

Explore the Flathead: 3rd Grade Science and Social Studies Supports for Curriculum Enrichment

Great Opportunity Grant: 2023/2024

Application Form

Project Description and Justification

Project Title:*

This will be a unique identifier to your grant and will be used in publicity.

Explore the Flathead: 3rd Grade Science and Social Studies Supports for Curriculum Enrichment

Brief Project Description:*

In 50 words or less (limited to 275 characters), please provide a description of your project. This may be used to share your project with the public, so please refrain from using technical jargon. Please take time with this. Your summary should provide a layperson a very strong sense of your idea without requiring follow up questions.

Ex. Children are losing interest in reading! Studies show the frequency of reading drops off heavily in the teen years and teen readers have dramatically declined over the last 40 years. With food, friends and, of course, the right books, Book Club is the perfect remedy.

This is a collective project by 3rd grade teachers in Kalispell Public Schools to enhance science and social studies instruction, and align that instruction with field trips through the creation of traveling trunks with materials and lessons.

Project Need:*

- Describe the significant academic need and the target population
- Why is the need special or unique?

There is a critical need for science and social studies curricula at the third grade level, as we haven't had an adopted curriculum for either subject for about 20 years. There are many materials available to teach science and social studies in the district and community, but they are housed in different buildings and there is no coordination or method for utilizing them across all six elementary schools. There are also some standards that do not have current materials or supplies (especially science standards), and we could all share newly purchased materials, making this a cost-effective use of resources. These trunks will allow us, as third grade teachers in Kalispell Public Schools, to share those resources, lessons, and professional development across the six elementary schools to strengthen our delivery of science and social studies standards in and beyond the classroom, potentially reaching all 3rd grade students in the district.

The demand for local providers for field trips is outstripping the supply, leading to field trips in which teachers find themselves in the role of park ranger or expert historian more often than before. This can lead to uneven delivery of content, depending on the comfort level of the teacher with the subject. Setting up these trunks will facilitate closer relationships with providers and raise the quality of instruction for all field experiences for both teachers and students, as well as enriching delivery of in-class instruction.

Project Purpose:*

- What is the anticipated impact of your project, and how will it improve student achievement?
- How do your goals link with district or state standards?

The Explore the Flathead project will cultivate 3rd graders' understanding of their local community and their place within it by making field trips to places like the Northwest Montana History Museum and the Conrad Mansion (standard 3rd grade trips) more meaningful. Through items and artifacts in the trunks, students will learn about the chronological relationships of our community, make contact with times past, and discover the legacy of local people past and present. Students will learn about the Salish, Kootenai, Blackfeet, and other tribes who lived in or moved through the Flathead Valley, the early settlement of the valley, the effects of transportation and natural resources on local communities, and how profoundly the past shapes our contemporary life in Northwest Montana. Our hope is that as students gain a deeper comprehension of their history, they will also learn to value civic engagement and become active participants in their community.

By taking a place-based approach to teaching life science standards, students will appreciate how our local ecosystems have developed as a result of the forces of deposition, seismic activity, glaciation, erosion, and fire. Through field trips to Lone Pine and North Shore State Parks, Glacier National Park, Flathead Lake Biological Station, and the Creston Fish Hatchery students will learn how living organisms have adapted to live in particular habitats created by these forces. There is a fire ecology text in the Wonders reading curriculum that examines how fire can be detrimental to certain species, but beneficial to others. Examining the diversity of local flora and fauna gives students an understanding of how specialized processes and structures allow organisms to thrive in the same habitats. As these interdependent relationships have developed over long periods of time, students will realize why invasive species can have a detrimental impact on local ecosystems. Understanding our local climate and comparing weather records from the past can help students understand how changes in weather patterns might impact living organisms.

The trunks will support social studies standards in all four bands of the OPI Montana Social Studies Standards: SS.CG.3 Civics and Government, SS.E.3 Economics, SS.G.3 Geography, and SS.H.3 History. For example, SS.E.3.2: identify examples of human and natural resources that are used to produce goods and services and SS.G.3.1: examine maps and other representations to identify historical and contemporary political and cultural patterns in the Americas.

These trunks will also align with the IEFA Essential Understandings, particularly Essential Understanding 1: There is great diversity among the 12 tribal Nations of Montana in their languages, cultures, histories and governments. Each Nation has a distinct and unique cultural heritage that contributes to modern Montana.

In addition, the trunks will support science standards in the Earth and Space Science strand such as obtaining and representing data using tables and graphical displays to describe observed and predicted weather conditions during a particular season (3-ESS2-1). This project will also support the entire Life Science strand, including 3-LS4-3: construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

Project Design*

Describe the activities that will ensure your project is successfully accomplished. Include a timeline of major activities, a description of each, and deadlines for accomplishing them. How will you use the materials and supplies included in your budget?

October: Write and submit KEA Great Opportunities Grant

November: Begin purchasing materials with grant money

December/January: Create trunks, write lesson plans

February: Create digital resources for utilizing trunks

March: Open up trunk check-out for all 3rd grade teachers, present information at Rankin's PD day

We will begin this project by creating seven trunks: Pioneer Skills, Conrad Mansion/Founding of Kalispell, Demersville Cemetery, 1890s Games, Creston Fish Hatchery, Weather Station, and Fire Ecology (note: no budgeted materials for Fire Ecology needed - all supplies currently available at Hedges and Elrod).

All materials will go into the trunks to be checked out and used by individual teachers, or teams of teachers, as they teach the units to which the trunks apply, or go on the targeted extended classroom field experiences. We believe that there is enough variation in our schedules that with a time limit for checking out the trunks, they can be shared without too much backlog. After all, it's just as valuable to extend a field trip into the classroom following the experience as it is prior to the experience.

Population Served

How many students will be impacted by your grant in the 2023/2024

school year:*

290

Grade level(s) impacted in the 2023/2024 school year:*

3rd Grade

Subject Area:*

Primarily social studies and science

Subject area for reporting purposes:*

STEM

School(s) impacted:*

Edgerton

Elrod

Hedges

Peterson

Rankin

Russell

Relevance to Great Opportunity Grant Program Goals Creativity and Innovation:*

How is this project different from the usual classroom approach? Identify creative and innovative elements that will be used.

Taking a local, place-based approach to science and social studies is more impactful than adopting a national curriculum, while still teaching mandated standards. These trunks will help unify the links that teachers are already making to social studies and science through our Wonders Language Arts Curriculum. Many schools have moved to a two week reading cycle and have moved units that tie together thematically. For example, teaching traditions, immigration, the Oregon Trail, and landmarks creates a more holistic approach to teaching reading, especially when the reading themes are expanded into writing and history. In Wonders the units on adaptations, how inventions are inspired by nature, and the impact of fire all help to reinforce critical science content. We feel like the trunks will facilitate hands-on learning of pioneer era skills like butter churning or candle making, as well as science concepts like using traits to connect the relationships between organisms and their environments. It's quite difficult for individual teachers to put together resources like this, but if we create traveling trunks with lesson plans we can have really unique and innovative tools and materials at our fingertips.

Collaboration:

If you plan to collaborate with others, please explain how you selected your partners and how you plan to work together during the grant period.

██████████ were the primary collaborators in writing this grant proposal, but we fully intend to rope

all the 3rd grade teachers in the district into the project, even if they only utilize the trunks and do not contribute to the development or creation of the trunks and lesson plans.

██████████ discovered that we worked well together when I was her student teacher in 5th grade at Hedges seven years ago, and we have enjoyed continued collaboration since then. We've taught many grade levels since that time, and are excited to find ourselves sharing a grade again. We both believe that one of the unsung joys of teaching is sharing and collaborating with other teachers, and we appreciate the inspiration that we bring out in each other. We also share a passion for science and social studies instruction in the elementary classroom.

We sought and received input from third grade teachers across the district, and were excited to get their positive feedback, as well as suggestions for items for the trunks. This grant application truly is the work of many.

We intend to discuss each field experience as we write the lesson plans, and will continue to seek input via email from 3rd grade instructors as we progress through the process of creating the trunks.

Budget

Amount requested (up to \$2,000):*

\$2,000.00

Project Budget:*

Please submit a detailed project budget. This should include the item, vendor, quantity of items needed, the item cost, any associated shipping costs, total for each item, and total cost for the project. Total amount requested may not exceed \$2,000.

KEA Grant 2023 Explore the Flathead Budget

Additional Funding Available (optional):

If your total budget is greater than \$2,000, please explain how you plan to secure additional funding.

Evaluation, Dissemination and Future Plans

Evaluation:*

Indicate how the success of the project will be measured, including strategies and tools you will use. How will you assess student progress? How will you determine the benchmarks for achieving each objective?

The Explore the Flathead: 3rd Grade Science and Social Studies Supports for Curriculum Enrichment project is so wide reaching in the scope of the project, number of teachers utilizing it, and types of trunks, that there will not be an easy way to assess tangible data. As we write the lesson plans that accompany each trunk, we will determine suggested assessments.

For example, students will be able to use dichotomous keys to identify insects and conifers, which can be assessed via a paper test. Many of the social studies projects will be able to be assessed via writing, especially by using informative paragraphs and historical fiction essays to assess student knowledge of historical details. Each teacher will have to use the provided lesson plans to determine how best to assess their students after using the trunk.

Dissemination:*

How will you share the information from your project with your colleagues or the community?

We intend to present information about the Explore the Flathead: 3rd Grade Science and Social Studies Supports for Curriculum Enrichment project via a professional development opportunity at Rankin Elementary during one of our scheduled elementary PD days. Our lesson plans will be available on the Kalispell Public Schools extended classroom experiences website.

Communication about these resources will be the key to successfully getting these materials into the hands of every 3rd grade teacher in Kalispell, and we intend to create a shared calendar, slides, and documents all collected in one easily accessible digital folder that we can share to all third grade teachers each year.

The community will also benefit from this information as we become better prepared to lead field trips/extended classroom experiences. We hope to impress providers with the willingness of 3rd grade instructors to create a maximally meaningful learning experience for our students using the trunks, in addition to our providers' site-based education and expertise.

Future Plans:*

What are your plans for continuation and/or expansion of the project?

As teachers develop new extended classroom experiences, we can add to the trunk collection, or modify existing trunks. We may also consider applying for additional (smaller) grants after we've been using the trunk collection for a while and know more about what the most popular items are, and what science and social studies standards could use additional support. We will also continue to research what items are located at other schools that could be useful to share at no additional expense.

Internal Questions

Applicant received funding in the last two years:*

No

Administrator Endorsement*

This project has been reviewed and approved by Principal Jeff Hornby. The past two years, we have made an increased emphasis on opportunities beyond the classrooms. Extended Classroom Experiences are awesome moments in a student's school year, but many times those experiences are not applied beyond the field experience. This project allows for classroom teachers to extend the out of classroom learning.

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- KEA Grant 2023 Explore the Flathead Budget - Google Docs.pdf

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KEA Great Opportunities Grant 3rd Grade Science and Social Studies 2023

Budget

Item	Trunks/units	Source Cost
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WhizKidsLab 4PCS Real Bugs Insect Arachnid Resin	Fish Hatchery	Amazon \$18.49
20 Pcs Insect in Resin Bug Preserved Specimens	Fish Hatchery	Amazon \$43.69
SIENON Realistic Insect Toys Figures-12Pcs Large Plastic Bugs	Fish Hatchery	Amazon \$16.99
Hama Beads - Neon Colour Mix (1000 Midi Beads)	Fish Hatchery	Amazon \$7.99
Hygloss Products Tissue Paper Squares Pre-Cut, 5 Inches -Pastel Colors -	Fish Hatchery	Amazon \$9.65
100Pcs Green Pipe Cleaners Chenille Stem	Fish Hatchery	Amazon x 2 @ \$5.99 \$11.98
MODOH Plasticine Oil Based Modeling Clay, 2 Pound,	Fish Hatchery	Amazon \$22.89
Medical Cotton Swabs, JMU Cotton Swabs with Wooden Sticks, 1000	Fish Hatchery	Amazon \$8.99
CDOFFICE 4 Rolls Dark Green Floral Tapes	Fish Hatchery	Amazon \$5.89
Safari Ltd Life cycle model Luna Moth, Stag Beetle, Sea Turtle, Green Bean, Salmon, ant, worm, spider, Monarch Butterfly, honeybee	Fish Hatchery pre-visit comparing life cycles	Safari Ltd x 10 @ \$11.50 \$115.00
Fruit Press Cider Making with T Handle Squeeze Master	Pioneer Skills	Amazon \$129.99

7L Fruit Crusher Portable	Pioneer Skills	Amazon \$79.99
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Apple Grinder Squeeze Master		
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XMHSH Stainless Steel Apple Slicer	Pioneer Skills	Amazon x6 @ \$5.99 \$35.94
Mesh Bag for Fruit/Cider/Apple Pleasant Hill Grain	Pioneer Skills	Amazon \$16.10
Exitoso Small Cutting Board	Pioneer Skills	Amazon (6 pack) \$24.95
Ropak USA 3.5 gallon Food grade Bucket with Handle & Lid - 3	Pioneer Skills	Amazon \$39.99
Romanstile Rectangle Vinyl Tablecloth, 100% Waterproof	Pioneer Skills	Amazon \$14.99
Unbleached muslim	Pioneer skills	JoAnn Fabric 2 yards \$15.98
Aeaker Glass Butter Churn Can use with a regular mason jar	Pioneer Skills	Amazon \$59.00
Hand-milled Grain Natural Hemp Stone	Pioneer Skills	Amazon \$169.99
Gravestone Rubbing Wax	Demersville	Gravestone Rubbing Supplies x 14 @ \$6.50 \$91.00
YRYM HT White Kraft Butcher Paper Roll	Demersville	Amazon \$17.99
Newton Force Meter Spring Scale	Demersville	Amazon x 6@ \$9.99 \$59.94
Native American crafts (corn husk doll, dream catcher, gourd rattle)	Demersville	Museum of Indian Culture Delaware Tribe \$37.00
5LB Yellow Beeswax Pellets	Pioneer Skills	Amazon \$25.99
EricX organic hemp wicks	Pioneer Skills	Amazon \$17.45
Flour Sacks/12 can also be used for organizing materials	Pioneer Skills	North Dakota Mill \$28.00
23 PCS Large Eye Sewing Needles	Pioneer Skills	Amazon x 2 @ \$3.99 \$7.98

4 Pieces Wood Catch Ball	1800's games	Amazon x 2 \$11.59 \$ 23.18
2 Sets Jacks Game Toys Wooden Pickup Sticks	1800's games	Amazon x 2 @ \$9.9 \$19.98
Neato! Classics 160 Marbles	1800's games	Amazon \$12.99
Shooter Glass Marbles	1800's games	Amazon \$12.89
Amazon Basics Fountain Pen 2 cartridges- Medium Point, black	Conrad Mansion	Amazon x 2 @ \$15.83 \$31.66
Half Interest in a Silver Dollar: The Saga of Charles E. Conrad	Conrad Mansion	Amazon \$20.00
Copies and reproductions of historical documents + photographs	Conrad Mansion	Insty Prints \$250.00
WODI Wooden Spinning Tops, 9 Pcs Wood Novelty Gyroscopes	1800's games	Amazon \$14.86
Caydo 12 Pieces 6 Inch Embroidery Hoops	Pioneer Skills	Amazon x 3 @ \$16.99 \$50.97
OUTOSS Ring Toss Set Outdoor&Indoor	1800's games	Amazon \$13.99
Rolling hoop game with stick	1800's games	Cooperman Drum X 2 @ \$33.50 \$67.00
Graces, solid wooden hoop	1800's games	Cooperman Drum X \$32.00 \$64.00
Ambient Weather WS-2902 WiFi Smart Weather Station	weather	Amazon \$189.99
Storage Tubs	All Trunks	Costco 2 @ \$47.99 \$95.98