

Good evening-

This week in science, we finished up chapter 12, Birds and Mammals. It was a very short chapter, so we won't be having a test on the material, but I will have students work on the Chapter Assessment on Monday. The owl pellet dissection was really interesting. We spent time on Wednesday doing the dissection. On Thursday, we mounted and identified the bones. They are on display in the hallway outside our classroom. Students also learned about lift and how things fly. They enjoyed experimenting with paper airplanes to see what effect wind, plane shape, and different wing designs had on performance.

In social studies, we discussed westward expansion, including the Louisiana Purchase. Next week, we will talk a little bit more about Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery. I am looking at several fun activities, including mapping the journey and an escape room-type game.

In government, we went back over the branches of government. Mike Wepsiec came in and talked about the legislative branch, so hopefully students have a better understanding of the similarities and differences between the Federal and Illinois systems. Students also made cluster diagrams illustrating the positions of the Democratic Presidential nominees. It was an interesting project and it incorporated a different way of organizing information, as well as researching and learning about current events.

In language arts, we are continuing with *A Single Shard*. I really like the cultural messages in this book, which touch upon honor, hard work, and tradition. We studied concrete poetry and I think we will continue next week with concrete poetry, since last and next week are short weeks. We worked on diagramming sentences and will continue that as well.

Please make sure any take-home work you have at home is returned. We will start working on portfolios and will need those assignments. Spirit Week starts Monday, and we are planning to tie-dye t-shirts Monday afternoon. Please send a t-shirt. Monday's theme is Dr. Seuss/favorite character. Finally, please remember the Talent Show is Friday morning, and we have a noon dismissal.

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

Heather