



SBC Classroom Newsletter

An Adventure in Maps and Mapping in the SBC Classroom for Highland Students

Mrs. McClain's students from Highland Elementary in Stow, Ohio experienced unique methods of teaching and learning while in attendance at the SBC Classroom daily for six weeks where they were immersed in a study of maps and mapping. A fictional story about mapping was programmed to their Palm Handheld Computers enabling them to read it in the classroom, at home, even on the bus as they rode back and forth to Kent State University. Students did a variety of activities including the creation of an animation of the construction of a Lego house. They made a digital photograph after each new block was added. After over 100 photos were made, the final product was produced using Animation Shop software. Edith Scarletto, curator of the KSU map library, hosted a visit to the library in McGilvrey Hall, where the students became acquainted with a variety of maps, both old and new, of their home town. The final assessment was created by Mrs. McClain in a program, Write Out Loud, which actually allows the students to listen to the test using that software on the computer. A trip to the Reinberger Room, located in the main library is planned for students to explore print materials on maps. The mayor of Stow has also promised to hold a teleconference with the students so they might discuss changes in their community over the last decade. A visit from Greg Orr, EPA Twinsburg Office, enabled students to discuss habitat destruction and what action they personally could take to improve conditions for the wildlife as well as the human population.

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Teleconferencing with Sherrod Brown



The second grade students of Mrs. Amy Panchumarti, Norton Primary School, had the privilege of participating in a teleconference with Congressman Sherrod Brown from the House of Representatives in Washington, DC. The Norton students have been investigating the topic of the endangered animals of Ohio. Congressman Brown arranged his schedule to allow for a twenty minute conversation with the children. He fielded a variety of questions and graciously answered questions about the environment and the animals, as well as some more personal questions about his life in Washington DC. He told the students that he often visits schools in person and found conversations with young people to be quite stimulating. His willingness to provide this opportunity for the class was very much appreciated.

Norton Students Visit the Kent Bog

A field trip to the Kent Bog gave the students an opportunity to experience a very unique wetland. This Tamarack Bog was formed after the last glacier retreated. This type of bog can not be found anywhere south of Kent in Ohio. Dr. Samuel Mazzer, emeritus professor KSU biology department helped the children understand this unique environment with emphasis on the rare and endangered plants and animals. Students were excited when they discovered a wide variety of mushrooms as well as a "bog frog". The frog had excellent camouflage and the students realized what a wonderful adaptation that was. Specimens of Sphagnum moss, Virginia Chain Fern, Tamarack needles, and Gray Birch were examined back in the SBC Classroom using the Intel Digital Microscope. The unique recycled plastic boardwalk was of particular interest.

