

INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON

INFORMED CONSENT STATEMENT

Quest Atlantis

You are invited to participate in a research study of learning and teaching project that uses an online, computer-based environment to engage children in educational tasks. You were selected as a possible subject because you have requested use of the program or a member of your school or center's administration suggested that you use the program. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

The study is being conducted by Dr. Sasha Barab, a professor of Learning Sciences at Indiana University's Center for Research on Learning and Technology. This work has been funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the National Science Foundation, NASA, the National Parks Service and other sponsors.

STUDY PURPOSE

The purpose of this study is to learn about the program's effectiveness for supporting academic learning and understanding how engaging children and adults in a narratively-rich game-based environment can affect their enjoyment of and participation in the learning process.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE TAKING PART IN THE STUDY

If you agree to participate, you will be one of up to 43,000 participants worldwide who will be involved in this research.

PROCEDURES FOR THE STUDY

If you agree to be in the study, you will be trained to use the Quest Atlantis program. Quest Atlantis strives to use technology to involve children and adults in meaningful learning experiences – experiences where they solve educational challenges called Quests. Completing Quests requires that you and your students participate in real-world, socially and academically meaningful activities, such as conducting environmental studies, researching other cultures, calculating frequency distributions, analyzing newspaper articles, interviewing community members, and developing action plans. Our experience is that through these activities, children will not only learn to use technology, but will also develop academic and 21st century new media literacy and communication skills as well.

As a part of our project development, we will be observing children and participating adults interacting at their school or in an after-school program and in the online Quest Atlantis space. All interactions in the online space are recorded by the computer and saved as part of our database. Our team may also be taking notes on how children and adults use the technology, and possibly interviewing students or teachers about their experiences in the program. Interviews will last from 15 to 30 minutes. Information from these observations and interviews, as well as the computerized records of their participation in the online space will be entered into a password-protected database. Observations and interviews may be audio or video taped so that researchers can analyze data more closely. We also may make copies of materials that you or your students produce in the Quest Atlantis space.

You are free to participate in this study as much or as little as you choose. You may withdraw at any time without any penalty. Typically, you might spend 40 minutes a session interacting with the program, with the number of sessions being determined by you, the teacher or staff member. You may participate in this

study for one year or for several years, depending on your willingness to participate. If you choose to participate, we will need your consent for observing and videotaping your activities. Participation in this program is strictly voluntary. If you choose not to participate or to withdraw from this study, you will not be audio or video taped, and your data will not be analyzed.

RISKS OF TAKING PART IN THE STUDY

Although we do not anticipate any risks associated your participation in this study, it is possible that, despite our best efforts, confidentiality might be lost. In addition, some of your students may be exposed to inappropriate language which may result in additional intervention time with parents or students. In addition, there may be other side effects that we cannot predict.

To reduce these risks, we take a variety of precautions to prevent the loss of confidentiality. All records are kept either in a password-protected database or in locked drawers. (see the Confidentiality section below for more details).

All interactions in the game are captured and diligently monitored by our staff to document and act upon any potentially problematic situations. Children and teachers may also report any problems they encounter easily within the game. Students are also provided with a series of guidelines about appropriate behavior in the game which may reduce the number of inappropriate exchanges you might need to mediate.

BENEFITS OF TAKING PART IN THE STUDY

We expect you will benefit by participating in this study by being given an innovative curriculum which couples disciplinary learning with real-world applications, thus creating a project-based learning context for you and your students to explore. Both your use of this curriculum, and the support we provide to you and your students while using it, are subsidized by grant funding. In addition, you will be invited to join a community of teachers who are using Quest Atlantis in their own classrooms, thus creating a novel source of professional development and support, should you choose to use it.

ALTERNATIVES TO TAKING PART IN THE STUDY

You have the option to evaluate the program and determine if you wish to participate. You are not obligated to participate in Quest Atlantis, and you can withdraw your participation at any time. Interested students or parents may request a separate version of the consent form which does not allow audio or video taping but does allow us to analyze data gained through the study. If you have students with this modified consent in your classroom, we will not be audio or video taping those students during any research implementation.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Protecting your confidentiality is extremely important to us. The online space is password protected so that only registered users with a password are in the online space. Every effort will be made to keep your personal information confidential. We cannot guarantee absolute confidentiality. Your personal information may be disclosed if required by law. Your identity will be held in confidence in reports in which the study may be published. In any reports of this research, there will be no mention of you by name or the name of your school or after-school program. All computerized records of your work, emails, or chat will be sanitized so that in the reporting of the data you will not be identifiable. Confidentiality will be maintained in all reports of this study. Further, all data will be kept in a locked place. All identifying marks will be removed from the data and pseudonyms will be used in any and all reporting of the data. Any tapes or materials will be destroyed at the end of the project, or within three years, whichever comes first.

Organizations that may inspect and/or copy your research records for quality assurance and data analysis include groups such as the study investigator and his/her research associates, the IUB Institutional Review

Board or its designees, and (as allowed by law) state or federal agencies, specifically the Office for Human Research Protections.

COSTS

Taking part in this study should not lead to added costs to you. Some participants have computers at home or use library computers for additional access, but this is not a required element of the program. Occasionally, additional project associated resources might be made available for download or purchase, but this is strictly voluntary and is not a required element of participation.

PAYMENT

You (will/will not) receive payment for taking part in this study. We reserve the right to award an honorarium if participation exceeds our expectations.

CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS

For questions about the study or a research-related injury, contact the researcher Dr. Sasha Barab at 812-856-1551.

For questions about your rights as a research participant or to discuss problems, complaints or concerns about a research study, or to obtain information, or offer input, contact the IUB Human Subjects office, 530 E Kirkwood Ave, Carmichael Center, L03, Bloomington IN 47408, 812-855-3067 or by email at iub_hsc@indiana.edu

VOLUNTARY NATURE OF STUDY

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or may leave the study at any time. Leaving the study will not result in any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. Your decision whether or not to participate in this study will not affect your current or future relations with the investigator(s).

PARTICIPANT'S CONSENT

In consideration of all of the above, I give my consent to participate in this research study.

Printed Name of Participant: _____

Signature of Participant: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name of Person Obtaining Consent: _____

Signature of Person Obtaining Consent: _____ **Date:** _____



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PRINCIPAL CONSENT

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Principals or Site Administrators: Please read and sign the statement below authorizing the use of the Quest Atlantis program in your center or school.

I, _____ (print name of principal or administrator), have granted permission for my teacher/staff member _____ (print name of teacher or staff member) to use the Quest Atlantis program at our school or center. I understand that participation is voluntary and that we may revoke consent to participate in the program at any time.

Signature of Principal or Administrator

Date

Name of School or Center: _____

State, Country: _____

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IRB Approval Date: <u>MAR 31 2009</u>
Continuing Review Date: MAR 31 2010