a class in Global Project Based Learning, and have been trying to help teachers in the San Francisco Bay Area do projects with teachers in other schools, cities, states, countries. Who are you all any what interests you about Global Project Based Learning?

MonicaRH: I am a college student at the University of Houston, I want to teach haven't decided on a focus

BJ: Hi, I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania. I'm interested in comparing and contrasting cultures around the world

LindaU: Welcome Monica.

CarolmGst7: Hi Everyone, I am a computer teacher in New Jersey.

DavisR: Hello to everyone, I am a principal in Virginia and may be interested in a project for my gifted students.

LindaU: Welcome Carol and Davis

BrandyM: Hello all, I am a multimedia arts teacher in Fullerton, CA. I am getting my masters at APU in ed tech. and am trying to get a better grip on what GL options there are for my curriculum.

LindaU: Welcome Brandy

JaymeD: Hi, I'm a math teacher in California. I'm interested in getting ideas from other math teachers

LindaU: Welcome Jayme.. fantastic... I've been thinking about global math-related projects lately.

LindaU: Let's begin with trying to get a common concept of what we mean my global project based learning? What does the term mean to you?

SarahO joined the room.

BJ: Hi, Sarah. Welcome. We've just started.

JeffC: I'm Jeff Cooper from Oregon... GPBL means connecting kids through tech (and non-tech) locally, nationally and internationally using tools, sites, and communities as necessary to complete the project. Projects may last from a short period of time to entire semesters (or school years). Building of communities of practice naturally are part of this.

SarahO: Good, I was worried about being too late! This is my first session to attend on Tapped In!

JaymeD: I think it mean collaborating with teachers from other geographic areas to create "best practices" lessons.

LindaU: Great definitions... How far apart geographically must the teachers/classrooms be?

MonicaRH: it does not make a difference does it?

CarolmGst7: I think that is means using distance learning opportunities to collaborate with people from all over the world.

BrandyM: I don't think it matters

DavisR: Global project based learning is an opportunity for a group of learners from around the globe to work on a project with ideas from their geographic area.

JaymeD: They could be next door or across the ocean

BrandyM: I agree with Jayme

DavisR: Distance is not a factor when technology is involved.

LindaU: Exactly... what is the bond that makes working with another teacher/class educationally viable?

CarolmGst7: It also creates a global community.

LindaU: exactly.

BrandyM: they can share differences

CarolmGst7: Just like we are doing tonight. Though we are from all over the US, we can discuss a similar topic.

JaymeD: I would like to get a better understanding of what math teachers do in Japan or Germany that makes their students do better on the TIMMS than USA students

SarahO: and learn from each others differences too! Coming from all over, they bring such different backgrounds

LindaU: So cultural sharing is one thing

DavisR: Yes

LindaU: Curriculum sharing is another

CarolmGst7: Yes

LindaU: improvement of practice = curriculum sharing

JaymeD: My school district has set aside an hour a week for collaboration time and I've found it to be informative and extremely helpful.

DavisR: Curriculum suggest teaching and learning strategies

LindaU: exactly...

LindaU: Let's begin with looking at a couple projects...

DavisR: Culture suggest the beliefs of a particular people in a region

SarahO: collaboration time is so important. I am a new teacher and I always find that teachers who have been in schools a while have SO much to share!

JaymeD: in my masters classes we've been talking about best practices

LindaU: exactly Davis.... how can we work with teachers from all over to improve not only our own practice but education for all children?

DavisR: Modeling may be a start

JaymeD: by sharing ideas and experiences we can find a way to reach just "one more child"

LindaU: I'm going to share a couple of project web sites with you. When you get the url click on it and a web site will open up.

LindaU: First take a look at:

http://www.orillas.org/math/20012002/dca_shoplocaleng.html

LindaU: Jayme will like this.. but it has other implications (besides math)

LindaU: Imagine having students compare what they eat, where they get their groceries... and how much they cost... How does this meet the now proverbial curriculum standards?

LindaU: and engage students in learning?

CarolmGst7: This is great. Integrated geography, social studies as well as math

SarahO: and science too with the units in metrics. We are trying to stress that with our kids now.

LindaU: Exactly.. what about economics... cultural exchanges... and digital photography.. language arts..

LindaU: ah.. metrics vs. our system.. real-world connections here.

JaymeD: these lists would grab their attention because of the types of items on them and where they come from. It involves standard and metric measurement

LindaU: yup

SarahO: That's great how they talk about general items too, like ballpoint pens that the kids are familiar with after getting school supplies.

DavisR: Great site. I was looking at the common items. I wonder are we the only county to buy water?

LindaU: hmmm... good question.. I can see a project plan starting

DavisR: I can only imagine the responses of children from rural America

JeffC: I just added the parent site: <http://www.orillas.org/math/> ... because it makes it clear the site is available in English and Spanish. Very nice work.

LindaU: ah... rural vs urban America... excellent

JaymeD: the students could check money conversion tables and find out how much common items cost in various countries

DavisR: How about rural versus a poorly developed country?

SarahO: or even see if they have the same items there.

LindaU: and what about the economy of the various countries.. is a dollar spent in the US the same as a dollar spent in India?

LindaU: Think of the shopping list project in visual terms. Photographer Peter Menzel has published a wonderful book called MATERIAL WORLD. Some of the photos from this book can be found at:

LindaU: <http://www.menzelphoto.com/gallery/mw.htm> How could you use these photos as the starting point for a project to help students value each others cultures?

DavisR: Wow, I can see my gifted as well as some of my on level students thinking and talking about a project like this for days.

LindaU: Can an ideal like Peter Menzel's be used with this shopping list project... how might that look?

SarahO: I love this book. I shared it with my family and they found it fascinating. When I shared it with my students, they were shocked.

JaymeD: these pictures make the people real

LindaU: Sarah.. what if you students were to do a project with students in an emerging nation and share photos of what they eat, where they shop, or....

DavisR: Just that quickly I felt like I took a trip around the world...

SarahO: There are just so many wonderful things they could do with it. My students thought that the pictures were just of the poor people and they couldn't grasp the fact that in some countries almost ALL the people are poor.

SarahO: Those pictures helped them understand things so much better with every country we studied

DavisR: Sarah, I imagine they may appreciate the family and community they have in the USA

JaymeD: you asked about rural verses urban. some urban kids probably don't really understand where their food really comes from

DavisR: Good point.....Wal-Mart

JaymeD: milk comes from cows, but how?

LindaU: then--so we are bridging into the concept of family around the world...

JaymeD: It seems that we are

LindaU: Okay, now take a look at: <http://www.earthdaybags.org/>

SarahO: I like how they have the "project starter kit" with the powerpoint!

LindaU: Earth day is a long way away (or is it?)... any thought on how you might integrate a project like this?

JaymeD: I don't know about decorating the bags but I would love to have my students compare grocery lists and cost comparisons

JeffC: I'm adding these links to my math and science bookmarks at

<http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/mathscience> ... you will all receive email transcripts of this session as well (except for guests).

LindaU: Jeff has great bookmarks..

LindaU: Jayme.. taking an idea.. and making it fit your curriculum is what it is all about

SarahO: Since I teach science, we usually spend that week talking about recycling and the environment, so it would tie in there nicely

LindaU: The Islands Exploration Project <http://etc.sccoe.org/i2002/island.html> just won a National Semiconductor Internet Innovator Award. Although it is billed as a "science" project. It is really multidisciplinary and includes a lot of social studies concepts. Laura hopes to continue and enhance this project. She is looking for global partners.

DavisR: I have been looking for some challenging, engaging projects for my gifted students and their families. This is a project they could start on now and conclude on Earth Day

LindaU: projects occur over time.. good planning.. culminating event?

LindaU: The Islands Exploration Project <http://etc.sccoe.org/i2002/island.html> just won a National Semiconductor Internet Innovator Award. Although it is billed as a "science" project. It is really multidisciplinary and includes a lot of social studies concepts. Laura hopes to continue and enhance this project. She is looking for global partners.

LindaU: Any thoughts about this project?

SarahO: I notice a webquest there... I have just started to get my students into those

JeffC: . o O (just added <http://etc.sccoe.org/i2002/island.html> to my public bookmarks for mathscience)

JeffC: Webquests are excellent Sarah, and Bernie Dodge (inventor of webquests) meets here monthly.

LindaU: Yes, she has all the instructions clearly spelled out...

LindaU: and Jeff is right... Bernie Dodge can help you get going with WebQuests.. they are great

SarahO: I have been to a workshop of his, I think. Isn't he from San Diego?

JeffC: What grade level(s) would you suggest to partner Laura on the project, Linda?

JeffC: Yes, San Diego State I believe.

LindaU: That would depend on your curriculum and standards..

LindaU: I think Laura teaches 5th grade..

JaymeD: are there webquests for middle school math

LindaU: Bernie is at San Diego State... Jeff is correct.

JeffC: My son is in fifth grade, and I'm just getting him started with epals (his class actually)... they're looking for a project.

LindaU: Great lead in, Jeff.

LindaU: ePals are an excellent way to get started with global project based learning. These are great for cultural and language exchanges. <http://www.epals.com/>

JeffC: Looks to me like this one might be ideal. Being here in Oregon... we could arrange for a field trip to the coast, the river(s) etc.

JeffC: Perhaps some science project testing the water, flora fauna, etc. of different areas here, comparing with others around the world.

JeffC: Get the science teachers to collaborate, have the students also heavily involved in finding out "what questions to ask," etc...

JeffC: Being constructivist,... while collecting data, etc.

LindaU: Several years ago now I did a project like the one Jeff is talking about.

JaymeD: how did it work?

LindaU: Here is the web site from that project

<http://www.garlic.com/~lullah/brazilus/water.html>

LindaU: We worked with students from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

JeffC: . o O (excellent Linda!)

LindaU: I taught at an elementary school (gifted program) and the school in Brazil was a high school.

LindaU: The teachers and I used Tapped In to plan

LindaU: AND we used TI also for our students to collaborate online.

SarahO: Wow! I am very impressed!

LindaU: thank you..

LindaU: I'm showing it as only one example of what can be done collaboratively.

CarolmGst7: This is all really great. I am looking forward to digesting all of these ideas and trying them with my students.

DavisR: Does anyone have filters at their schools that may prevent some of these great sites from being viewed?

JaymeD: next year I'm supposed to teach some Earth science classes again. I will keep this in mind

LindaU: Ah there in lies the rub.. filters..

LindaU: Bj... can you share your Peace Quilt project?

BJ nods

LindaU: please.. it is so powerful!

JaymeD: my district has a pretty strict firewall or filter. I can't get on Tappedin at school

LindaU: Jayme... you are not alone..

DavisR: I can see projects becoming a family affair

SarahO: I can't either! Well, I can get in, but it doesn't show the chat window.

BJ: this is the url of the part of the peace project my kids did

<http://ti2.sri.com/archive/projects/hatsoff/>

LindaU: Davis.. yes...

LindaU: take a look at BJ's project... any final thoughts...

JaymeD: I've really enjoyed being part of your chat group.

SarahO: I love the hats! That would be so much fun!

CarolmGst7: Thank you everyone for all of your great ideas. It was great spending this hour with you. Have a wonderful evening and Linda that you for all of your help. I really enjoyed the chat.

SarahO: Thanks for sharing!

LindaU: Davis and Sarah.. some schools lock Port 8000. If you can show them the educational value, you might be able to get it opened for your classroom (or might not)... They are blocking chat.. for some good reasons)

BJ: the main peace project is at <http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/peace/>

MonicaRH: I did too even though I didn't have much to say

LindaU: Be sure to explore BJ's project. BJ.. are you still looking for people to join your project?

JaymeD: I really like the hat project

LindaU: Jayme... can you think of the Art/Math connection?

JaymeD: how about measurements in metric and standard

LindaU: circumference?

JaymeD: yes

LindaU: perimeter... radius..etc..

JaymeD: all of those

JaymeD: even volume for preparing the form for the hat

JaymeD: surface area would come into play also

LindaU: yup...

LindaU: The hour really flew by.. great discussion... thank you all.

BJ: yes, we still want people to submit digital quilt squares

BJ . o O (sorry...multitasking)

JaymeD: I do a dilation with my classes where they use graph paper to enlarge a comic strip cartoon. we use proportions