

Engaging Contexts Data Integration: Wind Data

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The Data/Lesson Enhancement

The data piece I have chosen to incorporate is about wind and comes from http://www.weatherwizkids.com/?page_id=72 . Last year my STEM team teacher and I did 2 STEM activities involving wind. We investigated Spiderlings and how they make Spidercutes and use the wind to travel, then we made anemometers to test wind speed. The data piece will enhance these lessons to show the students about more wind topics to see how it connects with the outside world. The website has kid-friendly images and vocabulary that is accessible to them. Also, it has extension wind topics such as Global wind patterns, types of wind, Beaufort wind scale, wind activities, and wind questions. I feel like data is important for the kids to be able to see, read, and analyze. It is important for them to also see it can change with different circumstances. We tested our Anemometers on a slightly windy and a very windy day to see that difference in data.

Interdisciplinary context

The data can be used to connect different pieces in the classroom in many ways. Next year, I plan on reading, “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind,” with my class. It would be helpful if they knew something about wind and how/why it functions to make more connections to the book. Also, In Social Studies we teach Western Expansion. We talk a lot about weather and the rough conditions they had to travel through, and how they had to leave at a certain time of the year or they would get caught in severe weather. Finally, I think I would like to add an art piece maybe like Vincent Van Gogh’s, “Starry Night.” It would be neat to see the kids use their knowledge of data and create a piece of their own with wind incorporated. The data they receive from the website would aid in the students having a more well-rounded understanding of wind.