

7th Graders use Technology to Learn about Longitude and Latitude

I used to think people who taught junior high kids were either crazy or gluttons for punishment. Generally, I leaned toward the “crazy” part. Why in the world would anyone want to teach people that age? (I use the term people loosely here.) Now, after teaching 7th social studies for the past five years, I can honestly say I've gone over to the dark side. These people are willing to try almost anything in the classroom. Recently we studied latitude and longitude, and the culminating activity was paper slide videos. The students worked with a partner to create five paper slides to explain what they thought was important enough to teach other people about latitude and longitude. In addition to the slides, they had to write a script about the slides, and practice, practice, practice, their presentation before they recorded. “Why so much practice?” you might ask. They only had one shot at recording. They couldn't start over or edit their videos. It was a one and done situation, and they did amazing for their first attempt at paper slide videos. I then posted the videos on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube so moms, dads, grandparents, and friends could see what they'd learned. I even showed the videos to the seniors and had them tell me what they liked and what needed improved. I'd like to think that the students had fun and used their creativity while learning. I'm looking forward to trying new things with these students as the year moves along. If you want to view the paper slide vids, you can check them out on my web page on the school's website at www.nesscityschools.org.



7th graders collaborating to create paper slide videos.