



Learning Safari Adventures

Becerra Safari, 3rd Grade

1/7/18 - 1/17/18



HOW THE WORLD WORKS:

Central Idea: *Earth's nonliving resources can be used for energy.*

- Soil Investigation: Student studied the properties of soil. Did you know that there are many different types of soil, and they all involve rocks? Students observed and recorded properties of different soil types. The properties of size, color, feel, smell, and shape were studied. We used soil collected from the Holden field trip!
- SOLE: Students researched and presented information on the following two questions (one each week): What does soil contain? How is renewable energy collected?
- Non-renewable Resources: Energy Teams (small groups of students) went on a hunt for energy tiles. After brainstorming how energy is used, I explained the rules of the hunt: *Each team must link arms and search for the energy silently.* Each Energy Team had a leader who was responsible for picking up the energy pieces. In between each 30-second round, teams strategized how to best get the most amount of energy pieces. Students kept a record of each round for the group, as well as a record for the class as a whole. Overall (as a class), the most energy pieces were found in the first round, and the least were found in the last round. A couple of groups found the most pieces during the second or third round. We called this a “HOT SPOT,” meaning the team found an area where resources were not yet discovered. This activity led to a discussion about non-renewable resources and conserving resources. Once they’re gone, they’re gone. I captured some rather hysterical pictures of this, and plan on posting them on the website soon.
- Renewable Energy Video Links: From Google Classroom, students chose a variety of short videos to watch on renewable resources. After 20 minutes of viewing, students responded to the prompt: Name one renewable energy source and describe its form and how it works.
- Energy Island: This book is about a village in Denmark that decided to take action by decreasing its usage of fossil fuels – and boy are they successful! This small island, of less than 4,000 citizens, produces more renewable energy than it uses. The best part, the kids of the island are more open-minded than the adults, encouraging the adults to change! This sparked some great (and humorous) conversations. I almost finished reading the story to the class on Thursday – we left off at “cliff hanger” of a section. I’ll finish the story on Tuesday.
- Electricity Program: The Natural History Museum came to Boulevard to teach 3rd graders about electricity. Lee, our energetic and outstanding presenter, led students in using wind, sun, human-power and batteries to create simple circuits and identify the energy transformations taking place.

Language Arts Adventures:

- Café Strategy: Each week, or every couple of weeks depending on the focus, I teach a direct lesson on a specific strategy. Each lesson involves modeling and guided practice. Students practice that strategy during the Daily 5 rotations and while in reading groups. The strategies covered and practiced the past two weeks are below.
 - Context Clues: Students learned how they can use bits of information from the text that, when combined with prior knowledge, allows them to decide the meaning of unknown words in whatever they are reading. These context clues may come from seeing synonyms, antonyms, or even illustrations in text.
 - Text-Based Evidence: Review and reinforcement of finding answers and phrasing in own words
- Content-Based Reading: Books on rocks and soil (leveled books and Science text book)
- Editing: Practiced identifying mistakes in writing and using proofreading symbols
- Reading Passages: Quick check on independent reading level
- DSA: This is the spelling assessment given 3 times a year that helps guide Word Study sessions and skills.
- Handwriting: lowercase cursive letters: j, p

Math Adventures:

- Topic 7 Lessons: Division
 - Division as sharing
 - Division as repeated subtraction
 - Using a Multiplication Table to solve division problems
 - Choosing equations and variables while solving division problems

- Writing division number stories
- Problem Solving Strategy: Use objects and draw pictures to solve division story problems
- Topic 7 Test
- Topic 8 Pre-Test: Topic 8 will start on Monday.
- Fact Fluency: Check in on fact fluency

Information Hut:

- MAP Testing: This week, students took both the MAP Math and Reading tests. Results will go home when the testing is all completed.
- Benchmarks: Speaking of testing, January benchmarks have been sprinkled throughout the past two weeks. The benchmarks are about complete. As soon as they are completed, I'll begin to fill out the Data Assessment Sheets.
- Planetarium: We go the Planetarium on Th., 1/24, from 9:45-11:00. (Chaperones: Aaron Steinmetz & Laurie Brem)
- Absences: I will be out for a several half days over the next week. This coming up week I'll be missing two half days for family needs (Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning). On Friday afternoon I'll be out for a doctor appointment (scheduled back in July). Then next Monday (1/28) I'll be out in the morning with the grade 3 & 4 teachers for a PD session on a new program. This was just scheduled last week, as a reschedule for the PD missed back in November. I don't particularly care to miss so many ½ days in a week's time, but life happens! ☺ Fortunately, I have the same sub for all four ½ days.
- Have a good weekend! ☺