

Data Integration

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Data Source: <https://aws.amazon.com/opendata/>

This open data source is available on the huge data storage of Amazon Web Services (AWS). This data is helpful because it has a plethora of data resources like the Hubble Telescope to brain science. Best of all, this data source is searchable.

I love using data to make learning more relevant. I teach elementary level students and I often find that many data resources are for an older audience. Therefore, I need to translate a lot of the vocabulary and data. Not only is the data making the learning more relevant but also my students need access to real data to practice analyzing information for future learning.

I remember back when test scores did not drive so much of what was taught. Teachers could plan units that were cross-curriculum with themes. However, we have moved away from that style of lesson planning and have adopted boxed curriculum for math, reading and writing that promises great test scores. I think if we circle back to themed, cross-curriculum units, teachers and students would enjoy the learning process more. All people, of all ages love taking in data and learning new, interesting things. Most preschool and kindergarten classes still use well thought-out, multiple content area units. It is

important to recognize that test scores may be encouraging many schools to use curriculum that uses no relevant, real-world, up-to-date data.