

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 pod cast 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.**

Two Column Notes	
Dean Jacobs Website	
Name:	Date:
Things I learned or connected with ...	Questions I have ...
	

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What to include in your letter:

Dear Dean,

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

Your friend,