

How Your Class Can Join Jeff's Live Webinar From Antarctica On Mon 12/15:

A PolarTREC Live from IPY webinar is a free 60 minute opportunity for you and your students to interact with me and a panel of scientists, live aboard the Oden while we are in Antarctica. We expect schools from all over the country to log in and participate. The event will have 3 parts starting with a brief introduction and roll call by the moderators from the Arctic Research Consortium of the US. Then the scientists will briefly introduce themselves and describe the projects they are working on. The most important part of the webinar will be a chance for you and your students to ask questions either by typing them in or by requesting to ask a live question. Basically, the webinar is a free conference call that you have through your computer. The folks on the Oden will be using satellite phones to communicate with everyone so there will not be enough bandwidth for live streaming video. Instead, the ARCUS moderators will use prepared slides, photos and maps to illustrate and support the conversations. I have participated in many previous PolarTREC webinars with my students and here are a few suggestions.

1. Read the live_from_ipy_instructions file that was created by ARCUS and is also available on my Antarctic web page at www.liverpool.k12.ny.us/webpages/antarctica/
2. Most teachers can have their students participate from their classrooms or a school computer lab. All you need is a computer with a built in microphone that is connected to the Internet, a projector and external speakers. The projector and speakers will be needed so that your students can see the slides and hear the conversation. If you don't have a built in microphone in your computer, you can use a speakerphone that is amplified so that your class can hear it.
3. You must preregister by going to the Live From IPY link on the PolarTREC.com web page. Once you register you will be sent an email with instructions. These instructions will include a link to the Horizon Wimba Set-Up Wizard. Follow the simple instructions on that link and it will make sure that your computer is properly configured for using the live web interface during the webinar. It is easy to do and only takes 5 minutes but it is critical that you solve any computer set up problems before you try to join the webinar.
4. Before the webinar, have the students review some of my online journal. I like to have my students spend at least 10-20 minutes reading about the expedition so that they know most of the basics. The students should know who and where we are, what the weather has been like and what Antarctic wildlife we have seen. They will also be able to see what life is like aboard a Swedish icebreaker, how we got here and the kinds of scientific questions that the teams of researchers are exploring. As the

teacher, you can lead them in a review of my journals and if students don't have access to computers, I have even copied selected journal entries and handed them out for the students to read.

5. Have the students create questions and write them down for you to review. At any time during the webinar you can type selected questions in on the computer interface. You will also be able to "raise an electronic hand" or type in a request to ask a live question and the moderator will eventually call on you. I always have the student begin their question by identifying themselves, such as typing, " I am Sally in 9th grade at Liverpool, NY and my question is..."
6. One of the lessons my students learned during webinars is that remote scientific field sites don't have good Internet connections and may rely on the use of satellite phones with limited bandwidth. Students should be prepared for the occasional loss of signal during the webinar. They should also not expect live streaming video.
7. My favorite way to participate in a webinar is to have each of my students at a computer that is logged on to PolarTREC.com so that they can independently review the journal posts while the classroom teacher is logged into the live webinar and has it projected in front of the class. This way the students can be searching the journals for background information while they are listening to the webinar.

Have fun and I promise we will make memories together!

Jeff Peneston
PolarTREC Teacher aboard the Icebreaker Oden
Amundsen Sea, Antarctica