

Global Classrooms: A Study of Air

A Curriculum and Technology Infusion Guide

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Introduction

History and Background

The Air Project was developed in 1993 as the second in a series of thematic-based telecommunications projects for elementary school students. Because the 1992 Water Project was successful, the Air Project was created to provide new content for the 1992 participants to explore the following year. Curriculum guides were planned to capture the best of project activities in forms which could serve as models for others.

The participants in the 1993 study of air included children of 7-13 years from rural and urban, public and private schools in the United States, New Zealand, and Australia. During this project students gathered information with which to share and compare to the studies of their international counterparts. In addition to gaining knowledge about content, the students learned a great deal about other cultures.

Purpose

The purpose of this publication is to provide teachers with a guide to help integrate technology into the curriculum. It is appropriate for use with second to sixth grade students. This guide aids the teacher in achieving global collaboration with his/her students through the use of telecommunications. We believe that the use of this technology not only increases content knowledge but provides additional motivation and cultural awareness. This guide is intended to allow the teacher to successfully set up and participate in a similar project.

Curricular Approach

This guide was developed with a curricular focus in mind. The activities included were designed by educators in New Zealand, the United States and Australia to be student-centered.

Development Team

Rhonda Christensen has been an elementary classroom teacher for 5 years. She was a teacher in the 1992 Water Project. Currently she is Research Associate for the Telecommunications and Informatics Laboratory in the Department of Technology and Cognition at the University of North Texas, and Project Coordinator for the Air and Water Projects.

Gray Clayton is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Curriculum and Subject Studies in the School of Education at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. He was one of the chief developers of the Water and Air Projects.

Nola Campbell is a Lecturer in the Department of Curriculum and Subject Studies in the School of Education at the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. She was a member of the 1992 Water Project and 1993 Air Project Development team.

Gerald Knezek is Director of the Telecommunications and Informatics Laboratory and Associate Professor in the Department of Technology and Cognition, College of Education, the University of North Texas, in Denton, Texas. He initiated international planning for the first Water Project while visiting New Zealand in 1990.

Telecommunications: Getting Started

Minimum Equipment Needed to get On-line:

- Computer with monitor and disk drive(s)
- Printer (highly recommended but not essential)
- Communications software program (many available for free)
- Phone line
- Account on an educational network (with access to Internet if participating in International projects)
- Modem (and computer-to-modem cable)

Approximate cost is \$1,500

How to Find Other Participants

- Post a message to a newsgroup, LISTSERV
- Look for names of participants in conference proceedings, go to conference presentations of educators involved in similar projects.
- Send specifics to CALL-IDEAS@ACME.FRED.ORG (Global Schoolhouse Project). They will forward to an international mailing list provided ALL information requested is included. The following items should be included in the call for participation:
 - Project Title
 - Grade Level
 - Project Outcomes
 - Project Deadlines
 - Example (about one paragraph showing the type of interaction expected)
 - Project Coordinator(s)
 - Project Summary

Modem Information

Speed of at least 1,200 bits per second (Bell 212 compatible)
faster modems are recommended (9,600 bps, 14.4 Kbps)

Internet E-mail Address Format

The format includes domains, organizations, hosts, users)

Example: rhondac@tenet.edu

The user is rhondac

The host is tenet (Texas Educational Network)

The organization is an educational institution

Example of an address from outside the U.S: gknezek@sys.titech.ac.jp

The user is gknezek

The host is "system"

The organization is Tokyo Institute of Technology

The domain is Academic Computing

The country is Japan

Keys to A Successful Project

Set specific guidelines with time frames for transmission of information.

Provide plenty of lead time to announce the project.

Start on a small scale with a manageable number of classes.

Provide examples for participants.

Be specific when giving information about the project.

Keep participants updated throughout the project.