

SEIR*News

May, 2000
Volume 1, Issue 7

Electronic news from the SouthEast and Islands Regional Technology in Education Consortium (SEIR*TEC)

In This Issue

1. Resources Available to Trace the Rise and Fall of the Vikings
2. American Memory Collection Brings History to Life
3. The Yellow Brick Road Goes in a New Direction
4. Smaller Learning Communities Grant Program
5. National Awards Program for Effective Teacher Preparation
6. Class Devises Their Own Version of Oprah
7. Teacher Connects School with Student's Homes

1. Resources Available to Trace the Rise and Fall of the Vikings

Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga is a new web site created as a companion to the exhibition currently touring the country. Visitors to this site can view an online exhibit or purchase catalogs that explore the origins and impacts of the Vikings in history. From the rise of the Scandinavian kingdoms during the Viking Age (750 to 1050 A.D.) to the demise of the Greenland colonies around 1500 A.D., this web site examines the history of the western expansion of the Vikings and sheds new light on a well-known culture.

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/vikings/start.html>

2. American Memory Collection Brings History to Life

The Library of Congress has placed over 70 collections online about some of the greatest times in American history in a special section called American Memory. This area showcases events such as the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest, the roots of blues and gospel music, and fiddle tunes of the old frontier. To help visitors access specific records, there are several different ways to retrieve information. These locators include a search area that locates items across all collections; a Collection Finder to select a collection or group of collections; a Learning Page to help students, teachers, and life-long learners; and a section for Frequently Asked Questions.

<http://memory.loc.gov/>

3. The Yellow Brick Road Goes in a New Direction

The 100th anniversary of the timeless classic, *The Wizard of Oz*, is being celebrated in a big way at the Library of Congress web site. The library has supplemented its existing collection with costumes and other memorabilia borrowed from museums, other libraries, and private collectors to create a fun filled and informative site.

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/oz/>

4. Smaller Learning Communities Grant Program

The Department of Education is funding \$45 million for Local Education Agencies to plan, develop, and implement smaller learning communities in high schools. It is the goal of this grant to show that having a smaller classroom size brings positive results in student learning and achievement. For more information about this grant, contact John De Cleene or Todd May, Smaller Learning Communities Grant Program, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 260-2195 (John De Cleene) or (202) 260-0960 (Todd May). E-mail: smallerlearningcommunities@ed.gov. The closing date is July 17, 2000.

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SLCP>

5. National Awards Program for Effective Teacher Preparation

The National Awards Program for Effective Teacher Preparation has released a request for proposals about effective preparation programs for elementary school teachers or secondary school mathematics teachers that lead to improved student learning. For more information, contact Sharon Horn, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW., room 506E, Washington, DC 20208- 5644. Telephone: (202) 219-2203 or FAX to (202) 219-2198. E-mail: Sharon_Horn@ed.gov. The closing date is July 3, 2000.

<http://www.ed.gov/GrantApps/#NAPETP>

6. Class Devises Their Own Version of Oprah

A fifth-grade class at Burris School in Mitchell, Indiana, created its own version of Oprah Winfrey's famous book club using distance learning. The students connected with another fifth-grade class in Tell City, Indiana to share their thoughts and ideas on the book *Rifles for Watie*. Find out how these students shared their thoughts about the book with each other, and ways you can use distance learning in your own classroom.

http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/muggs3.htm

7. Teacher Connects School with Student's Homes

A fourth-grade Missouri classroom teacher, Sharon Sumner, tells how and why she developed a web page to connect her school with students at home. She also talks about how her web page has grown to better suit individual student needs.

http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/WCE/archives/sumner.htm

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This document was developed by the SouthEast and Islands Regional Technology in Education Consortium (SEIR*TEC) and is based on work sponsored wholly or in part by the Office of educational Research and Improvement (OERI), under grant number R302A980001, CFDA 84.302A. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the OERI, the U.S. Department of Education, or any other agency of the United States government.