

MAISA and the REMC Association of Michigan Best Practices in Technology Integration Plan

Title: African Safari

Subject(s): Social Studies, Science, Language Arts, Math

Intended Grade Level(s): 7

Description:

The purpose of this unit is for students to use technology to explore and present information about the various countries of Africa. Following initial exploration each student will choose a country of Africa to research and study in depth. Information students will be required to gather is available on the World Wide Web and on CD-ROM, as well as books in the library and newspapers. Utilizing the five themes of geography: location, place, human/environment interaction, movement and regions, students will develop a multimedia presentation to demonstrate understanding of the research they have done on a country of Africa. Our African safari will be the individual presentations of each student.

Curriculum Benchmarks:

MI.SOC.II.1.MS.1 Locate and describe the diverse places, cultures, and communities of major world regions.

MI.SOC.II.1.MS.2 Describe and compare characteristics of major world cultures including language, religion, belief systems, gender roles, and traditions.

MI.SOC.II.2.MS.1 Locate, describe, and compare the ecosystems, resources, and human environment interactions of major world regions.

MI.SOC.II.2.MS.2 Locate major ecosystems, describe their characteristics, and explain the process that created them.

MI.SOC.II.3.MS.1 Locate and describe major economic activities and occupations of major world regions and explain the reasons for their locations.

MI.SOC.II.4.MS.2 Locate and describe major cultural, economic, political and environmental features of Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and North and South America and the processes that created them.

MI.SOC.V.1.MS.1 Locate and interpret information about the natural environments and cultures of countries using a variety of primary and secondary sources and

electronic technologies, including computers and telecommunications where appropriate.

MI.SOC.V.1.MS.2 Use traditional and electronic means to organize social science information and to make maps, graphs, and tables.

MI.SOC.V.1.MS.3 Interpret social science information about the natural environment and cultures of countries from a variety of primary and secondary sources.

The following MI benchmarks were obtained from the web site
(<http://cdp.mde.state.mi.us>) Therefore page numbers are not identified.

MI.SCI.V.1.MS.1 Describe and identify surface features using maps. (Key concepts: Types of maps-relief, topographic, elevation. Landforms - plains, deserts, plateaus, basin, Great Lakes, rivers, continental divide, mountains, mountain range, or mountain chain.)

MI.SCI.III.5.MS.1 Describe common patterns of relationships among populations, (Key concepts: Participants and relationships - predator, prey, parasitism, competition, symbiosis.)

MI.ELA.3.MS.1 Use speaking, listening, viewing, reading and writing for multiple purposes in such a way that each enhances the other(s).

MI.ELA.3.MS.3 Read and write fluently, speak confidently, listen and interact appropriately in situations. Examples might include: Reporting formally to an audience, exploring ideas in a group, debating issues and interviewing members of the public.

MI.ELA.5.MS.2 Describe and discuss shared issues in the human experience that appear in literature and other texts from around the world.

MI.ELA.6.MS.2 Demonstrate their ability to use different voices in oral and written communication for various purposes (e.g., to persuade, inform, entertain and inspire).

MI.ELA.11.MS.2 Explain and use resources that are most appropriate and readily available for investigating a particular question or topic.

MI.MAT.II.2.MS.1 Locate and describe objects in terms of their position, including compass directions, Cartesian coordinates, latitude and longitude, and midpoints.

MI.MAT.II.2.MS.2 Locate and describe objects in terms of their orientation and relative position, including coincident, collinear, parallel, perpendicular; differentiate between fixed (e.g., N-S-E-W) and relative (e.g., right-left)

orientations; recognize and describe examples of bilateral and rotational symmetry.

MI.MAT.II.3.MS.2 Identify the attribute to be measured and select the appropriate unit of measurement for length, mass (weight), time, temperature, perimeter, area, volume, and angle.

MI.MAT.II.3.MS.6 Apply measurement to describe the real world and to solve problems.

Materials/Hardware/Software:

To complete this project students will need to have access to the following:

The Internet and the World Wide Web
Word processing program such as Microsoft Works
Atlas
Various CD-ROM's with information about animals, endangered species and biomes
Newspapers
Calculators
HyperStudio from Roger Wagner Publishing
Two blank computer disks per student

Activities/Procedures:

Teacher pre-activities:

1. Have necessary CD-ROM's available for student research.
2. Locate a computer with HyperStudio installed on it, or install it on a computer available for student use.
3. Bookmark "Cool Web Sites" to assist students in their research.

Activities:

1. Introduce the activity to the students using the Student Activity handout.
2. Assign an African country to each student.
3. Introduce students to the various CD-ROM's that they may use for research.
4. Introduce HyperStudio to the students demonstrating basic procedures such as loading and saving stacks.
5. Using bookmarks, introduce Web Sites included in the Student Activity handout.
6. Demonstrate how to download and save gifs from the World Wide Web for installation on Hyperstudio stacks.

Assessment/Evaluation:

Points will be earned for quality work completed in each section of the Student Activity handout. In addition, students will earn points for work completed each day in class.

Follow-up Activities:

1. Design a brochure or a travel poster for your country.
2. Cook a favorite dish from your country, such as benne cakes, to share with the class.
3. Complete an art project such as batik that reflects the art of your country.
4. Read or illustrate a folk tale, such as the Anansi tales, from your country. Be prepared to share the message or meaning of the folk tale.
5. Do further research about an endangered animal from your country.

The Student Activity handout begins on the following page, followed by the web sites.

Name: Elaine Smiley

School District Mt. Pleasant Public Schools

School West Intermediate

Address: 440 S. Bradley, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

The Countries of Africa Student Activity Handout

You have been introduced to the continent of Africa in your Geography class. We are now going to explore some of the individual countries of Africa. You will choose a country to research and study in depth. You will then prepare a multimedia presentation for the class.

You may choose to do your research on the World Wide Web as well as the library. I have included some web sites at the back of this handout to get you started. If you find another interesting web site, be sure to bookmark it so you can find it again. You may also choose to share this web site during your presentation.

You have been hired recently by the Bureau of Tourism for your African country. In one month you will attend a national conference in the United States of America where you will make a presentation about your country. The participants at the conference will view presentations from each country in Africa to decide where they will be meeting next year for their conference. This conference draws many participants from the United States as well as other countries. It would mean millions of tourism dollars for your country.

The information you will need to include in your presentation and the points for each include:

I. Location (10 points)

Describe the absolute and relative location of your country. Include a map of the country showing its location in relation to surrounding countries.

II. Place (20 points)

Describe the physical characteristics of the country. Include the climate, landforms, indigenous plants and animals, and types of soil or biomes.

Describe the human characteristics such as culture and education. Include the language(s), clothing, architectural styles, government, religion, traditions and food.

III. Human/environment interaction (20 points)

Discuss how the physical surroundings affect the life styles of the people who live in your country. Describe the industries that relate to the natural resources, including agriculture and manufacturing. Tell about the types of recreation available in your country. You may choose to include information about any endangered species that live in this country.

IV. Region (10 points)

Compare and contrast your country with other countries in Africa as well as parts of the United States. Include the human characteristics of religion, government and language. Also compare and contrast the climate and landforms.

V. Movement (20 points)

Describe products that are imported into the country as well as those products which are exported from your country. Share information about the technology and types of communication used in your country. Describe the types of transportation available as well. It would be helpful if you could include the monetary rate of exchange and perhaps some examples of costs a tourist might incur while staying in your country.

Remember, you are trying to “sell” the idea of traveling to your country to a group of people. Ask yourself what you need to include to appeal to your potential tourists. Keep in mind that people like to learn about a country when they travel there as well as have fun. You also need to appeal to people who are on various budgets. You will want to include attractive pictures of your country.

You will receive 20 points for your presentation. The total possible points for this project is 100 points. You will also receive 5 points for each day in class that you use your time productively.

Cool Web Sites are located on the following page.

Cool Web Sites African Safari

<http://city.net/countries> Scroll down and click on the country you want to visit.

Excite

Search African Countries

<http://city.net/regions/africa/>

Literature

Yahoo!

Type in Nigerian Folktales

Click - ISN Folktales (Anansi Tales)

<http://itpubs.ucdavis.edu/richard/tales/> (Tales of Wonder. Contains 12 tales from various countries in Africa)

<http://school.discovery.com>

Search - Africa

Stories from Africa

<http://www.isomedia.com/homes/jmele/homepage.html> (multicultural book review)

<http://www.uclagary.ca/~dkbrown/index.html> (children's literature web guide)

Pictures and Songs to use with HyperStudio

Web Crawler

Type - animated gifs

Click - 3000 Animated GIFS at Club Unlimited

Check Rose's Animated Gifs

<http://dreamartists.com/gomanim.htm>

Math and Science

<http://eagle.online.discover.com/> (facts about different animals)

<http://www.coe.uncc.edu/~ecodili/nigeria.html> (math, science and weather)

<http://www.indo.com/distance/> (math-compare distances to Africa from various places in the United States)

<http://www.harpercollins.com/kids/reckw.htm>

(recipe for benne cakes)

Art

<http://www.netaxis.qc/africart/>

Miscellaneous

<http://www.ideastream.com>

<http://www.vivdus.com/ucis.htm>

<http://longwood.cs.ucf.edu/Midlink>

<http://www.Tucows.com>

<http://www.cochran.com/thosite/Ksites.html>
Children)

(Berit's Best Sites for

E-mail Exchanges

<http://www.stolaf.edu./network/iecc>

(intercultural e-mail classroom connections)