

Date: 2007 Workshop

Title of Project: Diary of a Volcanologist

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School: William Thomas Middle School, American Falls, ID

Target Grade Level: Middle School to High School

Objective: Students will demonstrate an understanding of geologic/volcanic concepts and vocabulary by writing a story (journal format is fine too) describing a major volcanic eruption from the perspective of a volcanologist. (Docu-drama style)

Materials: Earth Science textbook, internet access, magazines (Discover, National Geographic, etc.)
Digital cameras/video cameras. (optional)

This is a nice culminating activity once students are familiar with basic concepts of volcanism. Elements of using technology with the project abound. I will be planning with my team's tech. teacher and language teacher for certain elements of this activity. After viewing Super Volcano, discuss project with students. (Consider: Do the project individually or in pairs...?)

Earth Science Class: Gathering info on actual location, features and eruptive history of chosen site.

Define terms required as laid out by science teacher. Terms will also include scientific instruments used by volcanologists. Map of location and summary of regional geography and geology will be included. Plan for pre-eruptive signals, characteristics of the actual eruption, and the aftermath and hazards to humans in the area.

Tech Teacher: Define boundaries of the powerpoint or studio or presentation- length, number of slides, etc. Using tables/graphs for displaying data entering pictures and captions etc.

Language Teacher: The writing process- writing in the first person as a diary or story. Save dialogue on network drive for use in tech, class.

The bulk of the formation of the final project will be in tech class. Clear communication with the tech teacher is essential throughout the process. A rubric should be created for grading the final product. Students will present their powerpoints or video to their classmates (use partners?)