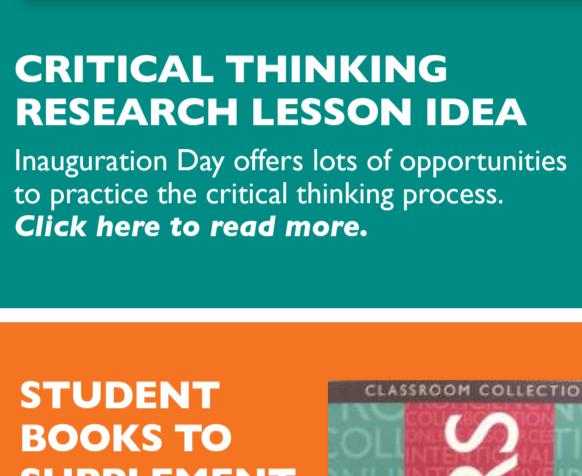


DECEMBER 2016
GRANT WOOD AEA
INFO@

Monthly information for teacher-librarians
and media contacts



Click here to read all full-length stories



**CRITICAL THINKING
RESEARCH LESSON IDEA**

Inauguration Day offers lots of opportunities to practice the critical thinking process.
Click here to read more.

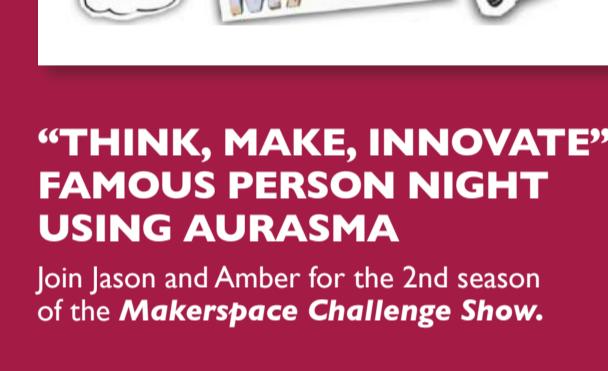


**PREPARING STUDENTS
FOR THE FUTURE**

Preparing K-5 grade students for research using critical thinking. **Click here to read more.**

**STUDENT
BOOKS TO
SUPPLEMENT
VAST KITS**

Over 100 new titles.
Check it out!



**ONLINE
RESOURCES
FEATURE: TRUEFLIX**

TrueFlix provides many resources for critical thinking projects. **Click here to read more.**

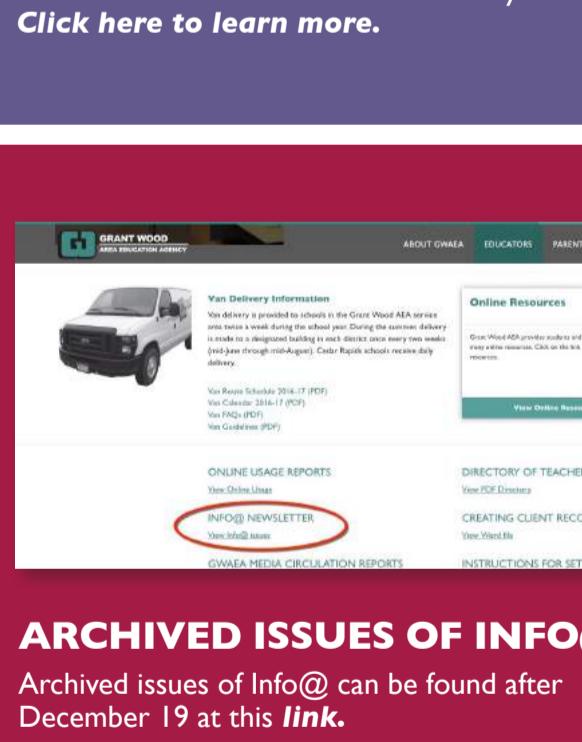


**GRANT WOOD AEA
HOLIDAY HOURS**

Grant Wood AEA will close on Friday, December 23 at 3 PM. and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3 at 7:30 A.M.

**“THINK, MAKE, INNOVATE”:
FAMOUS PERSON NIGHT
USING AURASMA**

Join Jason and Amber for the 2nd season of the *Makerspace Challenge Show*.



**MEDIA CENTER LATE
START AND SNOW DAY
PROCEDURES**

In the event of a Late Start or Snow Day...
Click here to learn more.

**Boxed Book
COLLECTION**

AVAILABLE AT GRANT WOOD AEA

**SHARE BOXED BOOKS AND
BOXED BOOK MULTIPLES
WITH YOUR TEACHERS
AND STUDENTS**

Click here to see the full infographic on the various boxed book sets that we have available for your classroom in the Grant Wood AEA Media Center.



**WHAT'S NEW
IN THE MEDIA
CENTER?**

**WHAT'S NEW IN THE
GWAEA MEDIA CENTER?**

JUST ADDED: New resources in the Grant Wood AEA Media Center. **Click here to find out.**



ARCHIVED ISSUES OF INFO@

Archived issues of Info@ can be found after December 19 at this [link](#).



Integrating the AEA Online Resources into your Classroom. **Click here to read more.**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US IN THE MEDIA CENTER

Wishing you a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year from the Grant Wood AEA Media Center Staff.

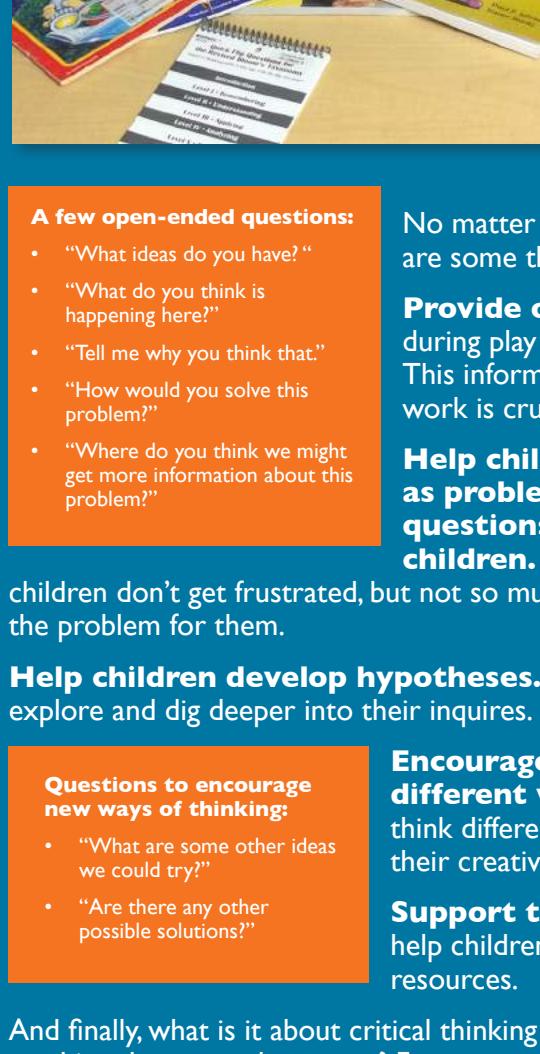
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PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

For many teacher librarians, their week includes working with students on research skills to prepare students for their futures.

How does one incorporate other 21st century skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity into the research process?

This month Deanna suggests ways to build critical thinking into the research process for students in grades K - 5.



A few open-ended questions:

- "What ideas do you have?"
- "What do you think is happening here?"
- "Tell me why you think that."
- "How would you solve this problem?"
- "Where do you think we might get more information about this problem?"

No matter which approach you use, here are some things to keep in mind:

Provide opportunities to play. It is during play that children test their thinking. This informal process of testing how things work is crucial to critical thinking.

Help children view themselves as problem-solvers and thinkers by asking open-ended questions. Don't solve all problems immediately for children. Instead ask some questions and provide enough information so

children don't get frustrated, but not so much information that you solve

the problem for them.

Help children develop hypotheses. This will encourage children to explore and dig deeper into their inquiries.

Questions to encourage new ways of thinking:

- "What are some other ideas we could try?"
- "Are there any other possible solutions?"

Encourage thinking in new and different ways. By allowing children to think differently, you're helping them hone their creative problem solving skills.

Support the child to research further information. You can help children develop critical thinking skills by guiding them toward other resources.

And finally, what is it about critical thinking that makes it a great fit for teaching the research process? For starters, students who are in grades K-5 learn to:

- Test how things work.
- Find solutions to problems.
- Explore and dig deeper.
- Work with others toward a common goal.

Check out these resources to help you get started in helping your students to develop critical thinking skills.

"Critical thinking is a key skill that our students need to have in order to become life-long learners and self-advocates for themselves." (Stacey Lange)

A few play ideas:

- dropping a spoon over and over again off the side of a high chair tray.
- rolling two marbles down a chute to see which is faster.
- dipping chalk in water.
- mixing cornstarch and water to make "goop".

Questions to encourage hypotheses:

- "If we do this, what do you think will happen?"
- "Let's predict what we think will happen next."

Questions for further exploration:

- "How now could we find out more?"
- "Your dad knows a lot about this topic. Why don't you ask him?"
- "Let's try searching on the computer?"

CRITICAL THINKING RESEARCH LESSON IDEA

Grades: K-2 or 3-5

Brief Description: Students develop questions that a reporter might ask during an interview with the new president.

Objectives: Students will:

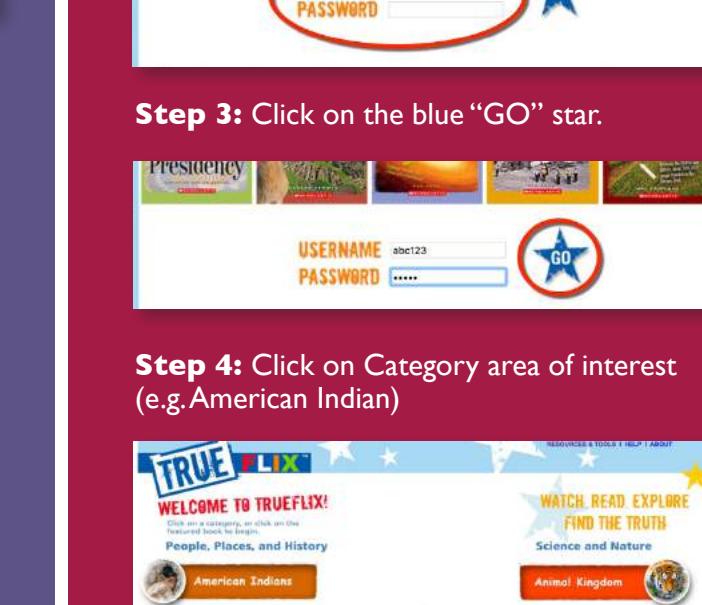
- Define the words reporter and interview.
- Use critical thinking skills to develop questions that a reporter might ask when interviewing the new president.

Vocabulary Words: inauguration, president, interview, questions, reporter

Lesson Plan (Click here to view the lesson plan)

- Ask students what a reporter does and the different types of reporters (e.g. newspaper reporters, television reporters, magazine reporters, or online reporters).
- Discuss the meaning of the word interview.
- Have the students work individually to identify the questions they would ask the new president.
- Solicit students' responses and write them on the board or on chart paper.

Pair this lesson with an activity like the "I Do Solemnly Swear" poster. This poster was created with materials from the Work Center. If you are interested in finding out more about this poster, contact **Jayne Kamberling** for more information.



STUDENT BOOKS TO SUPPLEMENT VAST KITS

Are students excited about what they are learning through the VAST kits? Do your teachers need books to supplement the NGSS? (Next Generation Science Standards)

The Science or VAST collections in the Media Center has been updated with **recommended titles** to supplement the VAST units.

MEDIA CENTER LATE START AND SNOW DAY PROCEDURES

In the event of a late start or snow day, here are the procedures. Grant Wood AEA staff will follow regarding the delivery and return of materials.

DELIVERIES

Grant Wood AEA van drivers will make every effort to deliver to schools that have a late start.

If they are not able to get into the school and make the delivery, materials will be returned to the GWAEA Media Center.

Materials will be delivered on the next van date.

RETURNS

The due back date for any materials that should have been returned but were not due to a late start or snow day will be extended to the next van delivery by GWAEA Media Center staff.

It is not necessary to call and request an extension unless more time is needed.

For questions or assistance, please contact Kim Novotny at 319-399-6838 or 800-642-4107.

“THINK, MAKE, INNOVATE”: FAMOUS PERSON NIGHT USING AURASMA

“Think, Make, Innovate” is the Grant Wood AEA Digital Learning Team’s makerspace challenge show.

In the 4th episode of their 2nd season, GWAEA Technology Consultants Jason Marshall and Amber Bridge partner with students at Strawberry Hill Elementary in Anamosa. Students create **Famous Person projects** using Aurasma.

Check out the Grant Wood AEA Digital Learning Team’s website for lesson plans and photos and videos of schools that have accepted this challenge.

Have Fun Making!

COURSE FOR GRADUATE OR RECERTIFICATION CREDIT

Do you want to enhance your curriculum or a specific unit of study? Do you want to “refresh” your content with up-to-date? Then this course is for you! This course will be offered again starting in March 2017. For further information, go to: **Integrating the AEA Online Resources into Your Classroom.**

WHAT'S NEW IN THE GRANT WOOD AEA MEDIA CENTER?

[Click here to see the new resources in the Grant Wood AEA Media Center.](#)

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