Amy Olander

Smithtown School District

Grade 6

Science

**Common Core Learning Standards:**

Reading for Informational Text:

RI1,2 and 3: Reading for key ideas and details

RI 7 Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Writing 1. Writing arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

W9. Draw evidence from informational text to support analysis, reflection and research.

**App name**: Kids Discover “Extreme Weather” kidsdiscover.com ($3.99)

**Description**: This is an interactive version of the soft cover magazines that Kids Discover produces. There are a variety of subjects in print and about a dozen of them have an app. Its reading level is perfect for 6th grade. The topics are clearly laid out in the table of contents. Each section, such as “Heat,” uses large pictures which you can often click on for video (with sound). There are side bar questions and information boxes which are accessible by clicking. When done with that page, simply swipe to the next page. All pages are linked with a scroll bar which shows all the pages. The whole thing is not very long, but is perfect for adding to a weather unit.

**Pricing**: (taken from the website) Each app sells for just **$3.99**. Kids Discover also participates in Apple’s Volume Purchasing Program. That means that when you purchase 20 or more copies of a single app, you’ll receive a **50% discount**. If your school has, or is implementing a one-to-one iPad or BYOD program, purchasing via the VPP program will save you time and money.

**Classroom use**: Before I continue, let me just add that there are free lesson plans and vocabulary lessons on the website to go with the app. The lesson plans refer to the magazine pages, but that is very easily adapted. I would retype the page of questions that go with each section and have students use them as they would a “Web Quest”. I would also add questions that are more Common Core, particularly focusing on how the graphics add to the experience of reading about extreme weather. You could also use this in a jigsaw format with the different sections for each group. There are good resources listed at the end, so extending this into a research project would be easy.