

Good morning-

This week in science, we finished up chapter 11, Vertebrates. I think everybody enjoyed our Bio-Bingo review as well. We are starting Birds and Mammals, which is a short chapter. We will also be dissecting owl pellets next week. I have never done this, and have absolutely no idea what to expect!

In social studies, we are working on Chapter 14, Moving West. I am planning on having students map out some of the routes taken by early pioneers, adding some modern elements to the trip.

In government, we discussed the legislative branch of government. We are going to touch upon that again next week and review some of what we did this week, because comparing the Illinois and Federal elected officials was a little confusing. Students completed and explained cluster diagrams about the current Democratic candidates, researching their education and their plans for various issues. Next week, we are going to review all of the branches of government and look at the results of the Nevada caucus.

In language arts, we switched gears and are reading A Single Shard, by Linda Sue Park. I think this is a better choice and I like that it introduces the class to a different timeframe and culture (twelfth-century Korea).

Today is the end of the grading period, so please make sure any take-home work you have at home is returned. We will start working on portfolios in the next week or two and will need those assignments. We are planning to tie-dye t-shirts in Art on March 2, so please send a t-shirt we can use any time before that. Finally, please remember we don't have school on Friday, February 28, and there is no child care. Spirit Week starts March 2, with the talent show on March 6.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Heather