

## Data Talks in the Math Classroom

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Throughout my course work with Endeavor I have learned about and worked with many different resources involving real world data. So much so that I have felt very overwhelmed thinking about how I can use the data in my classroom. While talking with a colleague about all of these resources, I began thinking about how I could expose my students to these resources and not feel like I have to develop a lesson for each. That is when the idea of using data talks in my classroom came about. I decided to choose a data resource that I thought would interest my students and facilitate a data talk, allowing them to view the data and discuss it in a small group, without having to develop an entire lesson. This allowed students to be exposed to the resource, ask questions, and discuss possible answers with their group and then share with the entire class.

I presented this strategy in a professional development at Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC) on April 14, 2021. This was part of the STEM Fest PD day. I presented in two sessions. One session included three administrators, one elementary teacher and one middle school teacher, and the other session included 3 middle school teachers, two high school teachers, and one library media specialist.

To begin my PD I discussed what a data talk is, and how it compared to a number talk, which more teachers are familiar with. I also discussed the abundance of resources that I have learned about because of the Endeavor courses I have participated in, and how I wanted to incorporate these resources in my classroom. Next, I showed a video of a teacher facilitating a data talk, and after the video we discussed her questioning and the students discussion of the data that was presented.

Next, I thought it was important to let them participate in a data talk, so we looked at a data representation about endangered species. I facilitated the data talk just as I would in my

classroom. I allowed them time to look at the data, and time to discuss their thoughts with others. Then I asked questions, and facilitated the discussion. Some participants noticed things that others did not, which always encourages discussion. After this activity, I gave the participants a handout that included several resources that I have found very useful when looking for data talk topics in my classroom and allowed them time to look at the resources. Their assignment was to find a data source that they would use for a data talk in their classroom, and share that resource with the group.

This professional development project incorporates NASA assets and STEM content that I learned through Endeavor by utilizing the resources and data sources that I have learned about and used during my course work. Many times, as classroom teachers, we have our students do real world problems to help them relate what we are teaching to the real world. But when that “real world” isn’t relatable to our students they may not understand. However, there is so much data that is relatable to our students that we can use in the classroom that is already there for us to use. Below is a list of resources that I have learned about through Endeavor, and that I use in my classroom.

Teachers responded positively to my PD session. Many stated that they liked the resource page that was given, and liked having time to look at the resources and think about how they could incorporate the resource data into a data talk for their students. They also commented that they had never really thought about doing a data talk with students, and that it was a great way to expose students to real world data.

The following are two people who attended my PD session:

Greg Cecil, Principal, Hart County High School. [greg.cecil@hart.kyschools.us](mailto:greg.cecil@hart.kyschools.us)

Kristin Froedge, Instructional Supervisor, Hart County Schools.

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# Data Talk Resources

- ★ <https://www.youcubed.org/resource/data-talks/> - data talk examples and data to use for a data talk, lessons, STEM tasks, EXCELLENT resource!
- ★ <https://www.climate.gov/> - maps and data visualizations
- ★ <https://science.nasa.gov/learners/wavelength> - collection of resources that incorporate NASA content
- ★ <https://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov/> - data resources about Earth, as well as lessons and STEM connections\_\_\_\_
- ★ <https://www.data.gov/> - lots of good data on everything you could want, but you do have to dig.
- ★ <https://climate.nasa.gov/> - facts, articles, graphics and multimedia about the Earth and its climate