Bridges Across the Atlantic

Lena Ivarsson – Mid Sweden University
Madge Thombs, Ph.D. – Roger Williams University
Deanne Reilly – Forest Avenue School

Project History

• Started in 1999 as a cooperative learning project between two classrooms – one in Sweden and the other in Rhode Island
• Students used email, snail mail (“snigel post”), and a common web page to communicate
• Projects include reading, writing, science, math, and social studies
Participants

- Lena Ivarsson – Mid Sweden University
- Madge Thombs, Ph.D. – Roger Williams University
- Deanne Reilly – Middletown Public Schools (Forest Avenue School)
- Anna Grafström – Härnösand Schools (Bondsjöhöjdens Skola)
- Rebecca Tolmei and Jamie Doane – Student teachers at Forest Avenue School

Weather Project

- Students collected two weeks worth of weather data
- Results were entered into an Excel spreadsheet and compared after converting units of measure
- Charts were posted on the web page

Math – Currency, Time and Measurement

- Students learned about how units of measure differ in the two countries
- Images and money values were added to the common web page
- Students used currency value to determine costs of common items
Writing

- Writing projects included
  - Common emails class to class
  - Individual pen pal letters
  - Essays about holidays

Geography

- Where in the world?
- Students used map skills, longitude and latitude, and globes to explore the geography of the country

Language Skills

- Swedish students write in English
- Web site has a chart of common words and expressions
- American students use the software program “Learn Swedish Now!” from transparent.com
Video Conference

- Video over IP connection in the classroom at Forest Avenue School connecting to Mid Sweden University
- Time difference is 6 hours
- Press coverage

For More Information

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- Presentation Web Page http://faculty.rwu.edu/mthombs/NECC2005
- Project Web Page http://faculty.rwu.edu/mthombs/bridges