Reflection to Koosh Ball Game SMART Board Integration Field Experience

Description
I have had a Smart Board for about three years now, and I can definitely say this is a form of technology that has changed the classroom in a dramatic way. However, it is still a challenge at times to find ways to use the Smart Board that are more creative and interactive than just as a glorified chalk board. One idea that I saw demonstrated by another teacher was using the SMART Board as target practice. The idea is that you let students throw a soft ball at the board and aim for different targets (usually colorful circles), and once a circle is hit, it takes you to a new screen with information or questions for students to answer. You can see some examples of templates here. I downloaded one of the templates, and then went in and put my own questions and answers on each frame.

Impact
I have only used this for one lesson so far, but I would call it a successful lesson. For my Mass Media classes, we cover major dates and developments of media formats. At the start of the unit, I give them a timeline with specific dates from 100 AD to present, but the events are left blank. Then I show my students the Smart Board screen with all of the circles and explain that each circle will take them to a media event, and it will be their job to guess what time period it matches on their notes, and whoever guesses correctly will be the next to throw the ball at the screen. This has turned out to be a really exciting way for students to take notes. I've taught this lesson for the past 3 years (and made adjustments each time!), and this is one of the few times where I have everyone's attention during notes and the most participation because they all want a chance to throw something during class time! I'm also able to embed videos, pictures, or links to websites in each slide to give students additional information and examples. It was not hard to set up, though it took a little time initially, but now I have this great resource that I can and do use again and again.

Intent
I would like to continue to find ways to incorporate games, both SMART Board based and otherwise, into my teaching. I like how the Koosh ball game helped to keep kids interested in the lesson- the material I was teaching was still the same, but by turning notes and lecture into
a student-led, interactive activity, suddenly my students were more interested in the lesson. I will continue to use and refine this particular lesson as needed, and I also hope to use this template to make lessons for some of my other subjects. I also really like the SMART Exchange as a teaching resource- I will definitely be revisiting the website to check out what other lesson ideas are available, and maybe I will even upload some of my own lessons to share with other teachers!