

Star-W Project/2003-2004
M. Canale/Grade 4th
Public School No. 3

"The Life of Christopher Columbus"

A Class Book



May 28, 2004

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Public School No. 3

Title of Project:

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Grade Level/Subject:

Fourth Grade Language Arts/Social Studies

Curriculum Objective:

The students will make a simple book about the life of Christopher Columbus using technology.

CCCS: 3.1A, 3.1G, 3.1H, 3.2B, 3.2C, 3.2D, 3.5A, 3.5B,
6.3, Standard 2, Standard 3

Technology Objectives:

The students will be able to find at least one pre-selected web-site on the internet and locate information from it.

The students will be able to use Microsoft Word for typing, retrieving images from Google, and Word Art. The students will be able to create a simple graphic organizer from Inspiration.

Materials Needed:

desktop computers
laptop computers
color printer
black and white printer

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computer paper
parchment computer paper
scroll design computer paper
index cards
pocket folders
worksheets
pencils
Microsoft Word
Inspiration
Print Shop
Google
picture book about Christopher Columbus
book binder

Description of Environment:

The computer lab was used for some of the sessions, both regular computer class time and open-access time. The laptops were used for the other sessions in the classroom. The three classroom desktop computers and printers were used when individual students needed to finish tasks. Basically, the students worked once a week over the course of four months to complete the project.

Lesson 1

The Project is introduced. A picture book of Christopher Columbus is read to the students. The pre-test is given.

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Lesson 2

The topics related to the life of Columbus are assigned to the students from index cards. Folders are distributed.

Lesson 3 (two lessons)

The students access pre-selected web-sites and record useful web-sites on index cards.

Lesson 4

The students use the web-sites found to locate useful information for their topics and print copies.

Lesson 5

The students read the printed-out information and write down facts that they will use.

Lesson 6

The students write a paragraph about Columbus using their facts worksheet.

Lesson 7

The laptop computers are introduced.

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Lesson 8

Using Microsoft Word, the students type the paragraphs written about Columbus. The font style and font size are determined by the teacher.

Lesson 9 (on-going)

Four students work on the typing of the completed book text using a Print Shop scroll design.

Lesson 10 (two lessons)

The students find picture images from Google to use for the book. The images are put into Microsoft Word. The students create simple text captions for these images.

Lesson 11

The students are introduced to Inspirations.

Lesson 12 (two lessons)

Using Inspirations, the students create graphic organizers about the life of Columbus. One of the organizers will be used for the title page of the book.

Lesson 13

The students practice with the Word Art function of Microsoft Word.

Lesson 14 (two lessons)

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Using Word Art, the students create designs to be possible choices for the book's dividing sections. Two will be used for the book.

Lesson 15

A book cover will be made.

Lesson 16

The evaluations are completed. The teacher reads to the students The Life of Christopher Columbus Book. The post-test is done. The project checklist is done. The students write a paragraph about their experience in working on this book project.

Evaluation of the Project:

rubric based on the necessary elements of the project
pre-test/post-test comparison
personal checklist
paragraph about the project experience

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Teacher Evaluation of the Project:

The students enjoyed working on this project. Each task that involved using a computer, whether it was a desktop or a laptop, was enthusiastically done. Some students were able to help less knowledgeable classmates with problems and looked forward to doing so.

From the classroom teacher's perspective, there were a couple of activities that proved to be slightly difficult. Managing a class of 21 students in the computer lab, or in the classroom with 21 laptops, was somewhat hard to do. Keeping track of each student's tasks and progress was over-whelming at times. Nevertheless, working on an interesting and different activity like this book was still a great experience. A few of the students actually helped the teacher figure out how to solve some technology problems.

This project was definitely a motivating educational experience. The students seem very anxious to continue using what they learned for many other lessons and projects.

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The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Lesson 1

Objectives: To introduce Christopher Columbus

To introduce the plan for the book

To administer the pre-test

Materials: two picture books on the life of Christopher Columbus,
a pre-test question worksheet for each student, pencils

Activity: Using the picture books, show scenes about Christopher
Columbus's life with brief comments or questions.

The students complete the pre-test (10 questions) in
complete sentences.

Evaluation: The students can recall something about Columbus.

The students can recognize a book format.

The students can complete the pre-test.

CCCS: 3.5 B; 3.2 D; 6.3

Lesson 2

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objectives: To understand the research topics
for the Book

To understand the process of finding
information

Materials: index cards, individual pocket folders,
the pre-tests

Activity: An index card that contains one topic
related to the life

of Christopher Columbus is given to
each student.

There will be a brief discussion about
what the topics

mean. Each student is assigned his/her
individual

folder. The pre-tests are to be placed
in the folders.

Evaluation: The students can state what their
research tasks are

for next week.

CCCS: 3.1 H; 3.3 B; 6.3

Lesson 3 (two lessons)

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objectives: To have students be able to access the internet

explorer from the desktop computers

To have students be able to use a search engine

To locate a web-site

Materials: desktop computers, index cards, pencils, the individual pocket folders, blackboard, chalk

Activity: The students will use the desktop computers in the computer lab. They will access the internet with the classroom teacher's and the computer teacher's help. Each student will have an index card with Christopher Columbus's name printed. They will use search engines suggested by the teachers to locate possible web-sites for the Columbus Book information. They may use other search engines also. Each student will record the addresses for the web-sites found on the index card.

Evaluation: Each student will find at least one web-site that can be used for the information needed for his/her topic on Columbus.

CCCS: 3.1 H; 6.3; 2

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Lesson 4

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objectives: To have the students access pre-selected web-sites

previously located on the internet

To be able to look at internet information and make judgments about what is relevant or not

To print information from the internet

Materials: desktop computers, printer, individual pocket folders, the web-site index cards, computer paper

Activity: The students will use the classroom desktop computers and printers and the computer lab. Using their individual web-site index cards, the students will access the internet web-sites previously located. They will read the information and decide what information will help with their particular Columbus topic. The students will print out the useful information. The papers will be placed inside their folders.

Evaluation: Each student will find at least one paragraph of information from the internet that is relevant to their book topic. Each student will be able to print that information from the computer.

CCCCS: 3.1 A, G, H; 6.3; 2

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Lesson 5

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will find facts from their pre-selected internet information that support their individual Columbus topic.

Materials: individual pocket folders, worksheets, pencils

Activity: The students will read the information that has already been printed out and is in their pocket folders. Any facts that seem to be relevant to their Columbus topic will be written on their facts worksheet.

Evaluation: Each student will find at least three facts of relevant information.

CCCS: 3.1 H; 3.2 B; 6.3

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Lesson 6

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will write a paragraph based on the facts

that were previously recorded from their research.

Materials: individual pocket folders, pencils, research facts worksheets, paragraph form worksheets

Activity: The students will review all the facts that they wrote on their facts worksheets. Each student will write a paragraph about the information. Each student will proof-read their work. The paragraphs will be placed in the individual pocket folders.

Evaluation: Each student will be able to write at least a three-sentence paragraph about their information.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.2B; 3.2C

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Lesson 7

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will be able to use a notebook computer to access the internet.

Materials: a notebook computer for each student, an overhead projection image for the notebook computers

Activity: The notebook computers will be assigned to the students by the classroom teacher and the computer teacher.

With the computer teacher's help, the main parts of the laptop computer will be explained as the children look at the computer. Rules that are to be followed while using these computers will be discussed. The students will try to access the internet. A web-site related to the Columbus book project will be accessed.

Evaluation: Half of the students will be able to access the internet on the notebook computer independently by following the above guidelines.

CCCS: Standard 2, Standard 4; 3.1H

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Lesson 8

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will be able to type a paragraph using

Microsoft Word.

Materials: desktop computers, printer, computer paper, individual pocket folders, previously written paragraph papers

Activity: Each student will access Microsoft Word on a desktop computer in the computer lab. The class as a group will choose a font style and a font size to be used by everyone. Each student will type his\her paragraph from the paragraph worksheet in the pocket folder. Each student will print out the typed paragraph.

Evaluation: Each student will type at least a three-sentence

Paragraph using Microsoft Word.

CCCS: 3.2A; 3.2B; Standard 2

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Lesson 9 (on-going)

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: Four students will type the entire book document using Print Shop.

Materials: desktop computers, printer, special parchment computer paper, previously written material covering the research information for the Book

Activity: The four students will access Print Shop on a desktop computer in the computer lab. The classroom teacher will assign a font style and a font size to be used. The four students will work basically as a group with the computer teacher's help. The students will type the book text. The text will then be printed out on the special book paper provided by the computer teacher.

Evaluation: Two of the assigned students will be able to type the entire book text.

CCCS: 3.2A; 3.2B; Standard 2

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Lesson 10 (two lessons)

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will decide on pictures about Columbus

from the internet that will be used for the book. The students will be introduced to creating a text title for the pictures.

Materials: desktop computers, special parchment computer paper, printer, individual pocket folders

Activity: The students will first access Microsoft Word. Then the students will access Google on the internet and click on Images. Christopher Columbus will be typed in the search bar. Other related words to Columbus may also be used. The students will be shown by the computer teacher how to drag the image to Microsoft Word. They will be shown how to create text for the picture. If any student has success with creating a text for a picture, it will be printed out.

Evaluation: Half of the students will be able to import a picture from the internet into Microsoft Word. One fourth of the students will be able to type at least a couple of words for the picture.

CCCS: 3.1H; 3.5B; Standard 2

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Lesson 11

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will be able to log on to the program

Inspirations. The students will be able to practice creating a graphic organizer for the book.

Materials: desktop computers

Activity: The students will locate Inspirations in their program menus and log on. They will practice putting text into the main idea center. They will practice changing the text font and color, including the background color. They will practice inserting pictures into the graphic organizer, both from Google and from the Inspirations picture menu. These initial organizers will be saved.

Evaluation: Half of the students will be able to independently create a sample graphic organizer for the Columbus Book.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.5B; Standard 2

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Lesson 12 (two lessons)

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will complete the graphic organizer

samples that will be considered for the title page of the Book.

Materials: laptop computers, printers, Inspiration Program, special parchment computer paper

Activity: The students will log on to Inspiration on the laptop computers. They will locate the file for the graphic organizer previously started. The “Link” function will be explained and demonstrated and practiced. They will finish locating from the menu the ideas for finishing the graphic organizer center. The text box function will then be practiced. Any completed graphic organizers with text will be printed out on the parchment paper. The work will be saved.

Evaluation: Half of the students will be able to create a graphic organizer with text and at least five pictures.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.2B; 3.5B; Standard 2

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Lesson 13

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will practice creating a title page for the

book using Word Art in Microsoft Word.

Materials: desktop computers, Microsoft Word

Activity: The students will log on to Microsoft Word on their computers. They will be shown how to find Word Art. They will become familiar with choosing a design, choosing a font style and size, and how to show a text. The teacher will provide a text idea that is related to the book. The students will practice making one Word Art sample as a possible choice for the book.

Evaluation: Three-fourths of the students will be able to create one Word Art example related to making the book.

CCCS: 3.5 B: Standard 2: Standard 3

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Lesson 14 (two lessons)

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will create at least one title page for the

book using Word Art in Microsoft Word.

Materials: desktop computers, Microsoft Word

Activity: The students will log on to Microsoft Word on their computers. They will locate Word Art. They will design title page samples for the book, based on the previous lesson's ideas. Some samples will be printed out and evaluated. Two different title pages will be tried.

Evaluation: Three-fourths of the students will be able to create two

Word Art examples related to making the book.

CCCS: 3.5 B: Standard 2: Standard 3

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Lesson 16

The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

Objective: The students will complete three tasks that show

their self-evaluation of the project.

Materials: the completed book, the post-test worksheets, the end-of-project checklists, the paragraph evaluation papers, pencils, the individual folders, the pre-test worksheets

Activity: The teacher will read to the students the completed The

Life of Christopher Columbus Book. The post-test papers

will then be answered. The End-of-Project Checklist will be completed. The students will write a paragraph about their feelings about doing this project. The pre-test and post-test papers will be discussed.

Evaluation: At least half of the students will show an improvement in their knowledge of Christopher Columbus.

At least half of the students will be able to express clear ideas about their experiences in working on this book.

CCCS: 3.1A; 3.1G; 3.1H; 3.2C; 3.2D; 3.3A; 6.3

My Research Information on Christopher Columbus

Name: _____

Topic: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

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Student Name: _____

Score: _____

The Necessary Components: Find at least two web-sites about the life of Columbus.

Find at least five important facts about an assigned Columbus topic. Write a paragraph about Columbus that shows this information. Create a graphic organizer set-up that represents the book.

EXEMPLARY	STANDARD	DEVELOPING	BEGINNING
4	3	2	1
three web-sites found	two web-sites found	two web-sites found	one web-site found
five or more facts found	five facts found	four facts found	three facts found
well-organized paragraph written	good paragraph written with minor corrections	good paragraph written with some help	incomplete paragraph written
graphic organizer with five or more images and correct text	graphic organizer with four images and correct text	graphic organizer with four images but incorrect text set-up	graphic organizer with only three images

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Rubric for The Life of Christopher Columbus Book

EXEMPLARY	STANDARD	DEVELOPING	BEGINNING
4	3	2	1

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End – of – Project Checklist

Name _____ Date _____

1. Did you find five important facts about your Christopher Columbus topic?
-

2. Did you copy the web-site addresses that you used to research information on your topic?
-

3. Did you find at least one picture on the internet that supports the information that you found?
-

4. Did you form complete sentences when you wrote your paragraph?
-

5. Did you proofread your sentences for correct punctuation and capitalization and spelling? Did you use “spell check” and “grammar check” if needed?
-

6. Did you have any problems with your assignment? If so, what was the problem?
-
-

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7. How did you solve the problem?

8. Was there anything about Columbus that surprised you while doing your research?
