

Extra credit assignment;



Extra Credit Level One:

Value = .25% added to trimester grade. Maximum = 5%

The seismometer in the classroom can now be viewed on the Internet. What you will see on the Internet is a screen shot or "picture" of the screen. This picture is sent to the Internet every 10 minutes and is referred to as "near real time information". Unlike the classroom you can not scroll down/up or extract the earthquakes because on the Internet you are just looking at snapshot of the monitor screen. If you see an earthquake when you access the display at home you need to print the screen, circle the earthquake, and have your parents sign it. I will give you extra credit in science or math if you bring it in to school. The link to our seismometer is below.

<http://www.pcds.org/share/earthquake/>

Extra Credit Level Two;

Value = .5% added to trimester grade. Maximum = 5%

Each earthquake happens at a specific time that is easy to locate on the internet because all seismometers on Earth are set to Greenwich Mean Time. An earthquake list is compiled by the United States Geological Survey. If you note the year, month, day, hour, and minute of the event you have circled you can go to the following site and get information about that specific event. If you gather information about your circled earthquake and report your findings to the class I will give you extra extra credit! You must stand in front of the class to give your report. Here is the site to go to for information;

<http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/bulletin/bulletin.html>

Extra Credit Level Three;

Value = 1% added to trimester grade. Maximum = 5%

This will work only if you have access to a PC; the program will not run on Apple or Mac computers. Now, while it is interesting to see earthquakes that the classroom seismometer has recorded, it would be much more satisfying to be able to extract and play back the recordings like we do in the classroom. Just looking at the screenshot

is like watching someone else eating a chocolate chip cookie! Here is what you need to do if you want to use the earthquake files like we do in class.

1. You need to have an earthquake-viewing program on your computer. You can use the same program that runs the school seismometer, it is free and easy to install. You need to go to the following site and download AmaSeisSetup.exe. Once you have downloaded the program to your computer just run it and AmaSeis will be installed on your computer. This is scientific software; there are no viruses or spyware. ASK YOUR PARENTS BEFORE YOU DO THIS!

<http://www.geol.binghamton.edu/faculty/jones/AmaSeis.html>

2. Great! You are almost ready to have fun with seismic files. Having this program installed won't do you any good unless you have some earthquake files to look at. AmaSeis will open files that end in .SAC. For example, if you wanted to open a MS word document you would open a file that ended in .DOC, similarly, AmaSeis will open files that end in .SAC. To get these files you again need to go to the Internet. I send all of the earthquakes recorded in the classroom to the Internet where you can download them to your home computer. Our recordings always include the station code PCAZ, which stands for Phoenix Country Arizona. Just go to the following site and download the earthquake file by clicking on PCAZ for the earthquake you are interested in. All of the earthquakes are listed by Date, Magnitude, and location. Be sure to save the file where you can find it later!

<http://www.scieds.com/spinet/recent.html>

3. Open AmaSeis. Click on file & open then browse to locate the .SAC file you have previously downloaded. Hooray! You should now see the earthquake recording on your screen. At this point you can print, play the recording, and much more. Just print the recording and combine this with Extra Credit Level Two and I will give you Extra, Extra, Extra credit.

Good Luck,
Mr. J. Bob Cook