LM5030

Betsy Damon

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Collaborative Unit Summary

As part of the curriculum of upper elementary grades in NH, students study explorers during the Age of Exploration as part of their Social Studies program. This collaborative unit takes the basic aspect of the unit – global transformation through exploration – and adds a timeliness to it as they examine not just the results of the explorations but the obstacles that needed to be overcome. Discussions at the start of the unit and at the wrap-up would focus on the fact that we are all explorers in some way.

Resources include print materials and electronic media so students may choose to use what works best for them to gather the basic information needed about the explorer of their choice. Also promoting individuality is the presentation of the information with the only major requirement being that it must involve technology. Some examples of projects that would be acceptable include: a podcast, brochure, poster, QR code, Prezi, or standard report. Student expectations will be based on creating individual goals that should challenge the student but not exceed their grasp.

It will be the teacher’s responsibility to introduce the unit and provide the background needed in the subject. The librarian will have a LibGuide available as a pathfinder for the students to use and will model how to use the LibGuide before the real meat of the research begins. In conjunction with the modeling will be the review of Website Credibility and the use of the Website Evaluation form for any sites outside the LibGuide. Ongoing engagement assessment will be based on the day-to-day activity which will drive small-group mini-lessons as needed with the major assessments being the final presentation/display of individual projects and the discussions engaged in during the wrapup. Because the project plays such a large part in assessment, it will be imperative to have several models available at the start to jump-start their excitement as well as having a definitive presentation day/forum planned and communicated to the students. Most students will work harder (and more efficiently) when creating a project that will be exhibited for others, including staff and parents, to see and appreciate.

Online research will allow information literacy to be integrated with the subject matter. How to do research will be reviewed before the project begins. Students will be able to make use of print or electronic media as they choose with some minor requirements of minimum sources of different kinds be utilized. Technology will also be used to produce final projects as students decide which provides for individuality and choice.

The pathfinder at <http://library.laconiaschools.org/explorers> is designed to share links to different resources that are available on the topic in general and, through connected LibGuides, to resources for specific individuals of interest. The pathfinder also provides suggested keywords for individual searches and call number suggestions for print materials. Space for Indexes and Abstracts is provided but database availability is unknown at present.