

Explore the Essence of Thailand: Virtual Field Trip
Lesson Plan
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There are many valuable aspects to this project as I was able to combine the Capital2 Technology Summer Workshop at the University of St. Thomas with the Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Program in Thailand/Laos. The virtual field trip allows the students to be able to visit the country of Thailand without actually going there. Therefore, the students will be able to broaden their knowledge of a different part of the world. This project is also intended to add variety to instruction, motivate students to work on their writing, and allow students to see the possibilities for “publishing” their writing. The project will best be done with students in Grades 5-6. This project will integrate literacy standards with technology. The core of the project will be the literacy standards “Report Writing” (New Performance Standards by the National Center Education and the Economy and the University of Pittsburg). The standard is the following:

The student produces a report that:

- Engages the reader by establishing a context, creating a persona, and otherwise developing reader interest;
- Develops a controlling idea that conveys a perspective on the subject;
- Creates an organizing structure appropriate to a specific purpose, audience, and context;
- Includes appropriate facts and details;
- Excludes extraneous and inappropriate information;
- Uses a range of appropriate strategies, such as providing facts and details, describing or analyzing the subject, and narrating a relevant anecdote;
- Provides a sense of closure to the writing.

Student objectives:

- ✓ Students will be able to learn about Thailand without actually traveling there.
- ✓ Students will be able to write a report about a country of their choice that meets or is working towards meeting the standard with at least three subtopics.
- ✓ Student will be able to publish their writing into a Virtual Field Trip with at least one Splash page and three linking pages (subtopics).

Materials:

Thailand Virtual Field Trip CD-ROM (10 pages)
Computers – with Microsoft Word and World Wide Web

Time:

About two – three weeks, but may vary widely depending on ability level of students and resources

Procedures:

Students will explore the Virtual Field Trip on their computer.

Student will evaluate the VFT based on a checklist following the report writing standard.

Student will do research on a country of their choice.

Students will write a report on their country.
 Students will create a virtual field trip on the computer.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed on the final copy of their report using the standards. Then they will be able to proceed to creating their virtual field trip.

Checklist for Virtual Field Trip based in Report Writing Standard:

- _____ has an engaging introduction that catches the reader attention, example:
- _____ the vft is organized and easy to follow, example:
- _____ include facts and details about Thailand, example:
- _____ all information is relevant to topic, example:
- _____ the author's voice is present, example:
- _____ there is closure to the narrative, example:

Resources and Other Places to Ge:

Virtual Field Trip: Take, Create, and Visit: <http://www.uen.org/utahlink/tours/>
 Classroom management for creating your own: <http://www.geographyjim.org/virtual.htm>
 CARE's Virtual FieldTrips: http://www.care.org/virtual_trip/
 List of virtual field trips... not all links work: <http://www.d131.kane.k12.il.us/virfield.htm>
 Field Trips site: <http://www.field-trips.org/>
 Virtual Field Trips by Subject: <http://www.fresno.k12.ca.us/schools/s101/ed/fieldtrp.htm>
 Virtual Field Trips Site...field trips on topics made with TourMaker software: <http://www.field-guides.com/about.htm>
 Virtual Tours page... not all links work: <http://www.fayette.k12.ky.us/instructtech/trt5/links/tours.htm>

Steps for vreating Cirtual Field Trips:

To Create a Folder:

From your desktop...
 Go to File --- New Folder
 Name it what you wish

To Make a New Page:

Go to File --- New

To Save as a Web Page on the Web

Go to File --- Save as Web Page

To preview your Page on the Web:

Go to File --- Web Page Preview

To insert a picture:

Go th Insert --- Picture ---- From file
 (unless you want Clip Art, then choose Clip Art)
 Select the image you wish to display
 Click Insert

To insert a hyperlink:

Go to Insert ---- Hyperlink

Type in the Display text.

For a relative link ----

Click the Document Tab

Click Select

Look For you document

Click Open

Click OK

For an absolute link...

Click the Web Page tab

Click Launch Web Browser to search for you page

Copy and paste the URL into the link TO: filed

If you already know the URL, just type it into the Link To:

Field and omit the previous step.

Click OK

To edit a hyperlink:

Highlight the hyperlink

Go to Insert ---- Hyperlink

Change the properties you wish to change.