Middle level students should be aware of their community and the larger world around them to become competent, self-sufficient individuals. Educators can support this vision by expanding the classroom beyond its walls and location.

This project, Global Treks – A Virtual HOT Cruise, provides a framework to expand teaching strategies by incorporating digital technology (i.e., wikis, blogs, GPS, GIS, and Google Earth) to explore the world, inquire about big ideas and create authentic experiences related to microbial oceanography.

Students have the opportunity to experience ship/deck operations, research-based experiments and life aboard the Kilo Moana using this website. Students see how scientists take samples using different equipment and using different techniques. There is a page that describes and shows my teacher team processing samples similar to the scientists on-board the ship. A section is devoted to how scientists analyze data taken during the cruise in addition to a link for the real-time data available on the web.