Project Abstract
Park River Area School
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This project is a collaboration between the second grade teacher, technology/instructional coach, and library media specialist with support and resources provided by the principal over the course of a twelve week period. This is a project that the second grade teacher and library media specialist had been collaborating on for a few years so it seemed like a good fit for further collaboration to incorporate Common Core Standards, 21st Century Skills, and a technology component. We wanted to take something that was working and make it better. Initially, students are exposed to various habitats both through their science curriculum in the classroom and a Jan Brett author study during library. Once exploration of Earth's habitats has taken place, students are asked to choose an animal that they would like to identify more factual information about. Through the use of databases and nonfiction literature, with the Super 3 process of inquiry as a guide, information is recorded on a graphic organizer. Finally, once students have gathered all of the required information and answered all inquiry questions that they established at the onset of the research process, they share their findings. Presentation of the information is accomplished through an individual expository writing assignment about their animal using the Six Traits of Writing model. Students are also grouped by habitat and work together to create a series of technology projects to share understandings of the diversity of life within their habitat. Padlet walls are used to compile information about each animal by habitat. These Padlet walls are then used as a sort of script in the creation of a PuppetPals video. All projects are inserted on a ThingLink to compile all components of the project in one place. Throughout the course of the unit, instructional partners meet to establish the learning targets, rubrics, and standards that will be addressed during each phase ensuring an emphasis on learning outcomes. A blog documenting the process is maintained both as a communication tool among partners, but also serves as a model of teamwork to encourage future collaborations among staff members.