

Carol Kelly -- Prairie View Middle School (6th – 8th grades)
General Activities Relating to “Of Time and the River”

The following ideas relate to potential websites that could be useful for practicing skills related to “Of Time and the River”, Illinois Learning Standards Science and Social Science Goals, and suggested classroom activities.

A. Below is a list of interactive science sites geared for children ages 11-14. Students were highly motivated while engaged in the activities found on these sites:

1. Practice using science instruments to measure a river’s discharge. Math calculations and graphing skills reinforced.
<http://www.sciencecourseware.com/VirtualRiver/>
2. Animated review of the geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere:
<http://www.agiweb.org/education/cues/TeacherResources/geosphere/index.html>
3. Short movies and quizzes related to a variety of science topics (Examples of successful learning tools):
<http://www.brainpop.com/science/seeall/>
4. Examples of interactive games that reinforce scientific terminology and concepts:
<http://education.jlab.org/indexpages/elementgames.html>
5. Practice using a Secchi Disk. Collect data and graph them:
http://www.eoascientific.com/campus/ocean/multimedia/secchi_disk/view_interactive

B. Below is a list of activities for teachers to use to reinforce concepts:

1. Create puzzles utilizing terms introduced –
<http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/>
2. Preexisting puzzles –
<http://sciencespot.net/Pages/classpuzzle.html>.

C. Illinois State Learning Standards Science and Social Science Goals that are addressed or that have the potential to be addressed by “Of Time and the River”.

- STATE GOAL 11. A and B: Understand the processes of scientific inquiry and technological design to investigate questions, conduct experiments and solve problems.
- STATE GOAL 12. B.3a. and b., 12E.3a.: Understand the fundamental concepts, principles and interconnections of the life, physical and earth/space sciences.
- STATE GOAL 13.B.3a-f: Understand the relationships among science, technology and society in historical and contemporary contexts

D. Teacher Activities aligned with the “Of time and the River” Website:

1. Room Decorum. A timeline is posted on the wall(s) in the classroom. Students attach corresponding pictures of fauna, flora, and/or artifacts to the appropriate labeled time periods.
2. Students create dioramas, maps, poems, or advertisements, depicting the Paleoindian, Archaic, or Woodland chapters.
3. Students create graphs utilizing data collected from the above websites.
4. Teachers create puzzles or word finds for the students utilizing the terms introduced in “Of Time and the River” (see puzzle maker site).

Good Luck!