**EXPLORING THE WORLD**

**Lesson Plans**

**Day #1:** *(This lesson plan can be used with any of the podcasts on the deanjacobs.org website.)*

**Learning objectives:**

- Students will learn note taking skills.
- Students will gain knowledge of Mountain Gorillas in Africa
  - Students will learn letter writing skills
  - Students will learn how to navigate through a website.

**Materials needed:**

- Smart Board or projection screen for the Dean Jacobs website
- Chart with learning goals and ways to reach the goals
- Note taking organizer for students *(see below)*
- Example of what to include in a letter to display and/or hand out to students *(see below)*
- Letter writing paper and pencils
- A computer for each student or pair of students

1. **Share the learning goals with students and how we will achieve these goals:**

   We will reach our goals by…
   - watching a podcast on Gorillas of the DRC and taking notes.
   - using our notes to write a letter to Dean Jacobs.
   - exploring the deanjacobs.org website in the computer lab.

2. **Model 2 column note taking**

   - Display the Two Column Note Taking sheet on the Smart Board or overhead
   - Model writing a fact or connection. For example: Teacher writes *Silverback gorillas live in family groups.* (fact) or *I saw a silverback gorilla at the zoo once.* (connection) on the left column of the note taking sheet.
   - Model writing a question. For example: On the right column the teacher writes a corresponding question like: *How big are their families?* or *How do the gorillas in a family interact with each other?* or *What was the most interesting thing the gorillas did while you were watching them?* (Students can also help generate questions about this topic to add to the chart.)

3. **Model how to get on the deanjacobs.org website and navigate your way to the podcast section of the website.**
4. **Watch the podcast: Mountain Gorillas of the DRC and take notes**
   - Students take notes using the modeled format. They may also include other questions that are not necessarily related to a learning or connection.

5. **Share notes with a friend (if time)**

6. **Show how to get on the blog**
   - Share a few letters other people have written to Dean and his response

7. **Share format for letter (see below)**

8. **Students write their letter to Dean on paper. Turn in to the teacher for editing before the next session.**

9. As they finish, they can go into the lab and explore the website.

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**Two Column Notes**

Dean Jacobs  Website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Things I learned or connected with ...</td>
<td>Questions I have ...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Image of a lightbulb and a question mark]
What to include in your letter:

Dear Dean,

- Introduce yourself.
- Tell which podcast we watched.
- Tell what you like about the podcast or website.
- Tell about things you learned or connected with.
- Ask questions!
- End with a thank you or kind statement.

Your friend,