

Good afternoon-

This week, we finished our chapter on Ancient Egypt. I think everyone enjoyed this chapter, which included a conversation with last week's Friday guest who Zoom-chatted with us from Alexandria, Egypt. He answered questions about schools in Egypt, fast food in Egypt, and touring pyramids. I was surprised that to enter a pyramid, you have to go down ladders. Also, the ceilings in pyramids were very low, so I would probably never go into one! Today, students created PowerPoint presentations explaining how they would design a pyramid with modern conveniences. Next week, we will start Unit 4, Early Asian Civilizations. I was looking at the book today, and I think it's likely we will finish the text before the end of the year. Last year, we worked on states and capitals as well as working through the text. I think maybe this year, we will have time to study presidents and the government in the third trimester. If anyone has any other ideas, please let me know!

In science, we finished our chapter on Plate Tectonics. This also included a lesson on how heat is transferred, which was pretty interesting. Our next chapter (Chapter 6) covers earthquakes and seismic waves. Of course, my first thought was a project on how to build an earthquake-proof structure, so I will be exploring ideas along those lines for a project.

In language arts, we are two chapters away from the end of Wednesday Wars. The timing is perfect, as I would like to spend a week or two before Halloween looking at works by Edgar Allen Poe. If anyone has a favorite work or has any concerns about a particular writing, please let me know. I will be looking for pieces that are generally read at the middle-school level and will forward a list of proposed writings before we begin.

In grammar this week, we reviewed simple and complete subjects and predicates, types of sentences, and action verbs. The book we have generally reviews past lessons with a question or two in each lesson, which I think is really helpful for students to keep them sharp on those concepts. We will start on Monday with Lesson 6, Capitalizing Proper Nouns.

This week in Art, we discussed the Art Nouveau movement. I thought

our Dryer-duct pumpkins turned out well. We will be doing a scratch art project Monday that was a part of last week's lesson. The concept is really interesting: it is a take-off of the style of Gustav Klimt involving the use of paint and foil in art. Students will glue partial images onto the scratchboard and then complete the drawings by scratching the paint off the board. Next week, I plan to do a lesson involving classical music and studying Beethoven.

We reviewed about half of the Scholastic Magazine today. I told students to hold onto their copies and if everyone still has them next Thursday, we will skip science or social studies (they vote) to complete the magazine. Please make sure they keep track of their magazines!

Please remember we are off on Friday, October 9th, and Monday, October 12.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please let me know and have a great weekend!

Heather