Fort Lincoln Documentary

Zeeland Public School Collaborate 21 Team
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We selected the junior high grades (7-8) for this project as we felt this was a good age to generate enthusiasm and six students seemed like a good number to have working on a project like this.

Early in the fall of 2013, the three teachers took the six students on a field trip to Fort Lincoln near Mandan, North Dakota. Technology teacher Lorie Bender took digital photos and video of the site and our students touring the site. Back in school in Zeeland, the students learned a bit about Libby Custer’s favorite song Home! Sweet Home! and recorded themselves singing the song. In Robert Sandness’s English class, they selected topics specific to Fort Lincoln during the time of Custer’s occupancy. Research on their selected topics was done with the assistance of librarian Trudy Fraase Wolf. The students then wrote research papers on their respective topics.

Later in the fall, a set of ipads arrived from the Southeast Region Career and Technology Center based in Oakes. The students used this technology to create a film trailer of their upcoming documentary using footage from the field trip. This trailer is posted on YouTube under Fort Abraham Lincoln, Zeeland English (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kb0KzFxtkMs).

The winter was spent putting the information, field trip footage, and music together in a documentary format in Mrs. Bender’s class.

It should be noted that even though our school science teacher, Mary Hoots, was not a part of our Collaborate 21 team, she did tie in to our topic. The students spent some time last fall learning about medical issues faced by the soldiers in the fort and prepared brief powerpoint reports in her class.