

Turning Points



Pivotal Moments in Human History

Dear Parents, Teachers, and PEAKers,

Students spent the bulk of their time last week working on the interview process. First, students asked one interview question plus a follow-up question of a student in our morning circle. Then students observed me interviewing one of them on a topic that the student has expertise in. (My interviews were intentionally and comically poor!) Students then gave responses on what could be improved, and a student volunteered to see if they could conduct a better interview (and of course they all did!) Next, students were placed into random partner pairs and interviewed each other on topics that they were knowledgeable about. Students assessed themselves and their partner. These interviews were excellent!

Then the real work began. Students brainstormed experts and expert careers to find interviewees for their projects, and wrote interview questions for them: 8+ questions for 4th graders and 10+ for 5th graders, plus some follow-up questions. Some students were even able to call an expert and complete the interviews in class! Most will be working on them from home, calling experts on the phone, or, better yet, visiting them in person.

This week we'll focus more on getting the interviews accomplished, and later added into the students' Sway presentations. And, we'll be revisiting our study of mining in a very detailed and realistic simulation. Students will start with a budget, lease a mining claim (a cookie), purchase tools and hire workers, mine for chocolate, sell the chocolate to an assayer, pay the workers, pay to clean up and reclaim their leased land, and hopefully turn a profit! It's an engaging (and delicious!) activity exploring the complexities and various aspects of the mining industry.

This Week's Activities: Feb. 26 – March 1

<p>Research: Internet I can navigate the internet and collect relevant research, including citations, with teacher guidance.</p>	<p>Navigating the Worldwide Web - Students will continue collecting internet research. Proper citations and effective search methods will be the focal points.</p>
<p>Research: Expert-Led I can listen to, learn from, and actively ask questions of an expert in a specific field.</p>	<p>Cookie Mining - Students will "mine" for chocolate chips in a hands-on mining simulation. They'll purchase tools, lease a mining claim, hire workers, pay for cleanup and reclamation, and more.</p>
<p>Research: Interview I can conduct an expert interview by phone, video, or in person with teacher assistance.</p>	<p>Expert Perspectives - Students have chosen experts in related fields to interview as the final type of research for their Independent Study projects, and will contact them to conduct the interviews.</p>
<p>Technology: Software I can effectively use various applications to create content for an activity or project in a teacher-led activity.</p>	<p>Sway the Day Away - Students will continue creating presentations using software called Sway. As the final project for this unit, each student will create and present a Sway project at our final event in March.</p>

Mining for Facts,

J. Slead

PEAK GT4-5: Winter/Spring 2024

26 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	27 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	28 Four Georgians Hawthorne	29 Smith Broadwater Bryant	March 1
4 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	5 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	6 Four Georgians Hawthorne	7 Smith Broadwater Bryant	8
11	12	13	14	15
PEAK GT4-5 Butte Overnight Research Experience Details coming soon!				
No regular PEAK classes; PEAK staff screening in all schools				
18 Jefferson Rossiter Warren Final Presentations: DPHHS Auditorium 12:00-1:30	19 Jim Darcy Kessler Central Final Presentations: L & C Library Conf. Room 12:00-1:30	20 Four Georgians Hawthorne Final Presentations: DPHHS Auditorium 12:00-1:30	21 Smith Broadwater Bryant Final Presentations: DPHHS Auditorium 12:00-1:30	22
25	26	27	28	29
Spring Break				
April 1	2 Jim Darcy Kessler, Central Jefferson Rossiter Warren	3 Four Georgians Hawthorne	4 Smith Broadwater Bryant	5
8 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	9 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	10 Four Georgians Hawthorne	11 Smith Broadwater Bryant	12
15 Jefferson Rossiter Warren	16 Jim Darcy Kessler Central	17 Four Georgians Hawthorne	18 Smith Broadwater Bryant	19