To a Place Like No Other

Background

The Galapagos Islands have long been a source of interest for researchers, conservationists, biologist, botanists, and more. With such a unique landscape, it is a compelling sight. The varied animals living on and near these islands make it an interesting area to visit and study. Today we launch our boats into the water to venture to the Galapagos!

Objectives

The student will read and synthesize nonfiction text from an online resource.

The student will write a first-person account of a geological discovery.

The student will incorporate details in his/her writing.

The student will harvest information from an online source.

The student will create questions and answers out of facts/information.

The Trip

Activity One: Dear Diary, I Found an Island Today...

Key Question: What might the first person to discover the Galapagos have written in his diary?

Activity Two: Put on Your Game Face!

Key Question: Can we pass our knowledge on to others through games?

Focus Web Sites

Destination: Galapagos Islands

World Wildlife Fund (WWF): The Galapagos

WWF: Slide Show

Go to http://www.teachercreated.com/books/2159

Click on page 122, sites 1, 2, 3

Companion Sites

Go to http://www.teachercreated.com/books/2159

Map of the Galapagos

Click on page 122, site 4

Dear Diary, I Found an Island Today...

http://www.teachercreated.com/books/2159 Click on page 122, sites 1-4

The Galapagos Islands were discovered by Fray Tomas de Berlanga in 1535 when he bumped into them while sailing from Panama to Peru*. These islands were probably unlike anything seen before. They had a unique habitat and an incredible variety of inhabitants. The discoverer must have discovered that this was an incredible place indeed.

*See the PBS companion site for more details on visitors to the islands.

Key Question: What might the first person to discover the Galapagos have written in his diary?

Directions: Use the Galapagos Islands Web sites to learn all you can about the islands and their inhabitants. Once you're familiar with the islands, create a diary entry that shows how an early explorer would have felt upon approaching the island. What would he have seen when he explored them. What would he have thought and felt? What would he have done? How did he come up with the names for each island? What did he think of all the strange animals? Use details from the Web sites to make your diary believable.

	March 10, 1535
Dear Diary,	·
Today I found an island	
~	

Put on Your Game Face!

http://www.teachercreated.com/books/2159 Click on page 122, sites 1-4

Key Question: Can we pass on our knowledge to others through games?

Directions: Use the Galapagos Islands Web sites to collect information for this activity. Your class is going to create a Jeopardy! game in order to pass on knowledge about the Galapagos Islands. The game is pretty easy to create; the research phase is the most important part of the process. Your teacher has given you an assignment to collect two facts in the following categories: Life, Geology, Exploration, Galapagos Today, and Conservation. That's just ten facts total! The tricky part is that you have to decide if your facts are too easy, too hard, or just right for your difficulty level. (Your teacher will tell you what difficulty level you get to do.) Once you've got your assignment and your partner, start collecting your facts below.

Difficulty Level: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5

Life	Geology	Exploration	Galapagos Today	Conservation

Once you're finished, turn each fact in your chart into a question and answer pairing for the Jeopardy! game. Write each one on a separate index card. Be sure to write the category on the front of the card. Turn them in to your teacher when you're ready.