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The following lessons were created by **Judy Huntington**, a teacher participating in a 2010 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers entitled, "Exploring the Past: Archaeology in the Upper Mississippi River Valley."

Exploring the Past Blog

<http://www.exploringpast.blogspot.com>

Introduction:

Decatur Classical School introduced Science Olympiad to the students in one of the after school programs two years ago. One area or discipline is archaeology and I would like to use this blog to help students study for the competition and also for them to share their own research.

A second reason for the Blog is to help other teachers create one as a teaching tool during their biweekly computer classes. It could also be used by students to involve parents by asking questions and eliciting their comments. The fourth and fifth grade curriculum includes studying Native American Indians. The sixth grade curriculum is the study of ancient civilizations.

The third reason for a Blog would be to use it as a writing tool. Summarizing and synthesizing information is the single hardest writing assignment, especially as students are asked to do more of it in the intermediate grades.

Purpose: Research, summarize, and synthesize information.

Materials: Blogger, download illustrations or pictures

Procedure: Create a Blog. Research topics, write a post summarizing the findings. Incorporate a design for the background. Elicit comments from other students and respond to their comments and questions.

Evaluation: The archaeology team will create a Blog during the 8 week after school program. Each week they will summarize and synthesize information required for Science Olympiad. They will ask parent volunteers who are advisors for this program to make comments. They will be required to upload pictures and anecdotal comments.

Fourth and Fifth Grade Evaluation: Students will be divided into small groups and research an Indian Tribe. Each group will be required to complete 2 posts each week during computer class and ask one question at the end of each post to be answered by others in their group. A Rubric will be used to evaluate the required information.