

Title of Session: Arts and Literacy - Ethnomathematics

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Title of File: 20070108artslitethnomath

Date: January 8, 2007

Room: ArtsSites Group

BjB: welcome to today's Arts and Literacy discussion.

BjB: let's make this official and start with introductions, please.

SusanR: Hi Bj

FredK: I am a literacy tutor in SE Oklahoma

BjB: I'm a remedial communications teacher in Pennsylvania

SusanR: I am an Occasional Teacher in Ontario

SusanR: with a strong interest in art

BjB: I decided to go with the topic Ethnomathematics tonight

FredK likes patterns

BjB: and found some interesting definitions of the topic

SusanR: fascinating topic

FredK: I can't even pronounce it

BjB: let's start with this definition: <http://www.science.org.au/nova/073/073key.htm>

BjB: that all sounded hunky dory until I ran across this definition just published this year in the Wall Street Journal Opinion Journal

DavidWe is still doing the dishes in New Jersey where he often is on HelpDesk in Tapped In

BjB: <http://www.opinionjournal.com/extra/?id=110006873>

FredK: Got me thinking about a Bop Math using the hands

BjB: I decided the consensus was somewhere in between those two opinions and chose to compromise with this information for an Ethnomathematics Unit
<http://www.easterncet.edu/depts/edu/projects/ethnomath.html>

BjB: any comments or questions so far? Do you agree with any particular definition?

SusanR: multicultural math ..never thought of math in that manner

BjB nods to Sue. It can be an interesting focus

BjB: Here's a page with Multicultural Math Goals

BjB: <http://people.clarityconnect.com/webpages/terri/multicultural.html>

SusanR: I am looking at the multicultural ideas
<http://people.clarityconnect.com/webpages/terri/multiculturalideas.html>

FredK: Math develops to explain our world. Different strokes for different folks

BjB: scroll down to the bottom of that page for the next link

SusanR: I teach a diverse population

BjB: right, Sue. Most of us probably do any more

FredK: Good collection of ways to get it across

BjB: this next site, Teaching Math Through Culture is excellent
<http://www.rpi.edu/%7Eeglash/csd.html>

BjB . o O (that one is going to take a while to get through...much depth)

BjB: ready to look at the next gem I found?

FredK: The Navajo Rug Weaver uses good patterns too

DavidWe: Yes, very strong geometric sense...understanding of how to represent the patterns in weaving

BjB: it's not really the specific ethnicity that you use...it's allowing the learners to take some ownership of their learning and relate it to their culture

DavidWe smiles

BjB: also a nice way to stretch a unit on a topic to include math in some different way

BjB: The next site is called Melting Pot Math

BjB: <http://sln.fi.edu/school/math3/>

FredK: Would they be embarrassed to know they were using math?

BjB: dunno

BjB: . o O (if they would be, don't tell them)

BjB: until after they've experienced success

FredK: Have to use math and measurement to get Mexican jumping beans

FredK: bit of science too

BjB: next site is Ethnomathematics snapshots

BjB: <http://www.tacomacc.edu/home/jkellerm/Ethnomath/index.htm>

BjB: how's everyone doing?

FredK: Quipu keeps records without a pencil. Just keep the knots going.

BjB: I still have a couple more sites to share

BjB: . o O (Fred is learning a lot tonight)

FredK: Interesting Three-in- a row

FredK: tic-tac-toe

BjB: this site is a BIGGIE!

FredK: I play the Mancala for an earlier site with my granddaughter. Hadn't thought about the math

BjB: Ethnomathematics Digital Library

BjB: <http://www.ethnomath.org/index.asp>

DavidWe: yes, Fred - that's often a resource for math from different cultures

BjB: the last two sites I have are so-so, but figured I would include them. One is a web hunt

BjB: <http://home.mindspring.com/~mjg2/ethalt.html>

BjB: and the other is a coloring book (probably for older kids)

BjB: and looks at the arts of central Eurasia

BjB: <http://www.ethnomath.org/resources/coloring-booklet.pdf>

BjB: I've made a track of the sites I've shown you at Trackstar

BjB: <http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar/ts/viewTrack.do?number=306885>

BjB: and will add the track to the resources in this room

BjB: anyone have any questions about today's information?

BjB: not here, Moriah. Do you know who the instructor is?

FredK: I am not sure who invented the SpiroGraph, but it does neat patterns too. May not be relevant

DavidWe: Patterns are everywhere

FredK: Tied to math?

BjB: I think you'll find lots of the spirograph patterns in Persian and Asian designs, Fred

FredK: Thanks

DavidWe: Fred, here is a wonderful project that we did at the Math Forum in conjunction with the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C.

DavidWe: <http://mathforum.org/geometry/rugs/>

DavidWe: Really neat collaboration

FredK: I've been tapping in to the Math Forum lately

DavidWe: Melissa Dershewitz took a trip to Washington and saw the exhibit at the Textile Museum on its last day

DavidWe: She suggested doing something on the web (this was 10 years ago)

BjB: math is such a gigantic topic. I tried to focus on ethnomath because it includes a lot of other math topics

DavidWe: So, the curator, Carol Bier, came up from Washington and we started working on the collaboration

FredK: I will have to get back to it again

BjB: Our time is almost up. Any last questions?

FredK: I'm Ok