



USD 373

**Project
Based
Learning**

Walton Rural Life Center

Project Based Learning

- Is ...
 - Driven by open-ended questions
 - Expecting students to know essential skills and content
 - Based in inquiry
 - Focused on 21st Century Skills
 - An opportunity for student choice and voice
 - Requiring feedback and reflection
 - Requiring students to share learning through product or performance
- Is not ...
 - Driven by a delta
 - Rote memorization of facts
 - Transmission of knowledge
 - Focused on content knowledge without application
 - “Do it this way and it should look like this.”
 - Only assessed by the teacher with a red pen.
 - Taking a test at the end of a unit or chapter and then not using that information again

Walton Rural Life Center

- One of five USD 373 elementary schools
- Located in Walton, Kansas – Population 300
- 167 students
- 8 classrooms for kindergarten through grade 4
- Learning lab
- Multiple gardens
- Chicken coop
- Barn
- Wind turbine

Student Driven Projects

- Engage students in learning and provide a reason to learn
- Increase excitement and set the stage for “just in time” learning



Engaged Learners



- Utilizing problem-solving skills
- Asking questions
- Researching
- Verifying
- Field testing

Designing PBL

- Start with the Project or Problem Idea
- Decide on Plan
- Gather Resources
- Conduct Fieldwork
- Present Findings or Results
- Use Authentic Assessment



Examples of PBL

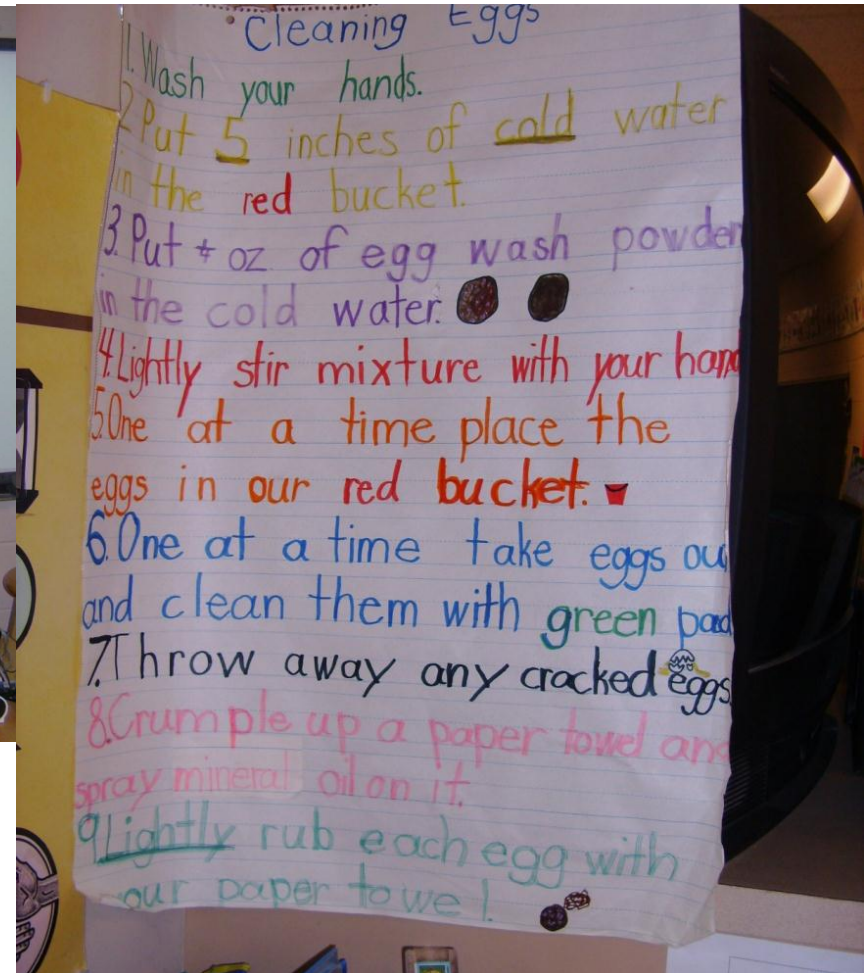
- Topic: Chickens
 - How many chickens will hatch?
 - The chickens have hatched – now what?
- Teacher led plan moving to student led planning
- Feeding and caring for chickens
- Chickens as a business!



Learning from Experts



Carrie White, farmer, shares expertise with 2nd graders. They share what they learned.



Hello, Mrs. Schill's Class...

- Hello, Mrs. Schill's 2nd Graders at Walton Rural Life!
- This is the AmeriCorps NCCC team Raven 4 at Kayam Farm near the city of Baltimore. We heard about the similarities between the farm we work on and your school ...we hope you can tell us about your school....



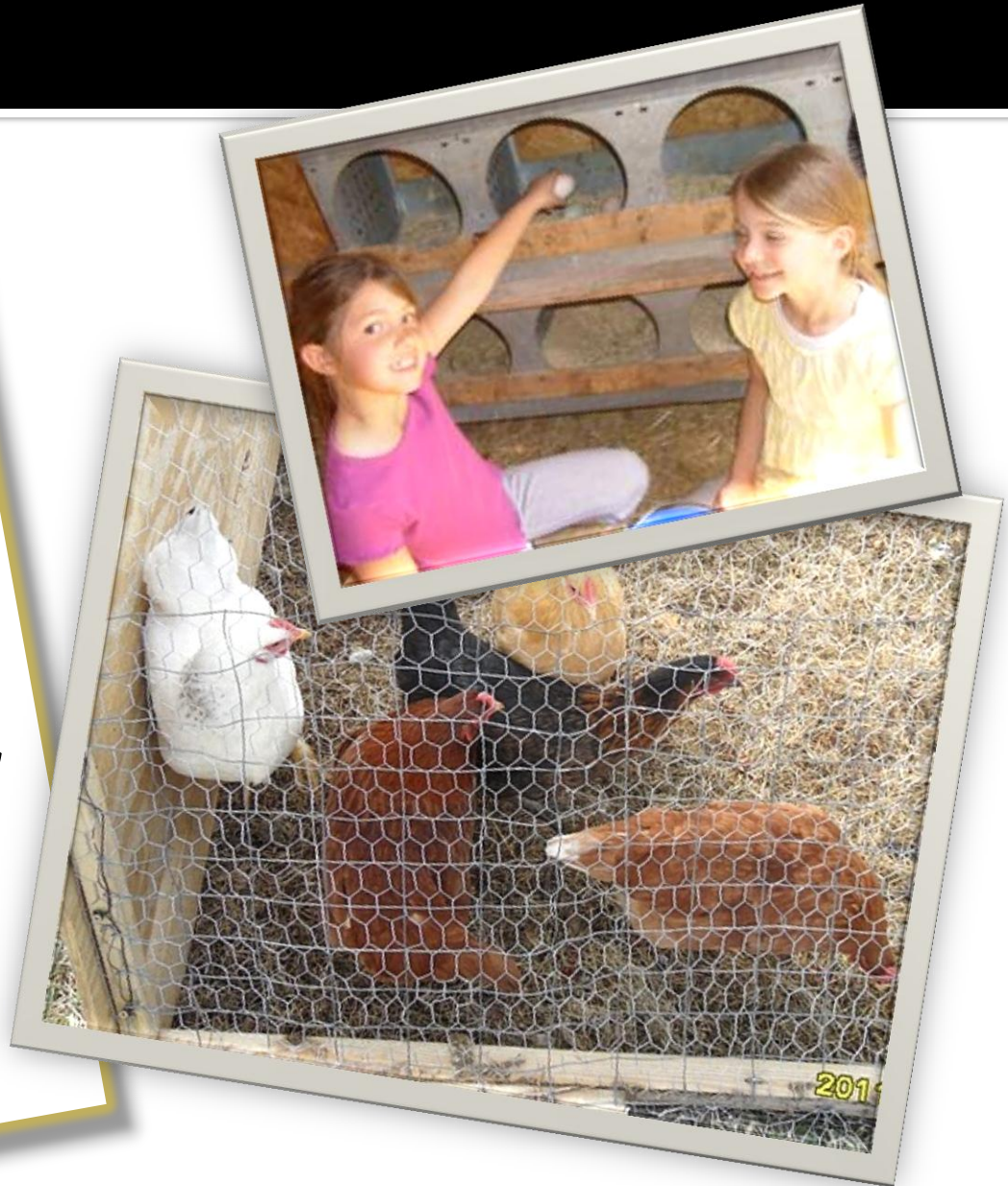
Ah say, ah say, Boy! What kind of chicken is that?

■ Hi, Heather,

We think your chickens are White Plymouth Rock chickens...the juveniles might be an Opington-Buff or a Buff Wyandotte... The dark one, a Leghorn-Single Comb Dark Brown. The others, a Rhode Island Red and a Buckeye... How did we do at identifying them?

■ Our chickens are Silver Laced Wyandotte, Golden Laced Wyandotte, Barred Plymouth Rock and Americana breeds.

Your New Friends,
Kenzi and Anna



Chickens and goats and sheep, oh my!



- *Hi Farm Friend, Morgan!*
- *Our chicken coop has nesting boxes, a fenced area... and a little door for them to go in and out of...*

The perimeter of the coop is 40 feet and the perimeter of the fenced area is 73 feet.

- *Petey the goat's fenced area is 86 feet around. He stays outside most of the time. We have a shelter for him to stand under when it rains... Petey does not like rain!*

*Sincerely,
Kolby and Alex*

If a tree falls... How many are left?



- ...Excellent job on the last questions; Here are some harder ones involving 3-digit numbers:

- Here at Kayam farm, we planted 312 trees... 114 hazelnut... 139 paw paws and the rest hickory. How many hickory trees did we plant?

- Right now, we have 57 adult chickens... With more coming... If there were 147 chickens, and each laid one egg per day, how many eggs would there be after three days?

- Sincerely,
Hannah

Sharing our learning

2nd Graders
Learn and Teach

Questions

Sharing Information

Answers

Kansas

Maryland

Consumers

They grow and give it has been awhile since I last saw you all. Did I forget your learning is far less than mine would like to find through this question for you all to show your learning and how it is being used up. Here at Kansas they produce hams, eggs and eggs. These products are consumed by the staff, selling to the community in the form of shares and donations to those in need. Let the know how things are than it is!

Supply/Demand

Has Logan ever in you thing?
We get Logan Hennen and Logan Burns. In second grade we learn about producers and consumers. In 2nd grade we learn about eggs that we eat for dinner at home. Our biggest problem is producing the same way as all the produce for our eggs. This is called a **supply and demand** problem. To solve our produce farming farms in the 2nd grade we have eggs to eat!

Landforms

These eggs we write about our farms and how we make our eggs to the home and Logan Burns and Logan Burns. Our eggs come and stand at the agricultural stage we create.

Logan and Logan

Soil Types

My name is David. I love cycling and it is very **very** hard. Do Kansas very busy? When it is fairly cold here it is cold in Kansas! The environment here is full of mountains and the soil here is full of clay in it. I'd like to see about your environment and soil conditions.

Class With Challenge

Find a Member. We challenge the 2nd grade class to find out where the members of our Team (all home, so put those **geography** skills to use. First up we have Aji and Margot! The first clue will be about their home state and the second their home team, good luck!

Class With Challenge

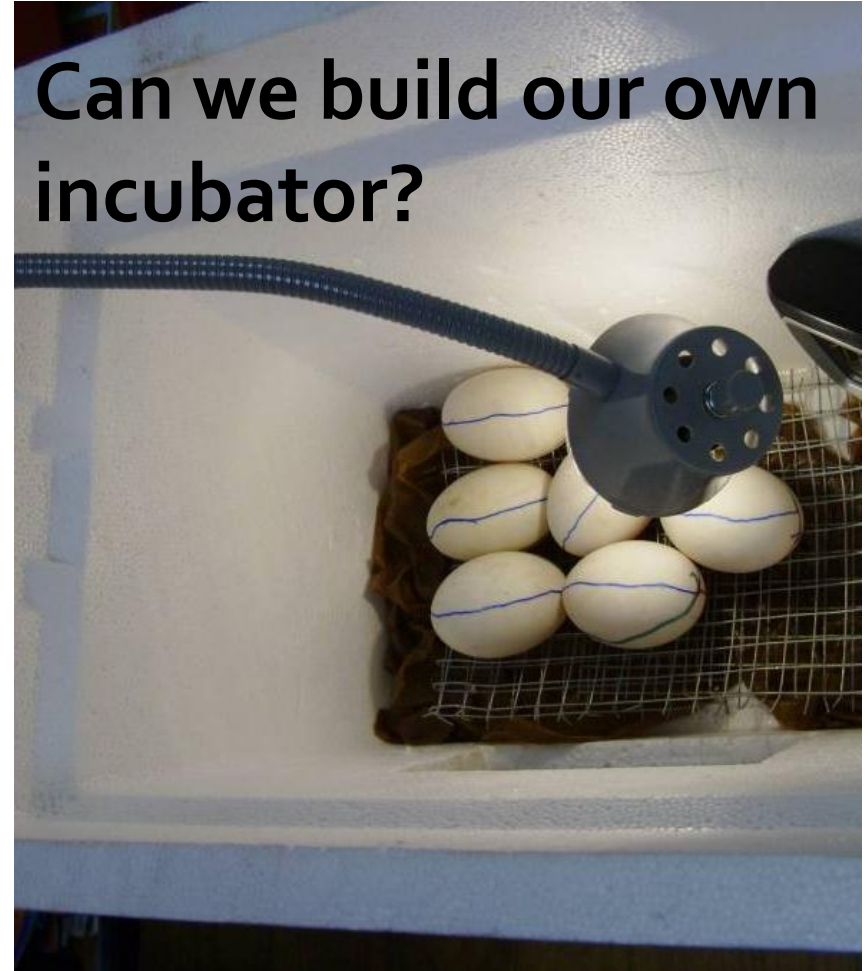
Age 1 first clue: This state has a **yellow** shape to Kansas but lies on the other side of the Mississippi River.

Answer: It is one of the states of the United States and located the **Mississippi River**, the western End **Mississippi** in the right state. It is the state of the **Mississippi River** from Kansas and is **Missouri** it is called the **Land**.

Age 2 second clue: This city was the first capital of the United States.

Answer: My state is one of the states of the United States and is **Missouri** was the first capital of the United States of America.

Extending our learning



Sharing with our community



Resources

Project-based Learning with Young Children

by Deborah Diffily and Charlotte Sassman

Problem-Based Learning for Math and Science

by Diane L. Ronis

The Project Approach

by Sylvia C. Chard, PhD

How to use Problem-Based Learning in the Classroom

by Robert Delisle

Thank you for this opportunity!

Questions?