

Class Time At The Sweet Mariposa Design School A Contemporary Fireplace Build

March 1, 2009 - 12:00 P.M.



Our teacher SadieMae Jameson was seated in the middle of the school area. Class supplies were in a box hovering over her head and two sample fireplaces were set out for students to look at for visuals

Sweet Mariposa Design School

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Amun%20Ra/128/128/23>

By Jenny Wakefield / Snowflake Lannock



Instructor

SadieMae Jameson

Perceived Learning Outcome

This class was advertised as a level 2 class. Students were to build a contemporary fireplace – complete with waterfall shelf, fireplace, and a knick-knack shelf ornate with vases and candles. Students needed to have some familiarity of the edit box, how to copy prims and size them, move them, and apply textures to them before attending class as specified in the Sweet Mariposa Design School announcement.

Learning activities

The class focused on having students build a contemporary fireplace, texture the parts, add scripts, and add ornaments to the build.

How student learning was assessed

Learning outcomes were self-assessed in this class. If you completed the build you could feel a sense of pride in the accomplishment.

Discussion and interaction

As students arrived to the school site, Sadie called out a friendly greeting and suggested students take the supplies that were in a box hovering above her head and for them to find a mat, take a seat, and get comfy.

Sadie IM'd over the Mariposa Group that class was about to start about five minutes before noon, to gather more students.

Sadie led the class over chat. She took her time to check to make sure most students were following along. Afterwards she actually told me she had kept her eyes on Snowflake and my build to see how fast to move on with her instructions. She kept a pretty good pace and was done in an hour with class, as promised.

As students ran into problems Sadie did make some efforts to slow down and answer questions. She apologized that some of the textures did not transfer to the prims. A student in class provided a neat idea on how to fix the problem and Sadie thanked the student and repeated it to ensure everyone would be able to benefit from the good advice.

At the end of the class Sadie thanked everyone for coming and complimented students on finishing this, not so easy, build.

Reflection on class

I have taken a class at Mariposa Design School before. The previous one was on how to make a fountain and it was also a level 2 building class. The fountain build was much harder because the teacher used a HUD that repeated everything she put in chat - three times over - and she went at a much faster pace. In



the fountain class I repeatedly had to search in my History to find where I was in my build, to be able to continue. This slowed me down tremendously. Today I enjoyed the fireplace build class because it moved at a pace I could keep up with and there were no added distractions. The class was enjoyable and I think but a couple, maybe three, of students gave up on their work. One because she got hang up in RL which she told the class over chat.



To teach a class like this, the instructor needs to have her notes handy so that they can be cut and pasted into chat. I also think it is a good idea to do what Sadie did, find one student that is working at a medium speed and send out the instructions as that student accomplishes each step, this to ensure that most students follow along. I don't think you can expect to have everyone follow along. Some students may have signed up for a class that was too hard for them in the first place and there is no way to assess their skills level at the beginning. Also, to see where students missed a step is very hard. As an instructor you can possibly stay after class and help a student build one-on-one, but to stop the class and troubleshoot an individual student's problem is not doable as it would slow class down and other students would suffer. Class would also run over the stated time. I feel, in Second Life, people take the stated time seriously and are very timely.

Snowflake Lannock now has a snazzy looking fireplace in her virtual house!