



November 8th, 2012



Island Foxes

Home-School Connection #8

- ELECTION RESULTS NOW AND OVER TIME:** Even though we did not have school on Tuesday, many of you spent time rereading information about the electoral college and watching results as they came in. We now know that Barack Obama got *332 electoral votes (after Florida results came in) and 61,140,297 Popular Votes. Mitt Romney got 206 electoral votes and 58,148,398 popular votes. The difference in popular votes is: _____.
- We know that Elizabeth Warren won the Massachusetts Senate seat. She is the first woman U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. There used to be 17 women U.S. senators and 83 men. Now there are 19 women. What is the *rounded* fraction of women to men? Do you know what fraction of the U.S. population are women? In the computer lab, we looked at an interesting site that shows, using maps, the history of red and blue states since the United States first became a country! <http://francescastarkgrade5website.weebly.com/social-studies-government-colonies-us-history.html>
- SCIENCE and ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS:** You and your animal research group have been gathering a lot of information about your class of animal and have been organizing it for your poster. Describe who in your group is doing what and how you have decided to organize it. What resources have been most useful to you? In order to better understand animal adaptations and topics like predator and prey, we have spent more time looking at links on our class website. You had a chance to listen to a new podcast called, *One Species at a Time*. <http://education.eol.org/podcast/one-species-time>. Please describe the story of the Island Foxes that are pictured above and are only 4 pounds at their adult weight. I (Ms. Stark) was so impressed with the fact that some of you accurately predicted the reason the Island Foxes were diminishing. It was one of the few animal stories I have heard recently that ended with good news, although I was wondering what they did with the feral sheep and pigs? The podcasts are only five minutes. Perhaps you can listen to a few together.
- VENN DIAGRAMS AND BIRDS:** One of the topics for your animal poster is a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts your class of animal with birds. Explain what you learned about the words compare and contrast (hint-compare has to do with what's similar) and what you learned about birds by comparing and contrasting them to your class of animal.
- SIZE, SHAPE AND SILHOUETTES:** Speaking of birds...now that you know what makes a bird a bird, you are going to learn how to identify different types of birds and become an official "birder". Today (Thursday) in that little movie we watched, you found out the four best ways to identify birds. The first one is size and shape. This weekend you are going to do another bird observation. You should begin to notice the size and shape of the birds you see and hear. Here is a good site to explain again how important size, shape and silhouettes are for bird watchers: <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=1054>

- NEW TEAMS AND METAPHOR DESCRIPTIONS:** Before you go into your new team, you worked on a metaphorical description and illustration of one of your current teammates. Your new teams will have a chance to learn about each other from the portraits that were done. Describe the traits you thought of to describe your teammate and how you turned those traits into metaphors. How did your teammate describe you? Did the process of making these metaphorical portraits make you think differently about your teammate? I explained you had to have background to the portrait. We reviewed the difference between negative and positive space. Can you explain it and why it might be important to think about too?
- COMMUNITY MEETING:** Because you are about to leave one team and start another, our class focused on teams for community meeting. If you were in the group that agreed to be part of the 'performing' group, how did it go? You can see a video of it on our webpage. Do you think you did convey (explain) why teamwork is important? Do you believe in what you said? If you were not in the group, what did you think of what our class shared? Do you think you do learn more when your team works well together? How are you becoming a better teammate?
- MATH:** We are finishing up chapter 3 on *factoring and prime numbers*. You had an assessment that showed you needed a little more review, so after doing some review in class and on the website, you are having another assessment on Friday. Do you think you have a better understanding of what makes numbers prime, composite, special and square? Are you better at breaking down numbers into their smallest parts (prime factorization)? Are you better able to get all the factors of a number and not just some of them? What are the divisibility rules you found most interesting or helpful? Here is a number- 504 – based on what you have learned about *divisibility rules*, what numbers is 504 divisible by? Explain each of the rules that you learned that go along with that number. *Note: If you learned the divisibility rule for 7, 504 is divisible by 7, but can you explain why based on the rule? If not, our website does tell you the rule.
- TIME FOR KIDS:** A lot of what we do in school has to do with knowing how to determine importance. You got the latest *Time For Kids* on Thursday. What article did you focus on? Why did you pick that one? Your homework was to write *one paragraph* about what was most important about the article. Did you write a clear topic sentence, at least three supporting details and a concluding sentence? Some of you wrote more than a paragraph. Why is that? Sometimes it's hard to narrow things down.
- SOMETHING ELSE/ SPECIALS?** Is there something else you want to talk about? Bird watching, the crow movie, Ms. Cook's visit about the Mission Statement, Scribbler's notebook prompts, Music, Art, P.E., C.O.B (chorus, orchestra, band), and Chinese? No library because of Early Dismissal. What did you talk about? _____

Due: TUESDAY (Veteran's Day): We made a time to sit and do the HSC together on _____

Parent Signature: _____

Comments:

Student Rating: Say why...