



Matter and Its States - Grade Three

Overview:

This unit is an integrated Language Arts (incorporating all four strands), Science and Technology (specifically the Forces Strand for Grade Three) and a few Drama and Visual Art Expectations as well. It was based around the Winter Olympics in Vancouver and ran for approximately three weeks. Because it was an integrated unit, many periods in a day were spent on this unit. It did incorporate expectations from the Data Management Strand of Math, but those we directly linked to the Olympics and not to Language Arts or Science in any direct way. Because of this they were not included in the overall outline for the unit.

For the Technology side of my project I focused on three main elements - using the Smartboard, creating a Ning (a secure website for students and their families) and using the Flip video recorder for students to create their own commercials.

Since Nings and Flip recorders are not as common as the Smartboard, I would like to outline their use in this unit a bit further. A Ning is a secure website that a teacher creates. Once created, the teacher has complete control over who has access to the site and therefore the material posted on the site. Each of my students created an avatar and a nickname so that no real names or images would be used. They used this website to learn about blogs, how to post one and how to respond to one. It should be noted that the engagement of the students during these writing tasks increased *dramatically*.

The Flip Recorder is a one touch video camera. It is very small and kid friendly. Students had the opportunity to record small bits of presentations in our last Science unit to become accustomed with how to use it and its features. The wonderful thing about a Flip is that it contains a USB key right in the side of the camera. Students can then take the camera to the computer and upload their video. The Flip contains

editing software that is very kid friendly and once they have had some exposure to it, they need very little assistance to edit their clips into a video.

This project gave me the time to investigate the Ning and Flip recorder. Both of these technologies have engaged students in writing tasks because they are new and refreshing. Boys in particular have found these lessons and tasks interesting. Overall it was a very positive experience and I am glad that I was able to be a part of it.

Additional Components:

Outline of the Unit

Blackline Masters for lessons on the Ning and Flip

Personal Reflection

Smartboard files (Not included here, but sent as separate files)