Nominations are now open...

2010 UCET Nominations for Outstanding Technology Educator

Do you have a teacher (or two) that you would like to recommend for Outstanding Technology Teacher of the Year? Someone who’s made a big difference in how successful your school has been integrating technology into education. Here’s your chance! Please take a moment and nominate your technology educator of the year! Deadline - Feb. 10, 2010

2010 UCET Nominations for Outstanding Technology Leader

OK, the person you wish to nominate is not a teacher, but an administrator, director, or school leader? No problem! Please nominate your choice of Outstanding Technology Leader of the Year. Deadline - Feb. 10, 2010

2010 UCET Nominations for the Jack Erickson Excellence in Technology Services Award

Do you have a school or district technology person who regularly performs above and beyond the call of duty? One who tirelessly solves problems, trains teachers, and keeps things running flawlessly? Nominate this person for the Jack Erickson Excellence in Technology Services Award. This form is to be used to nominate a network technician, administrator, engineer, or systems operations specialist whose primary duties may include: network maintenance, monitoring, troubleshooting, and network reconfiguration as needed. Deadline - Feb. 10, 2010

To nominate your candidates, please visit...

Link: http://ucet.org/

Preregister for UCET 2010 Until February 5!

Have you registered for the UCET 2101 conference? The two day conference will be held at Murray High School, 5440 South State Street, Murray, Utah on February 26 & 27th. We have a great line-up of conference presentations, hands on workshops, and much more!

Pre-register now for a $10.00 discount!
Pre-registration price is only $45 ($20 for students) until February 5, 2010! After February 5, registration will be $55 ($30 for students). Registration price for those who want attend only the Saturday sessions is $35.00.

Portable Computing Goes a Step Further...

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer debuted the HP Slate tablet computer during the CES 2010 keynote address, and while it was only a teaser, there were a few details and pictures available. The touchscreen slate will have a screen between 10 and 12 inches, runs Windows 7, and will run Amazon Kindle for PC.

Rumors abound that Apple will release a similar device sometime in January 2010. It will have a screen size somewhere between an iPod Touch and the MacBook laptop.

The enTourage eDGe™ is the world’s first dualbook, combining the functions of an e-reader, netbook, notepad, and audio/video recorder and player in one. It’s a comprehensive device that lets you read e-books, surf the Internet, take digital notes, send emails and instant messages, watch movies and listen to music anywhere, at any time.

Link: http://www.entourageedge.com/edge-demo

Lenovo is showing their new products, Skylight and the ideaPad U1, at the Consumer Electronics 2010 show. Skylight is a hybrid of the smart phone and netbook - aims to mix the ARM-based computing power and screen size of a netbook with the lightweight always-on longer battery life of the smart phone. We have some exciting technology to look forward to in 2010!
Send Your Name to Mars!

NASA invites you to submit your name to be included on a microchip that will be sent to Mars as part of NASA’s Mars Science Laboratory mission, scheduled to launch in 2011. Mars Science Laboratory is a rover that will assess whether Mars ever was, or still is, an environment able to support microbial life.

The “Send Your Name to Mars” web page enables anyone to take part in the mission by sending his or her name to the Red Planet. Participants can print a certificate of participation and view a map showing where other contributors are from.

To submit names, visit...

http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/participate/sendyourname/

To learn more about the Mars Science Laboratory mission, visit...

http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/

Deadline Approaching this Month for NASA Undergraduate Student Research Project Internships

NASA’s Undergraduate Student Research Project is currently accepting applications for 10-week Summer internships and 15-week Fall 2010 internships. These internships offer students the opportunity to work alongside NASA scientists and engineers at NASA’s field centers, laboratories and test facilities.

Applicants must be undergraduate sophomores, juniors or seniors with a 3.0 GPA. They must have an academic major or course work concentration in engineering, math, computer science, or physical or life sciences. Participants work on practical problems that will be applied in aerospace or on future NASA missions. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

The application deadline for the Summer 2010 session is Jan. 22, 2010. Applications are due for the Fall 2010 session by March 23, 2010.

For more information and to apply online, visit...

http://usrp.usra.edu
Mobilizing UCET 2010!

UCET 2010 is going mobile, applying exciting leading-edge technology to support this year’s technology conference. In conjunction with Go Mobile Today and their LiveShows mobile application, attendees will now be able to carry a full guide to this year’s conference in the palm of their hand. Available on today’s most popular web-enabled mobile phones, conference-goers will be able to view the daily schedule, receive news about last minute event changes, and check maps showing event and booth locations. Best of all, it will be a great tool for sponsors and exhibitors to provide information to attendees about their presentations and booths that can be perused before the event even begins, during breaks, or even during the boring portion of a presentation (that should put pressure on vendors to keep their sessions exciting).

The exhibitors’ mobile content can include additional text, graphics and video content, making communication with attendees a rich experience. On the show floor, request literature or a follow-up call by simply texting the vendor’s booth number to the UCET 2010 special short-code number (as easy as voting on American Idol). The LiveShows mobile app can be used as a tool to plan and optimize the conference experience, navigate the daily activities, and share learned information with colleagues and peers who may not have been able to attend. UCET 2010 LiveShows is developed by Mobitech International, who brings you Mobi iNet, an extremely popular mobile search engine application. It is available for free in the Apple App Store and the Android Market today. Watch for news of the availability of LiveShows on your phone in the very near future. Download it as soon as it is available and start to plan your UCET 2010 experience. Of course, the app is free.

NASA Delivers Three New Lithographs for Teachers!

NASA recently delivered three new lithographs to the NASA Educator Resource Centers across the United States. They are “The Hubble Space Telescope,” “Pillar in the Carina Nebula,” and “The Butterfly Nebula (NGC 6302).” You can get your copy by clicking on any of the thumbnail images below. Teacher Guides are included with each one.
2010 NASA Education Resource Showcase Series

NASA’s Digital Learning Network presents a series of videoconferences to assist educators in staying current on NASA education resources and related products.

During each event, product producers, authors and experts will demonstrate their materials designed to optimize awareness and understanding of science concepts. Instructional objectives, accessing the materials and primary contacts for the materials will also be discussed. During the videoconferences, participants will be able to submit questions to the presenter that will be addressed during the presentation.

In the coming months, the following topics will be covered:
- STS-131 Robotics: Jan. 27, 2010, 4-5 p.m. EST
- NASA Fit Explorers Feb. 24, 2010, 4-5 p.m. EST
- NASA eProfessional Development Network -- Robotics Course: March 31, 2010, 4-5 p.m. EDT

PollEverywhere.com - Student Response System without the Clickers

Step1  Ask your audience a question
Step2  They answer using SMS text messages, Twitter, or the web
Step3  See real-time results in your web browser or PowerPoint

Link:  http://www.polleverywhere.com/

From their website:  “Collect data while interacting with your audience

Poll Everywhere creates stylish real-time experiences at events using mobile devices. Our service replaces expensive proprietary audience response hardware with standard web technology. It’s the easiest way to gather live responses in any venue: conferences, presentations, classrooms, radio, tv, print — anywhere. It can help you to raise money by letting people pledge via text messaging. And because it works internationally with texting, web, or Twitter, its simplicity and flexibility are earning rave reviews.

Creative uses to spark your thinking

Our customers have found many creative ways to use Poll Everywhere - here's a starter list:

- Audience choice awards
- Texting Q&A to expert panels
- Replace expensive clickers
- Green surveys at conferences
- Moderated TXT-to-screen graffiti
- Text feedback to a presenter
- Interactive signage
- Tradeshow sales leads
- Anonymous answers to sensitive questions
- Brainstorming with 2000 people in a room
- Market research
- Silent SMS auctions
- Training comprehension checks
- Outdoor SMS voting

Plans for the individual or the entire organization

Plans are based on the maximum number of responses any individual poll can accept. Poll Everywhere is free for people who need to collect 30 or fewer responses per poll. K-12 and Higher Education semester-long plans are also available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Audience Size</th>
<th>Price Per Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Platinum</td>
<td>20,000</td>
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<td>Conference</td>
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There are no hidden fees or long-term commitments. You can change your plan at anytime. If you need a larger plan, you can email us or call us at +1 (800) 388-2039.”

Poll Everywhere creates stylish real-time experiences at events using mobile devices. Our service replaces expensive proprietary audience response hardware with standard web technology. It’s the easiest way to gather live responses in any venue: conferences, presentations, classrooms, radio, tv, print — anywhere. It can help you to raise money by letting people pledge via text messaging. And because it works internationally with texting, web, or Twitter, its simplicity and flexibility are earning rave reviews.

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For more information about these videoconferences and to sign up online, visit http://dln.nasa.gov/dln/content/webcast/

Questions about these events should be directed to Caryn Long at caryn.long@nasa.gov
**Avidemux**

Avidemux is a free video editor designed for simple cutting, filtering and encoding tasks. It supports many file types, including AVI, DVD compatible MPEG files, MP4 and ASF, using a variety of codecs. Tasks can be automated using projects, job queue and powerful scripting capabilities.

Avidemux is available for Linux, BSD, Mac OS X and Microsoft Windows under the GNU GPL license. The program was written from scratch by Mean, but code from other people and projects has been used as well. Patches, translations and even bug reports are always welcome.


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**Cinelerra 4.0 for Linux**

Cinelerra is a highly advanced and professional video editing, but still remains open source. Cinelerra solves three main tasks: capturing, editing and compositing. There is virtually no limit to the video resolution so whether its standard or high definition (hd) doesn't really matter in Cinelerra. And when it comes to exporting it supports H.264, which most likely is going to be the predominant format for hd video.

By utilizing OpenGL and compatible graphic cards Cinelerra is able to preview your edited video in real-time - no rendering required. This makes editing a much more simple and intuitive task - giving you full creativity. Video effects can also be added and Cinelerra comes with all of the standard effect plus a few extras - this includes both audio and video effects.

And finally when you have to render your final movie - you can setup a renderfarm of cheap workstations to do the job for you. A renderfarm is a low cost way to get a whole lot of cpu power to quickly solve you problems and finish your jobs.

Please note that Cinelerra is currently only offered as source code - so you need a certain degree of Linux experience to get it running. Also note that even though Cinelerra is open source the main site does not offer community based development. However, the creators of Cinelerra recommends that people visit Cinelerra-CV, which is a community of people working together to improve Cinelerra.


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**InfraRecorder for Windows**

InfraRecorder is an open source, easy to use CD and DVD burner application. It supports virtually all different formats including rewritable disc, multi-session disc and dual-layer DVDs. Also audio CDs can be created with just a few simple drag'n drops in InfraRecorder.

Other important features include disc copying, audio cd ripping and ISO generation and burning (image formats supported: ISO and BIN/CUE). InfraRecorder is available in more than 20 languages - and the 64-bit version runs on Microsoft Vista.

Link: [http://infrarecorder.org/](http://infrarecorder.org/)
**TED - Ideas Worth Spreading**

TED, Ideas Worth Spreading, contains a large library of riveting talks by remarkable people, free to the world.

“TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design, but its scope is much broader than that. The heart of TED comes from not its acronym but its slogan, “Ideas worth spreading.” I find myself adhering to the motto and spreading ideas myself to friends and visitors. Sharing both messages I identify with as well as messages that were new to me, it is truly an agent for change.

The podcasts offers a few segments per week in 20 minute or less video clips (and audio I guess if you’re into that). The best part though is that all the podcast archives are available to download, not just the last dozen.”

*(Greg. Urban Monarch blog post)*

Some themes included are The Rise of Collaboration; Technology, History, and Destiny; How the Mind Works; Bold Predictions, Stern Warnings: How We Learn; Tales of Invention; and many more. Speakers include Robert Ballard (deep sea explorer), Chris Anderson (editor for WIRED magazine), Jeff Bezos (founder of Amazon.com), George Smoot (Astrophysicist and Nobel Prize Winner), and hundreds of other world-renowned individuals.


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**NVU - Free Web Authoring System for Windows & Mac**

Link: [http://net2.com/nvu/](http://net2.com/nvu/)

From their website: “Nvu (pronounced “N-view,” for a “new view”) is a free, open source software program that allows you to build websites and web pages using a simple WYSIWYG editor (what-you-see-is-what-you-get). Nvu makes creating web pages as easy as using a word processor and rivals such programs as Adobe's Dreamweaver and Microsoft's Expression Web, only for free! With Nvu's built-in site manager, connecting to your website and making changes is a snap.

Building a website with Nvu is super easy. You can have a site up and running in no time with these three simple steps:

- **Get a Domain Name.** You can do this at the same time you do #2 if you like. Dotster provides both domain name registration and web hosting. (Use coupon code ‘Nvu’ for 15% off.)
- **Get a Hosting Provider.** If you don’t want to set up your own server, you can use a 3rd party hosting service. These services have gotten incredibly affordable and there are many good companies to choose from. We’d recommend using Dotster as they are a quality provider and a sponsor of this site. You can also save 15% off your entire order by using the coupon code ‘Nvu’ at their site.
- **Use Nvu to Create Web Pages.** Once you have a server, you simply use the built-in FTP site manager in Nvu to connect to your site and start creating web pages. It’s as easy as using a word processor. We’d recommend you check out the many tutorial videos users have created on YouTube to help you get started.

Linspire contracted with Daniel Glazman from Disruptive Innovations to be the lead developer and maintainer for the Nvu project. Daniel was the chief architect for Mozilla Composer and brought a tremendous amount of experience and expertise to the Nvu project.

Linspire abandoned the Nvu project when it was sold to Xandros in 2008. Fortunately, Fabien Cazenave picked up the project and started updating Nvu under the name Kompozer. Both Nvu and Kompozer versions can be found on our Download page.”
Wink - PC Tutorial and Presentation Creation Software

Link: http://www.debugmode.com/wink/

From the website: “Wink is a Tutorial and Presentation creation software, primarily aimed at creating tutorials on how to use software (like a tutor for MS-Word/Excel etc). Using Wink you can capture screenshots, add explanations boxes, buttons, titles etc and generate a highly effective tutorial for your users.

It is estimated that Macromedia Flash Player is installed in more than 90% of the PCs. Using Wink you can create content viewable across the web in all these users' desktops. Similar applications sell for hundreds of dollars, while Wink is free with unrivaled features. So spread the word about Wink to your friends.

Features
- Freeware: Distributed as freeware for business or personal use. However if you want to redistribute Wink, you need to get permission from the author.
- Cross-Platform: Available for all flavours of Windows and various versions of Linux (x86 only).
- Audio: Record voice as you create the tutorial for explaining better.
- Input formats: Capture screenshots from your PC, or use images in BMP/JPG/PNG/TIFF/GIF formats.
- Output formats: Macromedia Flash, Standalone EXE, PDF, PostScript, HTML or any of the above image formats. Use Flash/html for the web, EXE for distributing to PC users and PDF for printable manuals.
- Multilingual support: Works in English, French, German, Italian, Danish, Spanish, Serbian, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese and Simplified/Traditional Chinese.
- Smart Capture Tools: Capture screenshots automatically as you use your PC, based on mouse and keyboard input (great time saver and generates professional captures).
- Performance/Quality: Creates highly compressed Flash presentations (few kbs to few hundreds of kbs, much smaller than competing commercial products) ideal for using on the web.

Tools:
- Navigation buttons to move to next/previous/random frames in the presentation, you can use custom bitmaps for these buttons (full transparency/alpha channel support).
- Callouts and shapes for displaying text explanations. The inbuilt Callout Editor is used to create custom shaped callouts as you want.
- Intuitive drag-n-drop editing of the frame, callout, cursor, navigation buttons and the title elements.
- Advanced features like templates, cursor editing, palettes, background images, control bars & preloaders for the flash output etc.
- Completely PC and Web ready with exports to PDF, HTML, SWF and EXE formats.
- Innovative compression techniques applied to reduce filesize of output Flash file. Generated flash file plays in Flash players from version 3 and above, giving you widest array of target audience.
- Uncompressed output to allow you import the output of Wink into other Flash editors.”

Spelling City

Link: http://www.spellingcity.com/

Spelling City was suggested by a number of UCET members as a great site to help children practice their spelling. To begin, you enter each spelling word, pressing the ENTER or RETURN key after each. If you have more than five words to practice, just press RETURN after the fifth word, and a new space will appear. If you misspell a word, the program will tell you when you press the test me button, at which time you can re-enter the word correctly.

Pressing the test me button will take you to a test. There's a blank for every spelling word, followed by two buttons - say it - and sentence. Clicking the say it button says the word out loud (turn up the volume on your computer!). Clicking the sentence button uses that word in a complete sentence. Then you type that spelling word in the blank. When you've completed the test, the site will show you which ones you missed, and how to spell them correctly. It also lets you print a results page (which the student can hand in to the teacher), and a certificate.

Clicking the teach me button lets you go through each word, and the computer will say the word, spell it (both visually and out loud), use it in a sentence, and then say the word again.

Play a game let's you play a number of different games with your spelling words, including Word Search, Match It!, Hang Mouse, Alphabetize, Unscramble, Audio Word Match, Which Word?, Missing Letter, Sentence Unscramble, and Crossword.

It's like having a substitute teacher helping you with your spelling!
NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowships Program Accepting Proposals

This call for graduate fellowship proposals, entitled NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship Program -- 2010/2011 Academic Year, solicits applications from accredited U.S. universities on behalf of individuals pursuing master's or doctoral (Ph.D.) degrees in Earth and space sciences, or related disciplines. The purpose of NESSF is to ensure continued training of a highly qualified workforce in disciplines needed to achieve NASA's scientific goals. Awards resulting from the competitive selection will be training grants to the respective universities, with the advisor serving as the principal investigator. The financial support for the NESSF program comes from the Science Mission Directorate's four science divisions: Earth Science, Heliophysics, Planetary Science and Astrophysics.

NESSF awards are made initially for one year. They may be renewed for no more than two additional years, contingent upon satisfactory progress (as reflected in academic performance, research progress and recommendation by the faculty advisor) and the availability of funds. The three-year period is the maximum length a student may receive support from the NESSF program in pursuing a master's or Ph.D.

The maximum amount of a NESSF award is $30,000 per year.

Proposals for this opportunity are due Feb. 1, 2010.

For more information about this solicitation, visit http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary.do?method=init&solId={4B6B94FA-6508-FB89-FDFC-E31089D85D3F}&path=open

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to:

Russell Deyoung, Program Administrator for NESSF Earth Science Research: 757-864-1472 or larc-nessf-Earth@lists.nasa.gov

Dolores Holland, Program Administrator for NESSF Heliophysics Research, Planetary Science Research, and Astrophysics Research 202-358-0734 or hq-nessf-Space@nasa.gov

NASA History Division Summer 2010 Internships

The NASA History Division is seeking undergraduate and graduate students for summer 2010 internships. The History Division maintains archival materials to answer research questions from NASA personnel, journalists, scholars, students at all levels and others from around the world. The division also edits and publishes several books and monographs each year. It maintains a large number of Web sites on NASA history.

Students of all majors are welcome to apply. While detailed prior knowledge of the aeronautics and space fields is not necessary, a keen interest and some basic familiarity with these topics are needed. Strong research, writing and editing skills are essential. Experience with computers, especially HTML formatting, is a plus.

Intern projects are flexible. Typical projects include handling a wide variety of information requests, editing historical manuscripts, doing research and writing biographical sketches, updating and creating Web pages, and identifying and captioning photos.

The deadline for applications is Feb. 1, 2010. For more information, visit http://history.nasa.gov/interncall.htm

2010 NASA Postdoctoral Program Accepting Applications

The NASA Postdoctoral Program offers qualified postdoctoral scientists and engineers the opportunity to engage in ongoing NASA research and serves as a source of talent to ensure the continued quality of the NASA research workforce. These competitive one- to three-year fellowship appointments advance NASA’s missions in space science, Earth science, aeronautics, space operations, exploration systems and astrobiology.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent doctorate degree in hand before beginning the fellowship, but may apply while completing the dissertation. Applicants must have U.S. citizenship, Lawful Permanent Resident status, Employment Authorization Document with pending LPR status, or J-1 Visa status as a Research Scholar before beginning the fellowship. An H-1B Visa status is not acceptable because the NPP is not an employment program.

Stipend rates for Postdoctoral Fellows start at $50,000 per year, with small supplements added for high cost-of-living areas. Funds are available for relocation expenses, up to a specified limit. Fellows also receive $8,000 per appointment year to support travel to conferences, meetings, and other activities (i.e., travel to field sites or observatories to collect data or for required training) that directly support their research projects.

Applications for the NASA Postdoctoral Program are due on March 1, 2010.

For further information about this opportunity and to apply online, visit http://nasa.orau.org/postdoc/description/index.htm. Questions regarding this opportunity may be submitted by e-mail to nasapostdoc@orau.org.
UEN Highlights for January 2010

Welcome to January! - Events include New Year's Day, Utah Statehood Day, the Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, World Religion Day, and the Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observance. Broadcast highlights include:

Jan 10 - Nature: Hummingbirds in the Air on KUED
Jan 12 - Lifestyles with Rebecca on UEN-TV
Jan 17 - Remembrance There is Life: A Night of Storytelling with civil rights leaders Benjamin Hooks, David Dinkins, and Rev. Jesse Jackson on UEN-TV
Jan 25 - Cheese Slices on UEN-TV - See feature story below.
Jan 26 - NOVA: The Incredible Journey of Butterflies on KUED
Jan 27 - Green River: Divided Waters on KUED

eMedia and CollegeMedia Highlights

American Experience: Citizen King
Bill Nye The Science Guy - Storms
Classic Animal Tracks - Polar Bear
Cyberchase (Math) - Snow Day
Draw Me a Story - The Snowman
Earth Science Collection - Weather - Changes and Measurements
Geography of Utah - Avalanche Hazards
Martin's Big Words - The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
The Snow Wolves
Utah: The Struggle for Statehood

Free Professional Development

Jan-May Catalog is now online
Request a free custom class for your school or educator group
Audio - Kip Motta: Leading by Example in Utah's Rich School District
Video - Author of Stinky Cheese Man explores innovative reading ideas from New York City on Teachers.TV

Cheese Slices on UEN-TV - Touring three continents, Cheese Slices explores the world's best-loved cheeses and the skill of the cheese makers who create them. Each of the 21 episodes will be followed by a UEN feature on the science of cheese with Utah food experts. Monday nights at 8:00 starting January 25

Link:  http://www.uen.org/
Coolmath Algebra

This site has some great ideas that I pull from and adapt for my class.

Link: http://coolmath.com/algebra/Algebra1/index.html

Lauren Burton; Willowcreek Middle School

Launchball

Suggested by Esther Barney and Melanie Alexander.

Link: http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/launchpad/launchball/

QuestGarden

Suggested by Bonnie Anderson. She says, “One of the best sources of higher level thinking that I know of is Quest Garden run by Bernie Dodge.

http://questgarden.com/

Not all of the webquests are high quality but many are. eMINTS also has a good collection at http://www.emints.org/webquest/index.shtml

Scratch

Bonnie Anderson says of this one, “My personal favorite is Scratch which is available from http://scratch.mit.edu/

There is an online community for sharing. The software is a free download for both PC and mac. There is teacher support as well. You may remember the old LOGO that was developed by Samuel Pappert at MIT. Scratch carries on that tradition of helping students learn programming but in a fun way. Students learn animation using scratch. They can create simple games, tell stories, play music, and even monitor sound. They could use Scratch to illustrate what they have learned. With a few inexpensive pieces of apparatus, they can determine the speed of an object.”
GapMinder
Bonnie Muir writes, “One of my favorite sites is http://www.gapminder.org
I first learned about this site thru TED talks, which are awesome. Here is the link to the talk where Hans Rosling describes gapminder...”
http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_seen.html

Our Earth as Art
Link: http://earthasart.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.htm
Welcome to the Earth as Art Gallery! Here you can view our planet through the beautiful images taken by the Landsat-7 satellite - and most recently, the Terra Satellite's Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER). This gallery of images uses the visceral avenue of art to convey the thrilling perspective of the Earth that satellites provide to the viewer. (Suggested by Bonnie Muir)

USDA Aerial Photo Field Office
Aerial photographs down to the house level...
Link: http://gdw.apfo.usda.gov/naip/viewer/viewer.htm

Primary Krypto
Cal Hales writes, “I will suggest one game found in “Thinkfinity” called “Primary Krypto”
http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?ID=173
that develops both math fact skills and algebraic thinking.” Thanks, Cal! The site explains that Primary Krypto is a simple game with these rules: Combine five number cards using the four arithmetic operations (+, −, ×, ÷) to arrive at a “target” number. This online version of Primary Krypto uses the numbers 1–10 only.
MightyAuthors.com - Helping Students Write & Publish

Link: https://www.mightyauthors.com/

Thanks to Brad Wilcox for the site suggestion. From their website:

Mission Statement

Mightyauthors.com is a student-friendly web site to motivate mighty writing through easy, affordable, and speedy publishing options. Students and their families can create books, posters, greeting cards, postcards and calendars. We also offer timely instructional materials to support any language arts curriculum and exciting contests and sharing opportunities.

Purpose and Vision Statement

Writing--the Neglected R!

Although writing is recognized as one of the three R's, an essential element in education, it is often neglected. Reading and mathematics are taught regularly. However, writing is usually seen as an event--something teachers do right before parent-teacher conferences. It doesn’t have to be that way!

Nothing motivates student writing more than publishing. When students are given the chance to share their work with a real audience, they are willing to engage in the writing process. Mightyauthors.com gives them that opportunity in a big way!

At school or at home, students can access the Web site. Their projects can be saved and enhanced by manipulating text, downloading digital photos, importing files, or scanning their own illustrations. For younger children, text can also be scanned.

Once a project is completed, students may choose to use the free print out option which allows them to print and bind their book at home or parents may choose to pay for the book to be professionally printed and bound as a paperback or hardback. Payment and shipping are all handled outside of school. Since literacy is ideally a family affair, the student's whole family may use Mightyauthors.com and enjoy the same low educational pricing.

In the past, educators have used homemade covers, blank books, or send-away packets to occasionally give students the opportunity to publish. Along with being one-time events, these projects required a great deal of effort on the part of participating teachers. With Mightyauthors.com students have the opportunity to write and publish at any time and teachers can determine their own level of involvement.

The easy, affordable, and speedy publishing opportunities offered by Mightyauthors.com can build students' self-confidence and improve reading and writing skills. Participants can use today's technology and save time and money. Mightyauthors.com allows writing to take its rightful place in the curriculum of schools and the education of young people. Now it can truly be one of the three R's.

Brad also wrote, “You can enter username teacher and password teacher to be able to see the site and play with the tools. If you have questions about it contact Rosanne at 801-616-6020.”

My thanks to everyone for submitting wonderful resource suggestions. I still have many more from you to share with UCET. Please feel free to submit suggestions anytime! Nathan.Smith@usu.edu
UCET 2010 is here!  February 26 & 27, 2010

Checklist:

- Mark your calendars! Murray High School - 5440 South State Street, Murray, UT
- Preregister before Feb. 5 to receive the discount pricing!
- Presenters - Send your handouts or URLs to Nathan.Smith@usu.edu. He’ll post them on the UCET website conference page for your attendees to access.
- Watch the UCET Conference page for updated information and handouts!
- Come prepared to learn!!!
We Can Change the World Challenge!

Link: http://wecanchange.com/

The Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, and the National Science Teachers Association have teamed up once again with a contest offering that asks students to help save our planet. It is the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge. The contest is open to Elementary School K-2, Elementary School 3-5, and Middle School 6-8 students. The contest "is the only challenge of its kind that empowers students to create solutions to environmental problems in their own backyards, and to share their results with students nationwide. They'll learn. They'll take action. And their ideas may well end up changing the world." A high school competition will be added this year for grades 9-12.

The entry deadline for elementary schools has been extended to March 15, 2010. Middle school entries will also be accepted until March 15, 2010.

About the Challenge

As citizens and future stewards of our planet, today's students are in a unique position to become active agents of environmental change. The good news is that many of them are very interested in learning about and taking responsibility for their environment and their future.

Today's young people will inherit a world that's very different from the one their parents inherited. Climate change; polluted air, water and soil; endangered species; shrinking coastlines; and a rapidly increasing population are among the many issues that threaten our global environment.

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge gives students the opportunity, tools and inspiration to become those agents of change. Beginning August 19, 2009 through March 15, 2010, middle school student teams from across the country will be challenged to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities.

Top prizes will include a chance to appear on Discovery Network’s Planet Green, a share in thousands of dollars in savings bonds, a Discovery Adventure trip and more.

Today's students are ready to change the world. Let's get them started.

Learn about another great resource from the Siemens Foundation and Discovery Education called Siemens Science Day. Teachers can find videos, tools, and hands-on activities to help reinvent their science class.
How Do I Upload Files to Google Docs?

First, click the Upload button on the Docs list homepage.

Next, click Select files to upload files from your computer. When the Browse dialog is open, select the file you’d like to upload to Google Docs. To select multiple files, press Shift or Ctrl and click all the files to upload. If you first select one file and then decide to upload more, click the Select more files link that appears after you upload the first file.

You can simply store the uploaded file in Google Docs, or convert it to Google Docs format so you can later edit it online. To store the file without converting it, make sure you deselect the option to convert the file. If you’d like to convert your document, presentation or spreadsheet to Google Docs format, you don’t need to take any extra steps. The checkbox right below the Folder drop-down menu is selected by default.

Pick a folder to which you’d like to upload the files (this is optional), and click the Start upload button.

As you’re uploading files, you’ll see what percentage of the available space you’ve used. You can also access this information by clicking the Settings link at the top of the Docs list, and checking the Storage section of the page.

File types and storage: You can upload any file type to be stored in Google Docs, but you can convert only certain types of files to Google Docs format.

You can only upload and convert these file types:
- For spreadsheets: .xls, .xlsx, .ods, .csv, .tsv, .txt, .tsb
- For documents: .doc, .docx, .html, plain text (.txt), .rtf
- For presentations: .ppt, .pps

There are some file-size limits. If you convert a file, some of your original formatting may not be preserved. Files that you store but don’t convert can’t be larger than 250 MB each. You get 1 GB of free storage for your Google Account, and you can purchase additional storage for $0.25 per GB.

Only stored files count towards the maximum limit. If you delete a file and empty trash, you get your storage back.

After you upload a file which has’t been converted to Google Docs format, you’ll see it in all your regular views. You can also find it under Items by type > Files. When you open one of these stored files on your Docs list, you can choose to see a preview of the file, share the file, print it, or download it to your desktop. You can also edit it locally on your computer (for example, upload a photo, make changes using a photo editor) and then upload the new version of the file to Google Docs. (Source: Google Docs Help)

Upload and store your files in the cloud with Google Docs

From Google: “We’re happy to announce that over the next few weeks we will be rolling out the ability to upload, store and organize any type of file in Google Docs. With this change, you’ll be able to upload and access your files from any computer — all you need is an Internet connection.

Instead of emailing files to yourself, which is particularly difficult with large files, you can upload to Google Docs any file up to 250 MB. You’ll have 1 GB of free storage for files you don’t convert into one of the Google Docs formats (i.e. Google documents, spreadsheets, and presentations), and if you need more space, you can buy additional storage for $0.25 per GB per year. This makes it easy to backup more of your key files online, from large graphics and raw photos to unedited home videos taken on your smartphone. You might even be able to replace the USB drive you reserved for those files that are too big to send over email.

Combined with shared folders, you can store, organize, and collaborate on files more easily using Google Docs. For example, if you are in a club or PTA working on large graphic files for posters or a newsletter, you can upload them to a shared folder for collaborators to view, download, and print.

You can also search for document files you’ve uploaded or that have been shared with you just like you do with your Google documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and PDFs. And you’ll be able to view many common document file types with the Google Docs viewer..."...

Win nearly $1.5 million for promoting financial literacy


The U.S. Department of Education is inviting nonprofit educational organizations with the primary purpose of educating students in grades K-12 about personal finance to apply to the Excellence in Economic Education Program.

Recipients of funding under this program are required to match the grant funds with an equal amount of non-Federal funding. The competition involves supplement-not-supplant funding requirements, therefore funds provided through the grant must be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, and local funds expended to support activities that fulfill the purpose of this program. (Source - eSchoolNews)

Contact Information
- Grant Organization: U.S. Department of Education
- Eligibility: National nonprofit educational organization
- Grant Deadline: Tuesday February 16th, 2010
- Grant Value: Up to $1.5 million
High School Students Can Send Experiments Flying With NASA

NASA is inviting student teams nationwide to design and build an experiment or technology demonstration to be sent to the near space environment of the stratosphere, an altitude of 100,000 feet. The Balloonsat High Altitude Flight competition will launch on a NASA weather balloon May 25-27, 2010, in Cleveland.

To participate, student teams in grades nine through 12 must submit a research or flight demonstration proposal to NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland by Friday, Feb. 19, 2010. Teams of four or more may pursue a wide variety of topics in this competition, including science and weather observations, remote sensing and image processing. A panel of engineers and scientists at Glenn will evaluate and select four top-ranked proposals by Friday, March 5, 2010.

The top four teams will be awarded travel expenses and up to $1,000 to develop their flight experiment or technology demonstration. Teams will participate in three flight days to release, track and recover their experiments. In addition, students will tour Glenn facilities and present their findings at Glenn's Balloonsat Symposium. All participants visiting NASA must be U.S. citizens.

NASA will host an informational webcast about the competition on Jan. 27, 2010, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. EST. A link to the webcast and additional information about Balloonsat High Altitude Flight is available at http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/balloonsat

ISS EarthKAM Winter 2010 Mission

NASA has exciting news! EarthKAM has just launched a new beta version of its Web site. Middle school educators are invited to join NASA for the International Space Station Winter 2010 Mission from Feb. 2-5, 2010, and be beta testers of the new site and software. Find out more about this exciting opportunity that allows students to take pictures of Earth from a digital camera aboard the International Space Station.

What is EarthKAM?

ISS EarthKAM is a NASA-sponsored project that provides stunning, high-quality photographs of Earth taken from the space shuttle and the space station. Since 1996, ISS EarthKAM students have taken thousands of photographs of Earth by using the World Wide Web to direct a digital camera on select spaceflights and, currently, on the International Space Station.

How Can I Learn More about EarthKAM?

For more information about the project and to register for the upcoming mission, visit the ISS EarthKAM home page

http://www.EarthKAM.ucsd.edu

If you have questions about the EarthKAM project, please e-mail

ek-help@earthkam.ucsd.edu

This and similar education programs help NASA attract and retain students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines critical to the agency's future missions.

NASA's student Balloonsat competition is sponsored by Teaching From Space, a NASA Education Office at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, the Educational Programs Office at Glenn and the Ohio Space Grant Consortium.

For more information about NASA's education programs, visit

http://www.nasa.gov/education

For information about NASA's Glenn Research Center, visit

http://www.nasa.gov/glenn
Your Attention, Please!

Whether it is the adult or the teen, there’s nothing unusual about people zoning off and losing focus. The problem is none of us want to be the teacher or presenter in front of these pupils. The article “Your Attention, Please!” by Tristan De Frondeville, gives 10 suggestions in helping avoid this “dead time”. It focuses on building your own arsenal, or activities you can draw on in a time of need.

Working with each other, personal work time, and keeping equality through the classroom are some of the overplaying themes within De Frondeville’s writing. Many times we are given suggestions on how to improve what we’re doing, but are left at a loss of how to actually accomplish it. One great advantage to this article is it not only presents the ideas, but teaches us how to fulfill them by giving practical suggestions. By implementing these practices we will not only be able to improve our teaching, but also avoid that dreaded “dead time”.

Read the entire article at Edutopia...

Link: http://www.edutopia.org/classroom-student-participation-tips

Service Learning in Our Schools

Have you ever wondered how you can engage your students in a learning task? I mean, really engage them - get them excited? Service learning may be an answer.

Link: http://www.servicelearning.org/what_is_service-learning/service-learning_is/index.php#def

The National Service Learning Clearinghouse says this of service learning...

“Service-Learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

The children, parents, neighborhood, or community determine problems that need solutions. Together with the teacher, these groups work out ways in which these problems can be solved, or needs met. After a strategy is decided upon, the teacher works out his/her own strategy for meeting required standards and objectives that can be aligned with the service project. In an Edutopia article, “How to Use Service Learning to Engage Kids,” one teacher says,

“Tying in the standards is actually the easiest part,” says Hodges. Both she and Sigala work with students to create a project before identifying academic skills to integrate. After she and her class have outlined the project, Sigala sits down with her standards and applies the ones that fit.

“Amazingly, the standards just start popping up all over the project,” she says. “Rarely have I ever had to get too creative in matching standards to project objectives.”

Link: http://www.edutopia.org/service-learning-fowler-how-to

There are many benefits to service learning. Families and community are drawn into participation with the classroom. Students feel that they’re changing the world in good ways. The learning becomes concrete and relevant. Students have opportunities to serve others, rather than be self-centered - with the potential of changing their lives in very positive ways. Edutopia had another article on a California school involved in service learning. You can read that article at...

Link: http://www.edutopia.org/service-learning-fowler
SparkleBox - Foundation and KS1 (UK) - 1000s of Products, All Free to Download

Link: http://www.sparklebox.co.uk/

Here’s a wonderful site for teachers of young children. Have you ever wanted to get your hands on a set of flashcards that you could drill the 100 most commonly used words? SparkleBox has it as as free PDF download.

SparkleBox contains thousands of printable teacher products - all free. In the Literacy sections, you’ll find printables that focus on alphabet and sounds, words and vocabulary, writing and letter formation, stories, rhymes, reading, letters and sound resources, and more. In the Numeracy section you’ll find printables having to do with numbers, counting, operations and calculations, shape, space, and measurement, coins and money (British currency, though), and more.

In the topics section, there are products having to do with everyday life, role play, living things, ourselves, places, weather, seasons, history, festivals and celebrations, art and design, and more.

Although the products are all focused on the United Kingdom’s school system, you’ll find that most will be useful in our classrooms. One difficulty you may run into is that the UK uses different paper sizes than the U.S. Printing could be a problem. However, Acrobat and Acrobat Reader have print settings that allow you to fit what you’re printing to the paper size you’re printing to. Problem solved.

Overall, you’ll find SparkleBox to be a treasure chest of pre-prepared teaching materials that you can use with preschool, and K-3 classrooms. It’s worth taking a little time to explore the many resources you’ll find here. Be sure to explore some of the other sections, too, such as the parents section.

Free NTFS-3G for Mac - Work with Windows Formatted Drives

Link: http://www.macupdate.com/info.php/id/24481/ntfs-3g

Do you run Windows in Boot Camp on your Mac? Or have you ever had the need to connect an NTFS formatted Windows PC external drive, and got frustrated because you could read the files, but not copy anything to the drive? NTFS-3G for Macintosh is your solution. The free, open source software system preferences pane allows you to do just that - write to and manage NTFS drives from your Macintosh OSX.

From the website: “NTFS-3G for Mac OS X is a software project designed to bring NTFS read/write support to Mac OS X along with additional advanced features.

It is based on NTFS-3G, the leading open source NTFS driver that is ported into numerous platforms, but also includes other software projects to build a complete toolset for managing NTFS volumes.

Books Without Barriers

Accessible Books and Periodicals for Readers with Print Disabilities

Bookshare.org is free for all U.S. students with qualifying disabilities. Student memberships are currently funded by an award from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Bookshare dramatically increases the accessibility of books. Bookshare believes that people with disabilities deserve the same ease of access to books and periodicals that people without disabilities enjoy.

A searchable online library. Bookshare offers more than 60,000 digital books, textbooks, teacher-recommended reading, periodicals and assistive technology tools.

Readers of all ages. Bookshare offers affordable membership, unlimited library privileges and a community of Members, Volunteers, parents, publishers and authors.
iMovie: Learning the Basics for Advanced yet Easy Video Editing Program

By Huck Miloon Stewart

To get started in the world of media production and editing one must start out with money first to make money. For the Mac users the Final Cut Studio, an advanced multimedia editing software, costs over $900. For the Windows users a fairly user friendly yet advanced video editing software Sony Vegas Video ranges from $50 used and basic to over $500 for the latest and complete product. I bring this up for those of you who want to learn how to edit videos on a computer that you already own without having to spend any more money. This article is for those who own a Mac. Sorry PC people. The basic video editing program comes with all new Macs and even older Macs from at least 2002. Upgrades for this and other Mac products are recently available for $30 with the Snow Leopard software that Apple put out. This article will run you through the basics and also provide the resources on available tutorial for Apple’s iMovie.

iMovie:

The first step is to open it up. The icon that you will see in your applications menu or maybe even on your scrollbar on your desktop looks like a golden bordered star with a video camera image in the middle. Once open you will see three boxes. The top right box is your playback screen. When you are working on a video or slide-show it will show you what will appear on the screen from your editing project or what you want to import. The top left screen is your workspace. This screen shows the audio, video, images and transitions you have put in. This is the place where you will make the changes on the media you want to edit. The bottom screen is your library of videos you have to work with. This place displays all of the original videos you imported that you may or may not be working with in your workspace area on the top left.

Importing

There are two ways to import a video. Under the “file” menu at the top of the screen there is an option that says, “import from camera” and “import.” If you are using a video clip that already exists on your card drive or if you are pulling from an external storage space you will want to click on “import” then “movie” and find the file where you have stored your video. If you plug in your video camera then you will want to “import from camera.” The video formats that are compatible with iMovie are; DV, DV Widescreen, HDV1080i (25 and 30 fps), HDV 720p (25 and 30 fps), MPEG 4 Simple Profile, iSight, and .MOV. You may also use videos that are played in QuickTime and VLC.

Editing

Once you have the videos you want in your library, you can drag the media to your workspace area to begin editing. You do this by highlighting the part of the video with your mouse that you want to use. Once it is highlighted in yellow, you may click on the yellow part and simply drag it up to your workspace area. Your selected video will appear in a box which you can adjust in size by dragging the size adjustment bar left or right on the bottom right area of your workspace box. Once you have the video in you are ready to create and explore. By right clicking on your video clip you can cut, adjust color, adjust speed, and detach audio to name a few options (which you can learn how to do on the iMovie video tutorials by Apple.

Other Options

I can now only name a few other things that you will have on your iMovie screen. In the center grey bar you have a microphone that you can use to create a voice over. The square is for cropping and sizing the image on your screen. On the right center grey bar area just right of the sound bars you see an image of music notes (for importing music from your iTunes library), a camera image (for importing still images from your iPhoto library), a “T” (for inserting different texts on or between your video images), a box with triangles in it (for inserting transitions between different clips) and an earth (for inserting maps and backgrounds). All of these options are available for adjustment to your liking and need.

Sharing (rendering)

The last thing I would like to share with you is what to do when you are done editing. At the top of your screen the “sharing” bar will be your final stage. Your project may look like a mess, but sharing is a process that most video editors call rendering. Rendering is a process that takes all the cuts, transitions, video and audio and compresses it all into one single unchangeable video file. Where you may have had several...
video inserts from several different files, the sharing option is what will smooth it all over and make it one big happy file. You may share it to YouTube if you have your own account, iDVD if you want to burn your project, MobilMe Gallery which is an online personal video archive you can purchase, you can send it to your iTunes movie library and put it on your iPod or just watch it right from your computer.

There are many practical applications for using iMovie. Whether it is for a school project, class, speech, presentation, gift, organizing home videos or you just want to have fun, be creative, and express yourself with your friends and family you can do it on iMovie. Though it may not have all the manual options that your more advanced and expensive software might do, you can create masterpieces that you can be proud of with this easy to learn and fun to use iMovie. I learned everything I know about iMovie through this website with video tutorials to help you do everything you need and more.


You can also type in iMovie on Google search to find the same video tutorials. These will go into more detail. Have fun and be creative and you might find a lot more that you even imagined you could do for so little.

**Second Life - Education in a Virtual World**

*by Laura Eliason, MEd, Taylor Elementary School*

Saturday, January 23rd, 2010, 9:50 AM Pacific Standard Time. There is a blizzard outside, the kind that makes the world look like a giant snow globe. The kind that makes you wary to head out on the roads. That doesn’t change my plans for today to hear a lecture from Professor of Astrophysics at the University Federico II in Napoli (Italy), Guiseppe Longo, about the history of Astronomy.

I dress in a sweater, slacks, and boots, then arrive at the amphitheater. It’s crowded. Fifty-one people from all over the world are already there, I make person number fifty-two, and there are more arriving. I’ve been here before, and make my way quickly to a seat in the third row. Every seat in the house is a good one, I’ll see and hear fine from anywhere. As I wait for the lecture to start, I recognize a familiar face, George Djorgovski, professor at Caltech (and director of the Meta Institute for Computational Astrophysics (MICA), http://mica-vw.org). I wave as I take my seat, then continue looking around to see who else is here. I smile as I see among the audience, a dragon…and a “tiny” panda. These “avatars” are characters created to provide a presence here.

I’m in Second Life, a virtual world completely built by its residents. I first poked my head in this place over two years ago taking my usual internet name “Libby” along with the last name Wozniak, unable to resist it after getting to meet Steve Wozniak at a past UCET conference. I had heard something in a news clip about a woman making real money by planning virtual weddings for people. I thought that was insane, and had to see what this was all about. I had plenty of time to explore. At the time I was dealing with recovering from an accident which made walking difficult/painful so I had a lot of sitting time, and have since found some incredible things here that may prove to be a boon to education.

I would like to sidestep myself for a moment to address anyone who has glanced at a virtual world to see the trash that can be found and ask them not to be too quick to “throw the baby out with the bathwater”. Dismissing virtual worlds because of nefarious things some people choose to do would be like dismissing the use of the entire internet because some people choose to use it to post less than worthy content. We as educators know that we don’t send our students out unguided in ANY learning experience, and in our planning, direct them to the worthy content that allows us to achieve our curricular goals.

That being said, I have found a variety of ways this virtual world might prove useful to educators. In my quest to learn all I can, I’ve spoken to teachers, students, and residents to see the way they are using this virtual world to use. Universities are represented in Second Life, with campuses for Harvard, Stanford, Penn State (see illustration below), among others. Students can learn more about the universities, speak with counselors, attend lectures, collaborate on projects, conduct research, and work in study groups. According to Penn State’s article on http://gaming.psu.edu/7Things,” as of March 2008, over 250 colleges and universities have a presence in Second Life.”

I had the opportunity to help teach a university class focused on working with people with disabilities. Virtual worlds are an incredible equalizer (once access is obtained). During the class, one of the other assistants shared that one in twelve people we encounter in Second Life has some kind of disability. (I’ve not checked the statistics on that, nor feel ambitions at this moment to try, but do see her point that platforms such as Second Life open up possibilities for people dealing with physical challenges that usually serve as obstacles to them in their daily lives.) In my own experience, I was able to visit with a man who had a hearing impairment who said he enjoyed the text based communication style (though he did have to ask for that occasionally as “voice” is also an option) as well as meeting
a woman that months later shared with me that she was in a wheelchair because of MS. (Illustrations below: Dresden Gallery)

In my wanderings on university campuses, I met a doctoral student who has built a model of a home for his class that meets online. In one part of his class geared to train officers, he has his students explore this virtual home, then meet in the front yard and discuss all the signs they found that signaled that it was a Methamphetamine drug house. I’ve seen performance areas on campuses where fine arts students share their talents. In my general wanderings I’ve encountered several university students conducting research, investigating options for earning degrees online, as well as professors exploring learning possibilities that virtual worlds hold.

A Chicago teacher I met told me about the group she belongs to for teachers in her city to collaborate with one another as well as about “ISTE” Island, the Second Life home of the International Society for Technology in Education (www.iste.org). An artist shared his gallery of “paintings” reproduced from his “real life” gallery into Second Live to enable him to share his talent with a wider audience. I wish I had access to this while I was learning German years ago! There are language study groups in Second Life where you have a chance to interact and socialize with native speakers (before you forget everything you know from lack of opportunities to practice). I just read about a Spanish teacher that has created a virtual “hacienda” for students in her class to gather and practice their Spanish with one another. (If you are a “land owner”, you can control who has access to the area.)

Business opportunities abound, there is a thriving economy in Second Life. Imagine being able to allow your students to experience running a business first hand, one that has the possibility of generating real US dollars. Anshe Chung, the first virtual world millionaire, made her money in “land development”. (http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/06_18/b3982001.htm).

The fashion industry thrives there as well. There are designers, stores, advertising, models, all sorts of opportunities for hands-on experiences for students. There are recreations of “real life” places to explore. The Dresden Gallery is one of my favorites. There, you can get a free set of headphones as you enter the gallery, then wander the halls, looking at the artwork as you give yourself an audio tour. One can also visit the SL Globe Theater, a working theatre venue for Live Shakespearean Plays and other Theatrical Works performed by the SL Shakespeare Company and other artists.

There are opportunities to explore architecture. I’ve met a few architects that enjoy building in a realm where gravity is irrelevant, or simply experiment with buildings and testing the layout by “walking through” models. There are some absolutely stunning creations available to explore. I marvel at the talents of others and appreciate the chance I get to see their creativity.

In the spirit of utilizing the platform for collaboration, I passed my draft of this article to my friend, George Djorgovski, professor at Caltech (and director of Meta Institute for Computational Astrophysics (MICA), http://mica-vw.org) who shared with me some of the links I’ve put at the bottom of the article. He suggested I mention OpenSim, which is an open source version of Second Life. “Each institution, say a university, can run its own mini-world, and control the access and what goes on in it and the worlds can interoperate.” I asked if it was made by the creators of Second Life. “No, it’s something entirely different. Somebody did a reverse engineering so both academics and the industry are looking seriously into it-IBM, Intel, MICA… http://opensimulator.org/wiki/Main_Page” I asked if avatars from Second Life travel to it or if it requires different avatars. “Not yet, but people are working hard to make avatars and inventories portable between the worlds.” I shared with him that another person I met in Second Life has moved to the world 3Dspoton to be a builder. http://spoton3d.com/. (I’ve not explored this world past the introductory information he sent, but it’s on my “to do” list.)

I am not here to declare that Second Life is necessarily the holy grail to education, or the ONLY virtual world worthy of exploration, it is simply the one I’ve spent my time exploring. There are other limitations. There is a bit of a learning curve to navigation (I’m chuckling now remembering our pre-Second Life tour conversation when Nathan informed me that he already had an avatar, pattered a bit here, got stuck in a helicopter, then gave up), though tutorials exist and most “residents” one encounters prove to be friendly and helpful. The age limit for second life is seventeen, however, there is a Teen Life for ages thirteen through seventeen, with adult access arranged for educators (though I have not explored this in depth myself). Bandwidth and hardware may also be issues. One university has a disclaimer in their welcome information stating they are not responsible for content students encounter off campus. I imagine any institution would communicate a similar message
lecture is in voice, so I won't have a written transcript, but the questions of the audience are asked in Local chat (with text so that the lecturer can see them without being interrupted), and those are easily saved. I stay after to listen to the question/answer period he has with the attendees, send the requested photos of the event to one of the coordinators, say goodbye to my friend, then log off to go take care of my Saturday chores as I contemplate what I’ve just heard about the history of astronomy, looking forward to next Saturday's lecture from John Mather (NASA GSFC, Nobel laureate in physics 2006, project scientist for the JWST). http://www.mica-vw.org/wiki/index.php/Upcoming_Public_Events

Related Information:

http://www.secondlife.com (Second Life's web site that gives access to the free software download)

http://www.simteach.com/wiki/ (Information and Community for Teachers in Multi-User Virtual Environments)

http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/15522 (The Future of Learning Institutions in a Digital Age)

http://www.simteach.com/ (Information and Community for Educators using Multi-User Virtual Environments)

http://network.associationofvirtualworlds.com/group/vweducation (a group that explores best practices for education and training in virtual worlds)

http://mpbreflections.blogspot.com/ (blog regarding innovations in higher education, particularly in area of online learning)

http://gaming.psu.edu/7Things (Information about how Penn State uses Second Life)

http://admissions.psu.edu/secondlife/ (Information about Penn State's presence in Teen Second Life)

http://live.psu.edu/story/27241?nw=4 (More on Penn State and Second Life)

(Thank you to George Djorgovski on one side of the US, and Derek Bootle other for your input and revision suggestions!)

Editor’s Note: UCET expresses its appreciation to Laura for taking time to share her expertise in Second Life, for rescuing Nathan from being stuck in that helicopter the rest of his 2nd life, and then being so kind to take him on a tour of many great educational sites in there.)
Microsoft Photo Story 3

Link: http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/PhotoStory/default.mspx

From Microsoft’s Website: “Bring your digital photos to life with Photo Story 3 for Windows. Download Photo Story 3 for free and experience your photos in amazing new ways. Create slideshows using your digital photos. With a single click, you can touch-up, crop, or rotate pictures. It’s that easy! Add stunning special effects, soundtracks, and your own voice narration to your photo stories. Then, personalize them with titles and captions. Small file sizes make it easy to send your photo stories in an e-mail. Watch them on your TV, a computer, or a Windows Mobile–based portable device.


In a recent Edutopia article ("Digital Storytelling in California" Edutopia, Aug/Sep 2009, p. 32), teachers began using Photo Story 3 to have students tell their story. “With the help of Gen YES kids, teachers in grades 3-6 have recently become proficient in the use of digital storytelling. Kinslow first introduced his Gen YES students to an application called Photo Story 3, which Microsoft offers on its Web site as a free download. They quickly became adept at organizing photos and adding text, music, and voice-over narration to create a digital story. Kinslow then got other teachers interested in the tool by sharing one of his own class projects at a faculty meeting. His demonstration sparked teacher interest, and soon, Gen YES students introduced digital storytelling techniques to other classrooms.

The idea quickly went viral, with teachers using the software for a variety of purposes. Some created prereading presentations to introduce unfamiliar vocabulary. Others asked students to demonstrate their understanding by creating digital stories.”

Photo Story is another tool teachers can add to their tool box that allows for greater interactivity to occur in the classroom. There are tutorials and project demos online.

Astrobiology Summer Institute for High School Teachers

The Astrobiology Summer Science Experience for Teachers, or ASSET, is being held July 18-24, 2010, at San Francisco State University. ASSET will feature presentations by leading astrobiology researchers from the SETI Institute, NASA and the California Academy of Sciences. Scientists will share the latest in astrobiology research on the origin of life on Earth, the extreme conditions in which life exists, Mars exploration, the formation of planetary systems around sun-like stars, and the search for life in the universe.

The 6-day workshop features a combination of cutting-edge science, inquiry-based teaching and learning, and leadership skills development to support teachers and teacher trainers.

Participants receive the entire Voyages Through Time curriculum and complementary astrobiology materials, developed by NASA’s Astrobiology Institute, for use in their classrooms.

Applications are due Feb. 12, 2010.

For more information, visit
http://www.seti.org/epo/ASSET

If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact Pamela Harman at 650-960-4523 or pharman@seti.org.

2010 Innovations in Reading Prize

Each year, the National Book Foundation awards a number of prizes of up to $2,500 each to individuals and institutions—or partnerships between the two—that have developed innovative means of creating and sustaining a lifelong love of reading.

http://www.nationalbook.org/innovation_in_reading_2010.pdf

Complete the nomination section for the application and email it as an attachment to kmcdonough@nationalbook.org.

Reference letters can also be emailed as attachments to kmcdonough@nationalbook.org.
New Website Encourages Girls to Look at STEM Careers

The nonprofit Education Development Center,

Link: http://www.edc.org

announced their new website, Girls Communicating Career Connections, focused on encourage girls to explore STEM careers. The resource was created by middle school girls, and shares science and engineering careers. There is a video series, activities that share career information, and discusses the positive impact of these careers.

Educators will also find resources there that they can use in the classroom.

Link: http://gc3.edc.org


TwoUp - Free Mac OSX Screen Resize and Reposition

Link: http://irradiatedsoftware.com/twoup/

TwoUp allows you to quickly position a window to fill exactly half the screen (splitscreen) via the menu bar or configurable system-wide shortcuts (hotkeys). Similar to “tiled windows” functionality available on other operating systems.

For more features such as Full Screen and Multiple Monitor Support, you might try SizeUp, the bigger brother of Twoup.

Using TwoUp

TwoUp consists of four actions which can be performed on the frontmost application window:

• Left: Move and resize a window to fill the left half of the screen
• Right: Move and resize a window to fill the right half of the screen
• Up: Move and resize a window to fill the top half of the screen
• Down: Move and resize a window to fill the bottom half of the screen

These actions can be triggered via the

TwoUp Menu in the Mac menu bar or via system-wide shortcuts. The default shortcuts can be triggered by holding the Control-Option-Command keys while pressing an Arrow key to indicate the direction you wish the window to go. The shortcut keys can be customized in the TwoUp Preferences.

Known Limitation

TwoUp only works on primary monitor (see SizeUp for multi-monitor support)

TwoUp works with most applications as long as standard window types are being used. Non-standard windows may exhibit unexpected behavior or not respond at all.
**TypeRacer**

Christopher Sloan says, “I’m an English teacher and media adviser, so I’m partial to typeracer.com That helps students improve their typing skills and it’s competitive.”


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**Lemonade Stand**

Charles Hanosek, who gave me lots of his favorite sites, particularly mentioned Lemonade Stand. He says, “...I like the classic Lemonade Stand because students get to think and run the show, like a real business. They also have to factor the temperature and weather forecast. They get fairly immediate results by watching the customers purchase their lemonade or say it is too expensive and such.


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**Cool Math Games**

Charles’ Lemonade Stand site comes from Cool Math Games, where there are a lot more interactive games children can play!


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**Utah Mentor**

Cathrin Wischmann, Valley High School Career Center, says, “I used to use a lot from www.utahmentor.org or the program “Choices”. The students can find their career and the path they want to take.

This summer, on one of the conferences, they introduced [http://www.Utahfuture.org](http://www.Utahfuture.org) which is not active yet, but should be soon.

Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!

**UEN Resources for K-12 Education**

Karen Krier, UEN, says, “Many of you know that UEN likes to support educators by creating resource web page for specific topics or events. (e.g. Election Day, Utah National Parks, Copyright resources)

Over the years it has been hard, even for me - the web manager, to keep track of all of them. During the Winter Break I finally did! I created a single web page that lists all (or almost all) of the various curriculum resource pages.

Link: http://www.uen.org/k12educator/uenresources

**WhyReef**

Suggested by Chris Sloan: “WhyReef (ages 6-18). “WhyReef is a virtual reef where boys and girls from all over the world can dive into a virtual coral reef and discover the amazing marine life that dwells within.”

Link: http://www.whyville.net/smmk/top/gates?source=reef

**Animal Adventure**

Suggested by Chris Sloan.

Link: http://www.my.kidscom.com/jsp_a01_mkc/jsp_a01_b04_mis/jsp_a01_b04_c03_walktalk/wt_landing.jsp?to=Field+Museum

**PHET Interactive Simulations**

Clint Stephens says, “I don’t use a lot of games or simulations - I mostly work with teachers. Recently, however, we did do some work with some students at Big Water School for a grant on effects of temperature and energy on phases of matter. I found and used a terrific simulation from the University of Colorado Physics Department (http://phet.colorado.edu/index.php). They have simulations on all types of science topics that are really well done. We used the “States of Matter” simulation in the Physics section. We were going to use the Circuit Construction Kit simulation, but electrical circuits are no longer in the core in middle school. The simulations really got the kids thinking and some real problem solving could be done using them.”

Link: http://phet.colorado.edu/index.php
**Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!**

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**NLVM - Virtual Manipulatives**

Many UCET members suggested the National Library of Virtual Manipulatives. Although we featured this site in the December 2005 newsletter, it’s worth mentioning again.

Link: [http://nlvm.usu.edu/](http://nlvm.usu.edu/)

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**Free Typing Game**

Dave Johnson suggested this site. He says, “Great games for teach keyboarding. There are word per minute scores, tests and lessons. I use it every day.”

Link: [http://freetypinggame.net/](http://freetypinggame.net/)

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**Kindergarten Site**

Denise Walters shared this with UCET: “I teach life skills special ed in a K-6 elementary class so Kill and drill is what I use the most. One of my favorite web sites that I use across the board is this kindergarten site. It has a large site base on most subjects for me. Some of the sites are defunk but most work very well for my low attention span children.”

Link: [http://www.picadome.fcps.net/lab/curl/kindergarten/](http://www.picadome.fcps.net/lab/curl/kindergarten/)

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**Seterra - Learn Geography**

Diane Mayne says, “Seterra. It is a geography game that helps kids and adults get to know the lay of the land of all countries on mother earth.”

Celestia and Stellarium

Dax Higgins says, “There are two programs that are freeware and I use them in Earth Systems for the Astronomy unit. Celestia is a solar system modeler and Stellarium is a night sky observing program.” You can see more in-depth reviews of them in our October 2008 (Stellarium) and December 2005 (Celestia) UCET newsletters.

Stellarium Link: http://www.stellarium.org/
Celestia Link: http://www.shatters.net/celestia/

Fur.ly

Diane Young shares the following: “I have been thinking about this and there is one tool that I use that has been a great tool in teaching. The site is http://fur.ly/ This site lets you put several URL sites and puts into one page. This has been great when I’m teaching the younger kids. They can navigate much easier because it is all on one page.”

Link: http://fur.ly/

CoolToolsForSchools

Deb Eastman and Eileen Druchniak shared a site we featured in the October 2009 UCET Newsletter, but it’s worth a repeat here. CoolToolsforSchools is a link farm to Web 2 resources for education. Divided into major categories, each category is filled with a huge list of wonderful, and mostly free, tools teachers can use!

Link: http://cooltoolsforschools.wikispaces.com/

KidsHealth

From Caroline Lee: “Here’s an excellent site for Kids’ health...” For lots more, check her my.uen.org website:

Link: http://my.uen.org/myuen/93328/
Link: http://kidshealth.org/kid/index.jsp?tracking=K_Home

KidsHealth

Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!
Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!

Psychology Links from Dave...

Dave Rockwood shares a great list of useful sites he uses in his subject area: “Here’s a few that I use. Keep in mind that most of them are specific to my subject.

First, I like to use online content as a stimulus for class discussion. There is a great program on www.learner.org (affiliated with PBS, hosts many videos) called “Ethics in America” It has a panel of experts debating ethical dilemmas. I use it in my Psychology classes when we are learning about Moral Development to analyze the different speakers’ answers in terms of Kholberg’s stages of moral development. I also use it in my Philosophy class in our unit on Ethics, where we debate the same issues and use the video clip as a prompt. Here is the full link:

http://www.learner.org/resources/series207.html

Here is a fun site that teaches the effects of different drugs on the brain:

http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/addiction/drugs/mouse.html

The Psych Files video podcast:

http://www.thepsychfiles.com/

Here is a fantastic review site for a ton of different subjects, including psychology:

http://quizlet.com/
(Here is the psychology part of the site:
http://quizlet.com/subject/psychology/)

An interactive tour of the brain of an Alzheimer’s patient:

http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_4719.asp

A test for short term memory:

http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/puzmatch3.html

I really like the Open Yale Courses site (I know that may universities do the same thing, I just haven’t had time to explore any others):

http://oyc.yale.edu/

There are several online Dream Dictionaries or sites that help to analyze dreams. These sites can be tricky however because you can’t control the content and sometimes you wish you could have. Here is one (I can’t vouch for the content):

http://www.dreamloverinc.com/dictionary1.htm

continued... ---->

The classic Stanford Prison Guard study:

http://www.prisonexp.org/

Backmasking (playing popular songs backwards to look for supposed “hidden messages” or subliminal messages)

http://jeffmilner.com/backmasking.htm

Some online tests (personality tests, iq tests, etc.)

http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp
http://www.intelligencetest.com/
http://www.mensa.org/workout2.php
http://www.testcafe.com/

I enjoy occasionally using talks from http://www.ted.com

They are brilliant

Here are lots of demos:

http://psych.hanover.edu/Krantz/tutor.html

Anyway, I hope this helps.”

Thanks Dave!

Adult Roles & Financial Literacy

Doreen Robinson shared these:

“I use these in Adult Roles and Financial Literacy:

Tax Simulations:  http://www.irs.gov/app/understanding-Taxes/hows/mod02/sim_mod02_01.jsp

http://www.irs.gov/app/understandingTaxes/hows/mod07/sim_mod07a_01.jsp

(great way to be guided through taxes before we try actual tax forms)

Virtual Stock Exchange:

http://vse.marketwatch.com/Game/Homepage.aspx

(great way for my students to experience and learn some basics of the stock market)

I use this in Geometry:

Air Traffic Control Simulations:  http://www.atcsim.nasa.gov/simulator/index.html

(fun way to work on some basic math and analysis)”
**Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!**

**Timez Attack**

Lindsay Fidler says, "I would be more than happy to help. I would suggest Timez Attack. You can download a free “Base version” in both Windows and Mac operating systems that will go up to so many grade levels. Unlike so many free online educational resources this is a high tech video gaming software that is fun and helps students master their multiplication tables. The time restraints also challenges students to quickly answer before losing their life to an overlarge Ogre. Once the student is able to answer correctly they can unlock the dungeon doors or advance to the next level."


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**Tooele Co. School District TAH**

Heidi Ross shared this with me: “Nathan, I am in Dallas at a meeting and will pull my other links when I get back home, but right off the bat you can take a look at my History Games sight and use any of those. It would help if I knew what specific topics you are looking for. Yes feel free to share with whomever. *(GeoSpy shown below)*

Link: [http://tooelecountyschooldistricttah.schools.officelive.com/Games.aspx](http://tooelecountyschooldistricttah.schools.officelive.com/Games.aspx)

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**Touch Typing Practice Sites**

Jene Omer, Fountain Green Elementary says, "These are my favorites:

- [http://www.typingweb.com/](http://www.typingweb.com/)
- [http://www.typeonline.co.uk/](http://www.typeonline.co.uk/)
- [http://www.syc.dekalb.k12.il.us/Schools2/southeast/keyboarding/keyboarding.html](http://www.syc.dekalb.k12.il.us/Schools2/southeast/keyboarding/keyboarding.html)
  *(Mrs. Horton’s Keyboarding)*
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/flash/stage1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/flash/stage1.shtml)
  *(Dance Mat)*
- [http://www.freetypinggame.net/](http://www.freetypinggame.net/)
Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!

**Thinks.com & FunBrain**

Jennifer Heaney suggests FunBrain and Thinks.com. From the website: “Welcome to Thinks.com, the place for family-friendly puzzles and games!

Whether you are young or old, Thinks.com offers an incredible collection of free online puzzles and games. Enjoy Sudoku, crossword puzzles and jigsaw puzzles. Play great online games like chess, checkers and even Chinese checkers. Thinks will keep you happily entertained for hours.

Explore Thinks, solve puzzles and enjoy games!

Link: [http://thinks.com/](http://thinks.com/)

Link: [http://www.funbrain.com/](http://www.funbrain.com/)

**Academic Skill Builders**

John Pezely suggests: “Not your typical and the kids really like it…”


**Voki**

Matthew Merkley suggests: “One that I have found for Spanish that I like is voki.com. It is not game but students have fun with it. Students can create a character(voki) and then write in text and choose a voice for the text. It supports several different languages. For foreign language it is a fun site for the students.”

Link: [http://www.voki.com/](http://www.voki.com/)

**Edheads**

Mitchell Jorgensen says, “www.edheads.org is a website that has several online simulations geared toward science. When I taught CTE I used the online surgeries to teach biomedical technologies. It is one of my favorite sites.”

Link: [http://www.edheads.org/](http://www.edheads.org/)
February Resources...

There are lots of great resources for February. You may want to look back in our February 2007 and February 2006 newsletters - they contain great links to resources that are still available today.

TeacherVision is another great site that has links to many hundreds of great resources organized by theme, grades, and subject.


Valentines Day

Link: [http://www.teachervision.fen.com/valentines-day/teacher-resources/6673.html](http://www.teachervision.fen.com/valentines-day/teacher-resources/6673.html)

Black History Month


Groundhog Day

Link: [http://www.teachervision.fen.com/groundhog-day/teacher-resources/6625.html](http://www.teachervision.fen.com/groundhog-day/teacher-resources/6625.html)

Chinese New Year


President's Day

Link: [http://www.teachervision.fen.com/presidents-day/teacher-resources/6658.html](http://www.teachervision.fen.com/presidents-day/teacher-resources/6658.html)

Thank You!

My sincere thanks to all of you who shared articles, educational websites, and more with the UCET membership. We all benefit from your expertise and your willingness to share.

Remember to preregister for UCET 2010 before the February 5 deadline. We look forward to being with you at the conference!

Sincerely, Nathan Smith, UCET Board of Directors, Newsletter and Website
The Executive Board and Board of Directors for the Utah Coalition for Educational Technology wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in and helped make the 2010 conference a great one! This year’s conference had the largest attendance ever, and yet went very smoothly. Anne Collier’s keynote was thought provoking and well presented. The sessions were well attended. The exhibitor hall had a great deal of traffic, and the exhibitors were elated to talk to so many of the UCET members.

As we gather materials post-conference, we want to remind you to watch the conference page at the UCET website. Anne Collier’s PowerPoint files have been placed online. We’re working on digitizing the videos of the Over-The-Shoulder presentations, and will have those online soon.


The UCET 2010 Conference materials will be at the link above until we begin promoting next year’s conference. At that time it will be moved to the UCET archives, where you’ll still be able to access everything from each conference between 2006 - 2010.


**UCET 2010 - Award Winners**

**Outstanding Technology Leader - Victoria Rasmussen**

Victoria Rasmussen is one of the key reasons why UEN Professional Development is so successful. She keeps the department organized and efficient, ensuring that schools and teachers get the technology trainings they want. UEN handles over 700 training sessions and meet with over 12,000 participants last year. During Victoria’s tenure at UEN, she has “green-lighted” all of the major initiatives from UEN Professional Development. She is very willing to “push the envelope” when it comes to demonstrating new technologies and the impact they can have on teaching and learning. A prime example of this is the popular “Faculty Lounge”.

UEN has taken the lead in online courses for credit. Victoria helped pioneer a licensing agreement with LearnKey to provide online training on the Microsoft Office tools to teachers across Utah. Also, UEN’s online course offerings have grown annually to where they provide over 50 different online courses for credit. Victoria has been actively involved in numerous committees throughout the state. She has taken an active leadership role in the iTEAM grant, which trained teachers to incorporate technology in mathematics instruction. She also served on the UAACCE board of directors and
Faster Windows Boot Time

This tip is for Windows Users. When setting a background on your desktop do not select a solid color. Though many people may like this solid color setting these solid backgrounds could cause up to a 30 second delay when booting up your computer. This problem was acknowledged by Microsoft. It is recommended that you simply change your background display to another image provided in your “Display Properties” under “Backgrounds.” This will make your boot up time much faster than if had set your background to a simple solid color setting.

Ditto - Enhanced Clipboard

Ditto is a program that can be run on Microsoft Windows computers. It is a program that, in it’s most basic form, saves in a little window toolbox everything you have copied and pasted. This is extremely useful because let’s say that you have a web page with a list of contact names and numbers that you want to copy and paste but in order to get all the information you want you have to highlight and copy all the unwanted stuff in between. With Ditto you can copy all the small portions of the information you want and it will automatically store that information in your Ditto tool box in the order you copied them. Then when you have all the information you need all you have to do from the Ditto toolbox double click on each section you copied and it will past on your word document, e-mail, or browser page. There is no length limit or format changing with your copy. The files are also encrypted to protect unwanted viewers from seeing perhaps a copy and pasted password or account number that was saved in your box. It will also store those saved texts for as long as you want them there. You may delete them from your box at any time or keep coming back to them over and over. Just go to link: http://www.ditto-cp.sourceforge.net

With Ditto you will never have to go back and re-highlight a document to re-copy and paste again. It saves it for you so if you lose something or mess up on what you pasted and where. Ditto makes it fast and easy. This tip only just brushes the surface of what Ditto has to offer. You can change hot keys to paste something you use a lot. Ditto has many more options and it isn’t that hard to learn. The website also provides its users with a good help menu and video tutorials.

by Huck Stewart - USU Student

has been involved with UEN’s Steering Committee for several years. Victoria respects and values her staff. She goes to great lengths to meet the needs of each trainer and works with their schedules to ensure work assignments are divided equally and fairly. She provides the staff a lot of creative room to develop new projects and teach in innovative ways.

Congratulations to Victoria Rasmussen, as the recipient of the 2010 UCET Outstanding Technology Leader of the Year.

Outstanding Technology Educator Pat Lambrose

Pat is a technology facilitator for Salt Lake City District. As such, she works with teachers in their classrooms to help them become technology proficient educators. Pat works in all phases of technology implementation and integration, but has made the diffusion and infusion of GIS software her mission for the past few years.

Very early on, Pat recognized the value and utility of GIS in the classroom and has made that one of her missions. She has worked to obtain grants and discounts so that at present, every student and teacher computer can have ArcGIS software installed at no cost to the school or district.

Pat recently developed and implemented the Entrada GIS field camp for teachers. (the project is now called Rio Mesa). In October 2009, 15 teachers and teacher-trainers spent three days near Moab for an intensive, hands-on GIS field experience. Pat took care of all the details--food, agenda, obtained grants to provide GPS units for the participants, arranged for faculty of U of U and SLCC to provide training.

Pat spends a large amount of time “off the clock” working to get GIS into schools. She has created several working groups bringing school technology leaders and GIS leaders from government and industry together to push a GIS curriculum at the state level including CTE and Concurrent enrollment. This is still being debated and considered by USOE, but Pat’s determination will help see it through. She has the strong skill of identifying key participants for her projects, then convincing them to join her team.

Pat Lambrose is truly an outstanding educator and technologist.

Congratulations to Pat Lambrose, as the recipient of the 2010 UCET Outstanding Technology Educator of the Year.

Jack Erickson Excellence in Technology Services Award - BJ Peterson

BJ Peterson has done an outstanding job at Central Utah Educational Services (CUES) for many years. He tirelessly strives to better serve each of the 7 districts in his region. With BJ, it is a ‘one stop’ shop. If he cannot solve the problem at hand, which isn’t often, he will find out how to solve it and follow-up on it in short order. He is someone you can leave a task with and not have to worry about how or when it is going to be completed.

BJ has extensive knowledge in all technical areas. He is familiar with the OSI model and can engineer, deploy, and maintain the majority of Cisco and HP switches/routers. He is also at the top of the pack in his knowledge of Apple hardware/software support.

BJ is constantly applying his skills throughout the region and is open to suggestions and concerns. He takes it upon himself both professionally and personally to better himself through self-study and any technical training that applies to the job.

BJ has a great attitude when it comes to sharing his expertise. He has the attitude of “The more I can share, the more the districts can be self-reliant”.

BJ is a role model in his job at CUES. Congratulations to BJ Peterson as the recipient of the 2010 Jack Erickson Excellence in Technology Services Award.
2010 UCET Grants for UCET Conference Participants!

Each year UCET provides teachers who attended UCET the opportunity to apply for a $1250.00 grant for technology hardware. UCET grants can be used to purchase technology hardware through UCET vendors.

Over the past couple years since UCET began this effort, over $10,000 in grants have been awarded to Utah teachers!

There are some limitations you must abide by to get a UCET grant. The grant cannot be used to pay for software, online learning, online purchases (such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble), conferences, lodging, travel, food, speakers and other similar requests. UCET grants are to be used to purchase technology hardware through UCET vendors.


Any attachments you may wish to include with your UCET grant proposal must be e-mailed to Ross Rogers ross.rogers@canyondistrict.org by March 31, 2010 at 5 pm.

Deadline for grant is March 31, 2010 at 5 pm. Grants will be assessed using the rubric provided at the UCET conference.

Award winners will be announced on Thursday, April 15th on the UCET website. Grant winners will also be notified by phone. Teachers whose grant proposal will not be funded, will be notified by e-mail by April 15th.

   Link to the 2010 UCET Grant Application Form:
   http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dFBNbVFHY2pZUE9IN29RdTAzbUdGVFE6MA

   Link to the 2010 UCET Grant Application Rubric.
   http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pRyEZleDZM0tjPiu1bORLCA&single=true&output=html

Travel with UCET to the ISTE Conference in Denver!

UCET has chartered a bus to travel to the ISTE 2010 conference in Denver, Colorado. The conference will be held June 27-30, 2010 at the Colorado Convention Center. Click on the flyer thumbnail to learn more! You will have the opportunity to register during the conference - and those that do will be entered for a drawing of for a free conference registration (valued at $207).

Sign up for the UCET/ISTE Bus!

Link:  https://www.xpressbillpay.com/portal/payment_forms/?id=MjU2Mw==

Hotel Fact Sheet (PDF)

Link:  http://ucet.org/inUCETnew/frontpage/HotelFactsheet.pdf

Link to Hotel Website:


UCET would love to have you participate with us. ISTE promises to be a great conference this year! For more information about the conference, visit the ISTE site:  http://www.iste.org/
Blue Coat® K9 Web Protection is a Web Content filter originally designed for businesses but now is available for home and family as a free service. K9 has 69 content categories along with adjustable degrees of filtration. Some of these categories include pornography, hate speech, violence and gambling. Parents are able to see a report of web usage. They can monitor and block access to the web at specific times of day.

K9 is easy to download, setup and configure. The only requirement is contact information and a password for later adjustments and filter overrides. If an individual needs access to a website that is blocked, one only needs to enter the password and may select the duration of allowed access. K9 is compatible with Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 2000, and Mac OSX, 10.4.7 and later.

Another really cool feature is advertisement blocking. When a website displays an inappropriate advertisement, all the advertisement will display is a message from K9 informing the user that the current advertisement is being blocked. The user is still able to view all other content within the web page. For more information visit:

Link: [http://www1.k9webprotection.com/](http://www1.k9webprotection.com/)

By Kevin Jackson - USU Student

Selections from the K9 Website FAQ:

**How do I get K9 Web Protection?**

In your Internet browser, go to www.getk9.com. This is a Web site designed for parents. Read the information there, and if you decide you would like to install K9 on your computer, click on “Get K9 Now!”

**I’ve heard that some filtering software blocks Web sites that aren’t really inappropriate, which can be really annoying. Does K9 do that?**

K9 Web Protection has one of the lowest over-blocking rates around. The engine that powers K9 is designed for commercial customers, who, quite naturally, don’t want their employees to become non-productive because of a mistake in their filtering solution. So we’ve taken great care to not over-block. For example, K9 will allow you to access breast cancer sites, while blocking nudity or pornography. K9 will allow access to drug treatment and information sites, while blocking access to sites that promote or glamorize illegal drug use. The engine that K9 uses to decide which Web sites are inappropriate for children is more sophisticated than many other programs.

**Why are you giving away this software?**

Blue Coat Systems has been very successful selling a version of this software to Fortune 500 companies and other large corporations. When we became successful, and were looking for ways to give back to our communities, we realized that one valuable thing we could offer was a free version of our Web filtering service for home users. K9 Web Protection is part of the Blue Coat Community Outreach Program. We began this program because we know that if you have children who use the Internet, you are an Internet Parent, and you deserve support.

We believe children’s safety on the Internet is a worldwide social issue that requires local community action. Internet Parenting involves more than just installing Web filtering software. Being a successful Internet Parent includes having rules for when and how your kids can use the Internet, monitoring where they go on the Internet, and blocking sites you don’t want them visiting.

The Blue Coat Community Outreach Program offers support for Internet Parents. To learn more, go to


**Can I use K9 Web Protection for my business, school, or community organization?**

Yes, you can, but for businesses, schools, and other institutions, we would need you to contact us for pricing. K9 is free for home use only.

**Did You Know?**

Pornography is a $57 billion a year industry. In comparison, the combined revenues of all teams in the NBA, NHL, MLB, and NFL is $12 billion, and the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, and NBC is a mere $6.2 billion.

1 in 4 youth have unwanted exposure to inappropriate pictures each year.

Nine of 10 kids aged 8-16 have viewed pornography on the Internet, often in the process of doing homework.

Students were most at risk for cybersex compulsions due to a combination of increased access to computers, more private leisure time, & developmental stage characterized by increased sexual awareness & experimentation. Both computer classes & colleges might need to recognize this increased vulnerability and institute new primary prevention strategies.

“Cyber-sex is the crack cocaine of sexual addiction” - Jennifer P. Schneider, M.D., Ph.D.

One in five children ages 10-17 have received a sexual solicitation over the Internet.

For references to these and more facts - see...

**Applications Available for 2010 NSTI Faculty Fellowship Program**

The NASA Science and Technology Institute announces a new summer faculty fellowship program. This fellowship program targets full-time, early career, STEM faculty from minority institutions in the United States.

Faculty Fellows will engage in a ten-week research experience with scientists and engineers at NASA’s Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif. Additionally, the fellowship recipients will receive professional development training and a stipend to cover housing, travel and living expenses.

A primary goal of the fellowship program is to strengthen the relationship between NASA and the minority higher education community. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and must return to their home institutions in a teaching/research capacity for at least one year after the fellowship.

Applications are due April 1, 2010.

For more information, visit [http://www.uncfsp.org/NSTI-FFP](http://www.uncfsp.org/NSTI-FFP)

Please direct any questions about this opportunity to program manager Natalie Gore at natalie.gore@uncfsp.org.

**Become a MESSENGER Educator Fellow**

The MESSENGER Educator Fellowship Program seeks 30 educators to become the next MESSENGER Educator Fellows. The Fellows are volunteers who bring the excitement of the MESSENGER mission to Mercury.

Fellows will attend an all-expense-paid, five-day workshop in Washington, D.C., in July 2010. Fellows will also receive materials needed to conduct workshops and an annual allowance to cover workshop expenses.

Applications are due April 10, 2010.

For more information about the MESSENGER Educator Fellowship Program and how to apply, visit [http://messenger-education.org/teachers/ao.php](http://messenger-education.org/teachers/ao.php)

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to Harri Vanhala at HarriVanhala@ncesse.org.

**NASA Needs Your Ideas!**

NASA Education welcomes your ideas! For a limited time, visit [opennasa.ideascale.com](http://opennasa.ideascale.com) to provide feedback on any of the following questions, as well as general ideas you may have about the way NASA does business. The feedback that you provide will be used in important planning and development at NASA, and you may have a say in our next exciting breakthrough in education, technology, science and exploration. Hurry – this unique opportunity ends March 19, 2010.
American Sign Language (ASL) is a wonderful skill that takes patience, time and dedication to learn. Lifeprint.com is an informative easy, user-friendly website that will help you learn and understand the skill of sign language. This website provides tutorials of not only how to teach ASL but also how to acquire the skill.

The website also provides interactive activities where viewers can practice what they have learned. For example, there is a great program that uses animations of finger-spelling and spells words for the viewers. The viewer must read the animations and type their answer in the space provided after which they find out whether they answered correctly. The viewer is able to select how long or short the words that are presented and at what speed. This is very helpful because as the viewer gets more advanced in their skills they can increase the speed and length of the finger signing.

The site links to the ASL University Lesson Plans page, where you will find a great collection of lesson plans, practice cards, PowerPoint presentations, and more.

These are some of the most popular American Sign Language sites on the internet. Go check them out.

Animoto

From their website: Animoto produces TV & film-quality music videos using your photos in just minutes.

Simply upload your images & video clips, then choose a song as the soundtrack to your video. Animoto will then analyze every nuance of the song, producing a totally unique video each time. No two videos are ever the same.

Videos can then be e-mailed, downloaded, exported to YouTube, burned to DVD, and placed on your website, blog or MySpace.

Animoto’s founders have produced shows for MTV, Comedy Central & ABC, studied classical music in London, played in rock bands in Seattle and developed software in Japan. They have developed a patent-pending, Cinematic Artificial Intelligence that thinks like an actual editor and director.

Spread your message to users on social networking sites. Post easily to MySpace, Facebook, Bebo and YouTube. Capitalize on the power of social networks.

Use Animoto videos to convey a message with the right balance of information and emotional connection. Attract your audience back to your site.
Join NASA in celebrating Sun-Earth Day on March 20, 2010

Sun-Earth Day is comprised of a series of programs and events that occur throughout the year culminating with a celebration on or near the spring equinox. For Sun-Earth Day 2010, take a journey into the heart of the electromagnetic force and learn how magnetism, an everyday force that makes motors work, sticks notes to our refrigerators and keeps electricity flowing to our houses, plays a key role in understanding the sun and is responsible for the most violent explosions in the solar system -- magnetic storms.

Over the past 10 years, the NASA Sun-Earth Day team has sponsored and coordinated education and public outreach events to highlight NASA Heliophysics research and discoveries. The SED team's strategy involves using celestial events, such as total solar eclipses and the transit of Venus, as well as Sun-Earth Day during the March equinox, to engage K-12 schools and the public in space science activities, demonstrations and interactions with space scientists.

On March 20, 2010, join the Sun-Earth Day team for a live Sun-Earth Day webcast from the exhibit floor of the National Science Teachers Association conference in Philadelphia. For this webcast, the team will combine forces with the award winning NASA EDGE team known for their offbeat, funny and informative look behind the NASA curtain. Webcast guests will include scientists, educators and students who will demonstrate the power of magnetism and why we care about magnetic storms.

For more information and educational resources, including posters, fliers, postcards and an educator kit, visit the Sun-Earth Day Web site at http://sunearthday.nasa.gov/2010/about/index.php.

Questions about Sun-Earth Day events should be e-mailed to Elaine Lewis at Elaine.M.Lewis@nasa.gov.

Wimba Support Resources

This is just a reminder of the training and support resources that are available for Wimba. UEN has compiled these resources on a single web page:

http://www.uen.org/wcs

Wimba also provides 24x7 technical support by phone at 866-350-4978 or online at http://wimba.com/support

Training for Wimba is available from several sources:

Higher Education - through each institution’s faculty assistance center.

UEN’s Professional Development group also offers a free online course for Wimba

http://profdev.uen.org/pdms/register/course_details/118

The Wimba website provides guides, videos, and live or archived workshops that you can freely access to learn to make the most of Wimba tools.

http://www.wimba.com/services/instructor/classroom/
http://www.wimba.com/company/events/demos/
http://www.wimba.com/company/events/wow/
http://www.wimba.com/company/events/dls/

Thanks to Scott Allen, Learning Systems Administrator at the Utah Education Network (UEN) for sharing this information.

Link: http://www.uen.org
**6+1 Trait Writing**

Carol Robertson suggests 6+1 Trait Writing. She says, “http://thetraits.org/ doesn’t have games, but is a very good site for practicing the 6 traits of writing.” From the website: “The 6+1 Trait® Writing framework is a powerful way to learn and use a common language to refer to characteristics of writing as well as create a common vision of what ‘good’ writing looks like. Teachers and students can use the 6+1 Trait model to pinpoint areas of strength and weakness as they continue to focus on improved writing.”

Link: [http://educationnorthwest.org/traits](http://educationnorthwest.org/traits)

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**Traffic Jam**

Suggested by Shauna Jensen, Traffic Jam is a game where students use logical thinking to change places with the fewest number of moves. Goal:

Equal numbers of people face each other with one open slot between them. Everybody faces the open slot. If there are 6 people there will be 7 slots, 6 of which must always have people in them.

People must attempt to exchange places without turning around, so that a configuration that begins as:

```
-> 1 2 3 4 5 6 <-
```

will end up:

```
<- 4 5 6 1 2 3 ->
```

with everybody facing away from the empty slot in the middle.

Link: [http://mathforum.org/workshops/sum96/traffic.jam.html](http://mathforum.org/workshops/sum96/traffic.jam.html)

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**ReadWriteThink**

Suggested by Shauna Jensen, ReadWriteThink is partnered by the International Reading Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, and Thinkfinity. Every lesson plan on ReadWriteThink has been aligned not only to the IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts but to individual state standards as well.

Link: [http://www.readwritethink.org](http://www.readwritethink.org)

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**Multiplication.com**

Also suggested by Carol Robertson, this site contains many resources that a teacher can use to teach multiplication facts.

Link: [http://www.multiplication.com/](http://www.multiplication.com/)
Calculation Nation

Suggested by Shauna Jensen, this is a long list of science teaching tools, organized by grade level (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12). As an example, one tool is “Nowhere to Hide.”

This interactive tool is based on the classic story of evolution by natural selection—the story of the peppered moths in England during the Industrial Revolution. Although scientists have recently determined that this story is flawed and needs revisited, it still provides ideas necessary to help students understand related concepts.

In this activity, there are green and orange bugs (analogous to the moths in England) that live in green leafy trees. As in real life, birds eat these bugs—usually the ones they can see the best. Located close to the bugs is a factory that spews out pollution that turns the trees orange. This affects how well the birds can see the different colored bugs, thereby impacting the survival of the bugs.

This is just one of many hundreds of tools listed on this site.


Test Your Reaction Time

Suggested by Shauna Jensen. Part of the Science on BBC website. See how fast your reaction time is to the thousandth of a second.

Link: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/sleep/sheep/reaction_version5.swf](http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/sleep/sheep/reaction_version5.swf)

Explore the Solar System

Watch video clips from classic BBC television programmes about the Solar System. The videos cover topics including the planets, moons and astronauts from series such as The Planets, The Sky at Night and Horizon. Coming soon: Content from the radio archive as well as more video clips and topics. Suggested by Nathan Smith.

Link: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/solarsystem/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/solarsystem/)

Calculation Nation

Link: [http://calculationnation.nctm.org/](http://calculationnation.nctm.org/)

Calculation Nation™ uses the power of the Web to let students challenge opponents from anywhere in the world. At the same time, students are able to challenge themselves by investigating significant mathematical content and practicing fundamental skills. The element of competition adds an extra layer of excitement.

“The games on Calculation Nation™ provide an entertaining environment where students can explore rich mathematics,” said Jim Rubillo, Executive Director of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). “Through these games, students are exposed to the same mathematical topics that they see in class as well as those that are recommended in Curriculum Focal Points.”

Calculation Nation™ is part of the NCTM Illuminations project, which offers Standards-based resources that improve the teaching and learning of mathematics for all students. Its materials illuminate the vision for school mathematics set forth in NCTM’s Principles and Standards for School Mathematics and Curriculum Focal Points.

Thanks again, Shauna!
Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!

**Illuminations**
Suggested by Shauna Jensen - resources for teaching math.
Link: http://illuminations.nctm.org/
Activities Link: http://illuminations.nctm.org/Activities.aspx?grade=2

**The Scientific Method Webpage**
Suggested by Shauna Jensen - this page teaches students the scientific method
Link: http://learnedtech.com/method/

**Ricci Adams’ Music Theory.net**
Suggested by Jermie Arnold, and featured in our December 2005 UCET Newsletter, MusicTheory.net is a site that contains lessons, ear trainers, and utilities for teaching music theory.
Link: http://musictheory.net/

**SmartMusic.com**
Also suggested by Jermie Arnold. A commercial site, you can explore SmartMusic’s huge and growing library of band and orchestra titles, with solo contest pieces and popular method books.
Link: http://www.smartmusic.com/
Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!

**Create & Share Timelines**

From the website: “When we developed the timeline tool, our friends thought of many ways to creatively use the timeline. Some of them thought the timeline could become a great public service, a resource for history education and for debate over current issues. Others wanted to create biographical timelines for celebrities and their scandalous relationships.

The ability of these timelines to entertain and educate convinced us that other people would enjoy our timeline as much as we do. And that’s how xtimeline came to have a home of its own. Suggested by Nathan Smith.

Link: [http://www.xtimeline.com/](http://www.xtimeline.com/)

**Make Your Case!**

Suggested by Juleen Smith. She says, “Students play the role of an attorney in a civil case against one of their classmates. Students can also play as teams.” From the website: “Think you’ve got the Seventh Amendment down? Then it’s time to Make Your Case. Take part in this courtroom trial simulation and learn how important our right to a trial by jury is.

You’ll play the role of an attorney in a civil case against one of your classmates. You can also play as teams.

Bring your best game, because we’re keeping score. Each player or team of players will score points for asking witnesses the correct question or making the right objection.”

Link: [http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3752426](http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3752426)

**Biology in Motion**

Suggested by Julie Marsh.


**Learn Genetics - U of U site**

Julie Marsh says, “This is through the U of U and I use this site a lot for genetics.”

Link: [http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/](http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/)
Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!

**Blender 3D Application**

Suggested by Ren Shore, and featured in the July 2008 UCET Newsletter - Blender is the free open source 3D content creation suite, available for all major operating systems under the GNU General Public License.

Link: [http://www.blender.org/](http://www.blender.org/)

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**Sumanas’ Biology Animations**

Suggested by Julie Marsh - “Great videos and simulations on physiology, cells, and genetics”


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**BBC Human Body Interactive**

Suggested by Julie Marsh, she says, “Game dealing with organ structure and placement .”

Link: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/body/interactives/3djigsaw_02/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/body/interactives/3djigsaw_02/)

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**PBS - Evolution Home**

Another suggestion by Julie Marsh. See says of this site, “I use this site for some simulations dealing with evolution.”

ARTSEDGE — the National Arts and Education Network — supports the placement of the arts at the center of the curriculum and advocates creative use of technology to enhance the K-12 educational experience. ARTSEDGE empowers educators to teach in, through, and about the arts by providing the tools to develop interdisciplinary curricula that fully integrate the arts with other academic subjects.

ARTSEDGE offers free, standards-based teaching materials for use in and out of the classroom, as well as professional development resources, student materials, and guidelines for arts-based instruction and assessment.

A program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, ARTSEDGE is also a partner of Thinkfinity, a consortium of national education organizations, state education agencies and the Verizon Foundation. Thinkfinity Content Partners develop free, standards-based, discipline-specific educational Web sites for K-12 teachers and students.


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### Multimedia

- **Digital Camera in the Classroom**
- **Digital Video Projects**
- **Podcasting**
- **Google SketchUp**
- **Dig. Camera II: Adv. Photo Editing**
- **Create Educational Games**

### Productivity

- **Working with Windows**
- **PowerPoint 2007 for Teachers**
- **Google Tools**
- **Excel 2007 for Teachers**
- **Advanced PowerPoint (2007)**

### Strategies and Resources

- **Effective Teaching w/ Visual Media**
- **Multimedia Projects**
- **The GPS Classroom**
- **Use Technology to Teach**
- **USU Instructional Architect Workshop**

### Web Publishing

- **Web Publishing for Teachers**
- **Dreamweaver Part 1**
- **Dreamweaver 1.5: Review & Practice**
- **Dreamweaver Part 2**
- **Dreamweaver Part 3**

### Mac Classes

- **Make the Most of Your Mac**
- **Digital Video with iMovie**
- **iLife Projects**

### Online Classes

**NOTE:** Registration closes 10 days prior to first day of class shown here. Time is needed for access and orientation.

- **UEW-255 Workshops**
- **Internet Safety for Educators**
- **Teaching w/ Digital Video Online**
- **Pioneer Online**
- **WebQuests**
- **Six Technology Projects (STP)**
- **Google Tools Online**
- **my.uen for Web-enhanced Classrooms**
- **LearnKey: PowerPoint (Windows Only)**
- **LearnKey: Word (Windows Only)**
- **LearnKey: Excel (Windows Only)**
- **Dreamweaver 1 Online**
- **Dreamweaver 2 Online**
- **Wimba for Collaborative Classrooms**

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Link: [http://profdev.uen.org/pdms/register/view_course_by_month](http://profdev.uen.org/pdms/register/view_course_by_month)
Utah’s Hogle Zoo - Meet the Animals!

Link: https://www.hoglezoo.org/meet_our_animals/animal_finder/

From the website: Welcome to Hogle Zoo’s animals database. We have information on all of the animals that we have at our zoo. Please use the right sidebar to perform searches on our database by an animal’s region, type, or a cross-reference of the two, or by searching for an animal by name. You may also view animals that are on the Species Survival Plan (SSP), or that are endangered or threatened, or that are native to Utah. Enjoy! (Animals in our database: 243)

You can search the animal database by region or animal type (or do combination searches).

Animal Planet - Wild Animals A-Z!

Link: http://animal.discovery.com/animals/wild-animal-guides.html

Looking for information on animals? Try Animal Planet’s Wild Animals A-Z site...

MAMMALS A TO Z: What are mammals? How are they different from other animals? How many species are there? Why are they warm-blooded? What advantages do hair and sweat offer? What’s the real reason they’re the dominant land animals? Why do elephants have trunks? How big is a blue whale? How does kangaroo hopping work? Find out the answers to these and many more questions in Animal Planet.com’s ultimate guide to mammals.

BIRDS A TO Z: What sets birds apart from other animals? Are they really “bird-brained” or are they actually quite smart? What’s the world’s largest bird? What’s the smallest? What’s the highest flying bird in the world? Are penguins actually great parents? Do all ducks quack? How do hummingbirds hover?

INVERTEBRATES A TO Z: What are invertebrates? How much do they have in common with one another? What are the different types? What makes an insect different from a worm? What do corals and jellyfish have in common? Just how intelligent are octopuses? What’s the world’s largest invertebrate?

REPTILES A TO Z: What separates reptiles from other animals? What does it mean to be cold-blooded? Can reptiles walk on water? How many different kinds are there? How do snakes kill their prey? Is the saltwater crocodile the world’s largest reptile? How long can turtles live?

FISH A TO Z: How do fish breathe underwater? What are their fins for? How do they swim? Can certain fish breathe air or survive on land? How many types of fish are there, and what are they? What is the world’s smallest fish? What’s the biggest?

AMPHIBIANS A TO Z: What makes amphibians so unique? What are they like as tadpoles? How do they change in order to live a life on land? When did they first evolve? Are most of them going to go extinct? What’s the largest living amphibian? Do frogs need to drink water? If a salamander loses its tail, will it grow back? How are toads different from frogs? Find out the answers to these and many more questions in Animal Planet.com’s ultimate guide to amphibians.

Photos at right ©2010 by Nathan Smith
Miniature Laser Projector Now Available to U.S. Customers

Microvision announced that it would begin U.S. sales of its miniature laser-based PicoP projector beginning March 24, 2010. The projector that was featured in our November 2007 newsletter has finally come to market! It has great potential for educational use. Depending on ambient light, users can project DVD quality images from a mobile device that are up to 200 inches across. The images are generated from ultra-miniature laser light sources at a native resolution of WVGA (848x480), and are in sharp focus without the use of lenses. This means you can project images on any surface, even curved surfaces, and the image will stay focused.

Web Store Opens for U.S. Sales of the Standard Edition SHOWWX on March 24

Microvision plans to begin taking on-line orders through its web store at 12 noon, EST, starting on March 24th for its award-winning SHOWWX laser pico projector. The “Made for iPod(R)” SHOWWX laser pico projector Standard Edition comes with accessories and an optional VGA dock to connect to a variety of mobile devices. The iPhone(R)-sized Standard Edition is priced at $549.

A blog entry from “The Last Gadget Standing-CES 2010” blog states, “The SHOWWX uses lasers instead of LEDs, fluorescent, or incandescent lights. This means, of course, that the accuracy and resolution is stunning. In addition, the color gamut is much higher than we’re used to seeing. It also means much cooler operation, and never having to replace some exotic bulb.”

The real potential market for the PicoP projection system is embedding them into mobile devices such as phones, laptops, etc. The Samsung Beam (Halo) Android projector phone is one of the first to incorporate a pico projector, although it’s not the Microvision device.

Light Blue Optics Light Touch

Light Touch™ is an interactive projector that instantly transforms any flat surface into a touch screen. It frees multimedia content from the confines of the small screen, allowing users to interact with that content just as they do on their hand held devices – using multi-touch technology.

Light Touch™ has Holographic Laser Projection (HLP™) technology inside which creates bright, high-quality video images in WVGA resolution. Integrated infrared sensors detect motion and turn the projected image into a 10.1” virtual touch screen, so the user can control the projector and interact with applications simply by touching the image.

Link:  http://lightblueoptics.com/products/light-touch/
NASA Teams With USA TODAY to Create the No Boundaries Project and Student Contest

NASA has teamed with USA TODAY Education to create the “No Boundaries” project and national student competition. This project is designed to help students explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The effort also offers students the opportunity to learn more about NASA.

Working at NASA is like exploring space. No boundaries define what professionals do; knowledge and skill sets are constantly expanding. Becoming a NASA professional is challenging, but it is also achievable. If an individual has the curiosity, creativity, determination and problem-solving skills necessary, then the opportunities at NASA are limitless.

The goal of this project is for students to work in small groups to develop a creative project (Web site, video, podcast, song, etc.) that markets careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to teens. These student groups will then present their projects to their classmates and a class of younger peers.

The No Boundaries Web site includes a Teacher Toolkit and step-by-step instructions for teachers to implement the project in the classroom. Background information and links to Web sites with career information are also provided.

After presenting their projects, groups are encouraged to enter them in the No Boundaries National Competition. All contest entries must be submitted to USA TODAY Education no later than April 15, 2010.

To learn more about the project and contest, visit the No Boundaries Web site at

http://www.usatoday.com/educate/nasa/index1.html

Please e-mail any questions about the No Boundaries Competition to Maria Dubuc at mdubuc@usatoday.com.

NASA Gives Teens Their “Space” With New Web Site

NASA’s Science Mission Directorate has launched Mission:Science, a new Web site created specifically for teenagers. Through Mission:Science, teens can access current NASA spacecraft data for school science projects, conduct real experiments with NASA scientists and locate space-related summer internships.

Mission:Science showcases NASA’s educational science resources and encourages students to study and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. While NASA provides a vast amount of online STEM information for students of all ages, Mission:Science boosts the content available for this age group.

The site also features social networking tools, links to enter science contests or participate in a family science night, information about college research programs, and an array of NASA images, animation, videos and podcasts.

Visit Mission:Science at

http://missionscience.nasa.gov.

Questions about the Mission:Science Web site should be e-mailed to missionscience@lists.hq.nasa.gov.
**Young Scientist Challenge**

Do you have what it takes to be America’s Top Young Scientist? Discovery Education and 3M are looking for students in grades 5-8 to inspire us with their enthusiasm for science. The winner will receive $50,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds and much, much more! To enter, simply send us a video about the science of everyday life. This year’s video topics focus on the science of safety and security. Learn more about the Discovery Education 3M Young Scientist Challenge and enter today!

THE PRIZE: Ten finalists will receive an all-expenses paid trip to New York City to compete in the final challenge in October. One winner will receive $50,000 in US savings bonds, a tour of 3M’s Innovation Center in St. Paul, MN, and the title of America’s Top Young Scientist.

TO ENTER: By May 27, students in grades 5 through 8 must visit http://youngscientistchallenge.com to submit one-to-two minute videos explaining the science behind a possible solution for one of four safety and security issues.

SPONSORED BY: 3M (3m.com) and Discovery Education (discoveryeducation.com)

Source: T.H.E. Journal

**Plan Activities Now for Earth Science Week 2010**

Earth Science Week 2010 (October 10-16) won’t take place for some months - so now is the perfect time to start planning your activities! Don’t wait until the hectic first weeks of the next school year. Take this opportunity to make a wish list: How would you like your students celebrate Earth Science Week 2010?

You can promote this year’s theme - “Exploring Energy” - by planning activities to help your students learn the geoscience behind Earth’s climate. Consider some of the energy-related links offered by leading Earth Science Week partners such as USGS, NASA, the U.S. Department of Energy, and ExxonMobil at http://www.earthsciweek.org/themebasedresources/index.html

And conduct activities featured on the Earth Science Week website at http://www.earthsciweek.org/forteachers/classroomactivities.html

Leading up to the October celebration, you’ll see more and more Earth Science Week events, both local and nationwide, listed online at http://www.earthsciweek.org/eventsnearyou/index.html

For more ideas, read about successful past events at http://www.earthsciweek.org/highlights/index.html

or see recommendations on how to get involved at http://www.earthsciweek.org/forplanners/index.html

**Study: Light Science Fire Before Middle School**

Key childhood experiences that sparked scientists’ initial interest in the subject may come earlier than middle school, according to a new study by Robert Tai of the University of Virginia’s science education program and Adam Maltese of Indiana University’s geological sciences program.

The researchers analyzed 76 interviews of scientists and graduate students for experiences they reported that first engaged them in science. Analysis indicated that these key events happened at an earlier age than reported in much previous research. The majority (65 percent) of participants reported their interest began before middle school.

Results also confirmed science instruction trends that may favor male students, Tai said. He related his experience as a former high school physics teacher, when many experiments involved throwing objects like arrows and darts. “A lot of those types of examples are not related to the experience of most females,” Tai said. “The study highlights the importance of gender equity in school science.”

The analysis had implications for education policy. “We’re concerned that policy right now is so focused on secondary students and usually centers on just making them take more science and math,” Maltese said. “Our results indicate that current policy initiatives likely miss a lot of students who may be interested early on.” For more about the study, see http://www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=11207
New Education Materials Available at NASA.gov

The Educational Materials section of NASA’s Web site offers classroom activities, educator guides, posters and other types of resources that are available for use in the classroom. Materials are listed by type, grade level and subject. The following items are now available for downloading.

**Let’s Fly Away Airplane Dodecahedron -- Grades K-4**

A regular dodecahedron is made of 12 pentagons. Students learn about NASA aircraft as they build a geometric form to hang from the ceiling or place on a shelf.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Lets_Fly_Away.html

**Engineering Design Challenges Brochure -- Grades 5-12**

This brochure describes educator guides with challenges for the classroom. Students can experience challenges similar to those faced by NASA engineers. Teams work with their teachers on challenges that help students achieve national goals in science and mathematics, as well as develop thinking skills.

The brochure also lists NASA design projects that go beyond the classroom. These projects include the HUNCH project (High Schools United With NASA to Create Hardware), NASA’s Great Moonbuggy Race, Student Launch Initiative and the Team America Rocketry Challenge.


**Navigating by Good Gyrations Activity -- Grades 7-12**

Gyroscopes are simple devices that seem to defy gravity. They are important to NASA because they help spacecraft such as the International Space Station and the Hubble Space Telescope stay on course. Teachers can use a spinning bicycle wheel to demonstrate how a gyroscope works. This demonstration contains four gyro “tricks” with explanations of why the gyro behaves as it does. The demonstration has definitions for inertia, momentum, angular momentum, centripetal force and linear momentum. After demonstrating how gyros work, teachers can give examples of how gyros are used in spacecraft. The activity also includes discussion questions.


**NASA: Your Future and Ours Poster -- All Grades**

Several members of NASA’s family have shared their stories on this poster. Read about Al Condes, Pedro Rodríguez, José Matienzo, Jaqueline Cortez, Alma Stephanie Tapia, Monsi Cerezo Román, Ellen Ochoa, Michael López-Alegria and Franklin Chang Díaz. Then insert your pictures and your own story onto the poster.

English Version:

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Your_Future_and_Ours_Poster.html

Spanish Version:

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreeducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Tu_Futuro_y_el_Nuestro_Poster.html

**Our Solar System Lithograph Set -- All Grades**

This lithograph set features images of the planets, the sun, asteroids, comets, meteors and meteorites, the Kuiper Belt and Oort Cloud, and moons of the solar system. General information, significant dates, interesting facts and brief descriptions of the images are included.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreeducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Our_Solar_System_Lithograph_Set.html

**Magnetic Math -- Grades 6-12**

This collection of mathematics-related problems pertaining to magnetism is the next logical step beyond what students explore in their middle school Earth science textbooks. The lab exercises prepare students to work the mathematics problems with a better understanding of magnetism. The variety of problems includes analyzing graphs, scientific notation, geometry and trigonometry. The problems call for students to apply mathematics and science concepts to understand the magnetic fields and magnetism. Each one-page assignment includes background information. One-page answer keys accompany the assignments.

International Space Station EarthKAM 2010 Mission

NASA has exciting news! EarthKAM has just launched a new beta version of its website. Middle school educators are invited to join NASA for the International Space Station Spring 2010 Mission from April 27-30, 2010, and be beta testers of the new site and software. Find out more about this exciting opportunity that allows students to take pictures of Earth from a digital camera aboard the International Space Station.

ISS EarthKAM is a NASA-sponsored project that provides stunning, high-quality photographs of Earth taken from the space shuttle and the space station. Since 1996, ISS EarthKAM students have taken thousands of photographs of Earth by using the World Wide Web to direct a digital camera on select spaceflights and, currently, on the International Space Station.

For more information about the project and to register for the upcoming mission, visit the ISS EarthKAM home page:

http://www.EarthKAM.ucsd.edu

If you have questions about the EarthKAM project, please e-mail: ek-help@earthkam.ucsd.edu.

New Robotics Module in NASA's Do-It-Yourself Podcast

NASA uses robots in the form of aircraft, arms, space probes and telescopes. These robots do everything from explore the solar system to build new rockets. Your students can create a podcast about robots using NASA audio and video clips, images, and information. NASA Education’s newest DIY Podcast topic module is entitled “Robots.”

This module features NASA robotic systems engineer Fernando Zumbado discussing robots and how NASA uses them. The module’s 22 video clips include Mars rover animation and B-roll footage of several NASA robots. The Robots module also has 11 audio clips. Students download these NASA multimedia materials and edit them with their own recordings and narration to create a podcast.

Other DIY Podcast topic modules are:


Students can build multimedia projects, while teachers meet national education standards.

A companion blog offers tips and suggestions for incorporating the DIY Podcast into the classroom.

To learn more and to start making podcasts, visit http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/diy/podcast/index.html

Create Your Own RSS Feeds:

RSS, short for “Really Simple Syndication,” is a way for web publishers to produce automatic content updates to their website. From Wikipedia: “Web feeds benefit publishers by letting them syndicate content automatically. They benefit readers who want to subscribe to timely updates from favored websites or to aggregate feeds from many sites into one place. RSS feeds can be read using software called an “RSS reader”, “feed reader”, or “aggregator”, which can be web-based, desktop-based, or mobile-device-based. A standardized XML file format allows the information to be published once and viewed by many different programs. The user subscribes to a feed by entering into the reader the feed’s URI or by clicking an RSS icon in a web browser that initiates the subscription process. The RSS reader checks the user’s subscribed feeds regularly for new work, downloads any updates that it finds, and provides a user interface to monitor and read the feeds.”

An educator could use an RSS feed in many ways. One would be to publish a daily update on class activities, news, homework assignments, etc. Another would be to do a class podcast.

For many, the task to create their own RSS feed seems daunting. It’s not. Rather it’s quite simple. I found a great set of step-by-step instructions that are clear and easy to follow. You can find them at...

http://www.make-rss-feeds.com/
Transform your text into word clouds!

Back in February 2009, we introduced you to Wordle, and word cloud generator that we used for the 2009 cover of the UCET program. Guy Durrant suggested another site that also does word clouds. Paraphrasing the website: “Welcome to WordItOut. Simply enter some text and create your word cloud! You can customize many settings before generating your word cloud. After it has been generated, you can share your word cloud, or keep it private. You can even embed it into your own website.

What is a word cloud? It’s an attractive arrangement of randomly positioned words, where the most important words are bigger than the others. You can see an example at the right.

What are word clouds for? That’s up to you! Some people use them to summarize documents, reports or even answers to questionnaires. Others simply think they look nice as pieces of art. Teachers can make lessons more fun with them too.”

Link: http://worditout.com

WolframTones - Using A New Kind Of Science To Create A New Kind Of Music

Link: http://tones.wolfram.com/

From the website: “When prominent scientist Stephen Wolfram published A New Kind of Science in 2002, it was immediately hailed as a major intellectual landmark. Today the paradigm shift that Wolfram’s work initiated is starting revolutions in a remarkable range of areas of science, technology–and the arts. WolframTones is an experiment in applying Wolfram’s discoveries to the creation of music.

At the core of A New Kind of Science is the idea of exploring a new abstract universe: a “computational universe” of simple programs. In A New Kind of Science, Wolfram shows how remarkably simple programs in his “computational universe” capture the essence of the complexity--and beauty--of many systems in nature.

WolframTones works by taking simple programs from Wolfram’s computational universe, and using music theory and Mathematica algorithms to render them as music. Each program in effect defines a virtual world, with its own special story--and WolframTones captures it as a musical composition.

It's all original music--fresh from “mining” Wolfram’s computational universe. Sometimes it's reminiscent of familiar musical styles; sometimes it's like nothing ever heard before. It's a taste of what it's like to explore the computational universe--and a hint of what's to come...”

Take a Virtual Tour of Paris with a 26 GigaPixel Photo

Link: http://www.paris-26-gigapixels.com

Welcome to Paris!

Paris 26 Gigapixels is a stitching of 2346 single photos showing a very high-resolution panoramic view of the French capital (354159x75570 px). Dive into the image and visit Paris like never before!

You can zoom in or out. Many of the more famous landmarks are marked, and when you click on them, it will open a text field explaining the landmark. You'll enjoy just how closely you can zoom in on objects in the image!
The WorldWide Telescope

Link:  http://www.worldwidetelescope.org/

The WorldWide Telescope (WWT) is a Web 2.0 visualization software environment that enables your computer to function as a virtual telescope—bringing together imagery from the best ground and space-based telescopes in the world for a seamless exploration of the universe.

Choose from a growing number of guided tours of the sky by astronomers and educators from some of the most famous observatories and planetariums in the country. Feel free at any time to pause the tour, explore on your own (with multiple information sources for objects at your fingertips), and rejoin the tour where you left off. Join Harvard Astronomer Alyssa Goodman on a journey showing how dust in the Milky Way Galaxy condenses into stars and planets. Take a tour with University of Chicago Cosmologist Mike Gladders two billion years into the past to see a gravitational lens bending the light from galaxies allowing you to see billions more years into the past.

WorldWide Telescope is created with the Microsoft® high performance Visual Experience Engine™ and allows seamless panning and zooming around the night sky, planets, and image environments. View the sky from multiple wavelengths: See the x-ray view of the sky and zoom into bright radiation clouds, and then crossfade into the visible light view and discover the cloud remnants of a supernova explosion from a thousand years ago. Switch to the Hydrogen Alpha view to see the distribution and illumination of massive primordial hydrogen cloud structures lit up by the high energy radiation coming from nearby stars in the Milky Way. These are just two of many different ways to reveal the hidden structures in the universe with the WorldWide Telescope. Seamlessly pan and zoom from aerial views of the Moon and selected planets, as well as see their precise positions in the sky from any location on Earth and any time in the past or future with the Microsoft Visual Experience Engine.

WWT is a single rich application portal that blends terabytes of images, information, and stories from multiple sources over the Internet into a seamless, immersive, rich media experience. Kids of all ages will feel empowered to explore and understand the universe with its simple and powerful user interface.

Microsoft Research is dedicating WorldWide Telescope to the memory of Jim Gray and is releasing WWT as a free resource to the astronomy and education communities with the hope that it will inspire and empower people to explore and understand the universe like never before.

How do you start exploring? Click the top of the Guided Tours tab and then click the Welcome thumbnail to watch a guided tour showing you how to navigate in WWT.
Overview

Windows® SteadyState™ 2.5 is now available on Windows XP and Windows Vista. Whether you manage computers in a school computer lab or an Internet café, a library, or even in your home, Windows SteadyState helps make it easy for you to keep your computers running the way you want them to, no matter who uses them.


Validation Required

Before Windows SteadyState can be installed, you are required to validate that your computer is running genuine Microsoft Windows. As described in the privacy statement, Microsoft will not use the information collected during the validation process to identify or contact you. By running genuine Microsoft Windows®, you can download and install Windows SteadyState, as well as enable certain product features and obtain non-security updates and product support from Microsoft. For more information, see the Windows Genuine Advantage Web site.

SteadyState Helps Make it Easier to Manage Your Shared Computers

Shared computers are commonly found in schools, Internet and gaming cafes, libraries, and community centers. It is increasingly common for owners, teachers, or non-technical personnel to manage shared computers in addition to their many other responsibilities.

Managing shared computers can be difficult, technically challenging, time-consuming, and expensive. And what’s more, without system restrictions and protections, users can inadvertently change the desktop appearance, reconfigure system settings, and introduce unwanted software, viruses, and other harmful programs. Repairing damaged shared computers can require significant time and effort.

User privacy is also an issue for shared computer environments. Shared computers often use shared user accounts that make Internet history, saved documents, and cached Web pages available to subsequent users.

Windows SteadyState provides a more effective way to help defend shared computers from changes by untrusted users and unwanted software installations. It can also help safeguard system resources.

Windows SteadyState Features

Windows SteadyState includes the following features to help you manage your shared computers:

- **Getting Started** – Provides the initial steps to help you during your first time use of Windows SteadyState.
- **Windows Disk Protection** – Help protect the Windows partition, which contains the Windows operating system and other programs, from being modified without administrator approval. Windows SteadyState allows you to set Windows Disk Protection to remove all changes upon restart, to remove changes at a certain date and time, or to not remove changes at all. If you choose to use Windows Disk Protection to remove changes, any changes made by shared users when they are logged on to the computer are removed when the computer is restarted.
- **User Restrictions and Settings** – The user restrictions and settings can help to enhance and simplify the user experience. Restrict user access to programs, settings, Start menu items, and options in Windows. You can also lock shared user accounts to prevent changes from being retained from one session to the next.
- **User Account Manager** – Create and delete user accounts. You can use Windows SteadyState to create user accounts on alternative drives that will retain user data and settings even when Windows Disk Protection is turned on. You can also import and export user settings from one computer to another—saving valuable time and resources.
- **Computer Restrictions** – Control security settings, privacy settings, and more, such as preventing users from creating and storing folders in drive C and from opening Microsoft Office documents from Internet Explorer®.
- **Schedule Software Updates** – Update your shared computer with the latest software and security updates when it is convenient for you and your shared users.

Protect Your Windows PC with Microsoft’s Steady State

Paint.NET

Source: TechRepublic - 10 Free Microsoft Programs Worth Checking Out.

Paint.NET started as a computer science project at Washington State University. But it was such a good image and photo editing product (as well as an exceptional example of the .NET Framework technology in action), Microsoft hired the two developers, Rick Brewster and Tom Jackson, and has allowed them to continue improving the application and offering it as a free download. Paint.NET has a great user interface (Figure A) and it's easy to use. It provides all the essential image editing features you need, plus layers, special effects, and support for a wide range of image formats. Paint.NET also has quite a following on the Internet, and you can find lots of help, tutorials, and plugins -- and it supports Windows 7!

Link: http://www.getpaint.net/

Visual Web Developer 2008 Express Edition

Source: TechRepublic - 10 Free Microsoft Programs Worth Checking Out.

If you're Web site developer at any level, you need to investigate Visual Web Developer 2008 Express Edition. This easy-to-learn, easy-to-use development environment makes it a snap for anyone to create Web sites or small applications. Mainly aimed at the amateur or intermediate-level developers, Visual Web Developer 2008 Express Edition provides professional-level features that will allow you to create a wide variety of Web sites, from the most basic HTML to more advanced ASP.NET pages or SQL Server databases. You can get started by viewing an introductory video that covers the main features of this package and walks you through some of the most common tasks.

Link: http://www.microsoft.com/express/Web/

XML Notepad 2007

Source: TechRepublic - 10 Free Microsoft Programs Worth Checking Out.

If you need a basic, yet powerful XML editor, you'll want to investigate XML Notepad 2007. The user interface features a tree view pane on the left that provides a color-coded view of classes, tags, and values. On the right, the main text editor pane shows all text, which is synchronized and color matched to its associated identifier on the left. You can even customize the colors and choose fonts to your liking. Other features include drag and drop, find and replace, incremental search, instant XML schema validation, a built-in XML Diff tool, and much more. You can learn more about the XML Notepad 2007 Design on MSDN.


Virtual PC 2007

Source: TechRepublic - 10 Free Microsoft Programs Worth Checking Out.

Windows 7 supports Windows Virtual PC and Windows XP Mode. However, if you are running Windows Vista or Windows XP, you can still download and use the free Microsoft Virtual PC 2007 package, which will allow you to run multiple operating systems at the same time on the same physical computer. Virtual PC 2007 is easy to install and easy to use. You can install your own copies of Windows in Virtual PC 2007, but at the time of this writing, Microsoft has several preconfigured VHDs (virtual hard drives) containing sample copies of Windows XP and Vista that you can download and install in Virtual PC 2007 for testing purposes. You can find another Vista evaluation here.

Chalk House: Improving Literacy Through Virtual Worlds

Suggested by Robert Bentley: This run-down mansion was once the ancient home of wealthy pioneers, now known to locals as Chalk House. The old house has a history waiting to be discovered. Students take on the role of a young reporter newly arrived at the Farewell Telegraph. This reporter investigates the strange disappearance of the last living members of the Forrester family, last seen entering this haunted place.

Based on research into problem-based learning and the use of other similar learning environments, when students solve the puzzles of the old house and file their reports with The Editor, their writing skills can be expected to improve along with critical thinking and reading comprehension.

Student progress is tracked and reported to the teacher throughout the 20 hours of online content with more hours spent on writing exercises. Chalk House can be used over differing periods of time depending on classroom needs.

Link: http://created-realities.com/chalkhouse.html

NobelPrize.org Educational Games

Suggested by Robert Bentley: You don’t have to be a genius to understand the work of the Nobel Laureates. These games and simulations, based on Nobel Prize-awarded achievements, will teach and inspire you while you’re having FUN!

Link: http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/

DimensionU

Suggested by Robert Bentley: “Welcome to DimensionU, a prestigious game-based training facility for K-12 students. In DimensionU, you can access multiplayer educational video games that help you hone your skills, connect with friends, climb the ranks and have a blast.”

Link: http://www.dimensionu.com/math/

YouTube Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoFsMIsuKSo

The Learning Network: Teaching & Learning with the New York Times

From Valerie Allen: “Thanks Nathan for doing such a good job with the newsletter. Here is a site I have recently come across and quite like. I don’t know if it has been promoted before. It includes features for students like word of the day and current event discussions, as well as great resources for teachers.” Thanks, Valerie!

Link: http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/
An Idea From Lisa Pettegrew:
Have the Students Create Their Own Games using PowerPoint

“As far as games are concerned, I taught my students to write their own interactive games using PowerPoint this year. They had a lot of fun doing this.

The assignment: Use Ancient Greece as your platform and write a game based on a story or event from Ancient Greece. I received all types of games from the Trojan Horse to Greek Olympics. Students used the Action buttons, Action settings, Mouse over, and Hyperlinks to set up the games. There were mazes which flipped them to a “You Lose” card if they touched the sides of the maze or a “You Win” card if you were successful. When they finished one challenge a “Mouse Click” on a Hyperlink took them to the next level and a new challenge. They also used the Motion Paths under the custom animation menu to devise flying arrows and other objects which they had to dodge, and a variety of other techniques to write their games.

I felt this was a first step on the path to writing programs. Parents loved viewing and playing the games during Parent-Teacher Conferences last week.”

Interactive, Educational Websites Suggested by UCET Members!

PowerPoint Games

Randy Christensen says, “An Internet site which I like is at http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/PPT-games/. It provides free PowerPoint templates, some of which are based on popular TV shows such as Who Wants To Be a Millionaire, Wheel of Fortune, and Jeopardy. With these as a foundation, a teacher can plug in questions and answers that fit the curriculum content. The technical work is already done. As a learning experience, students could enter the questions and answers from research they have done, then have other class members play the game.

As an example, I have attached two files. One is the original template for Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader? In PowerPoint, a person would click on the question slides and on the answer slides to add text.

The second file shows the finished product, with questions and answers concerning the development of the atomic bomb. Play the slide show. It starts with the theme song on the first slide. On the next slide, click on a grade and topic for a question. Individuals or the class would have a chance to respond. The next slide shows the correct answer. After the question, click on the bottom money box at the left to show a dollar amount. The game would continue until the 1,000,000 is reached, or wrong answers prove that the players aren’t smarter than 5th graders.” Thanks, Randy.

Link: http://jc-schools.net/tutorials/PPT-games/

Math Playground

This site was suggested by many members. Nora Bone says, “My favorite site is Math Playground. I like this site because of the diversity of manipulatives, the math videos, the thinking blocks, the logic puzzles, etc. It is not just flashcards and worksheets, even though it has those as well.”

Link: http://mathplayground.com/

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Gamequarium

Suggested by Pamala Ama. The site advertises itself as, “Gamequarium- The site that swims with learning fun!”

Link: http://www.gamequarium.com/

Google Earth Flight Simulator

Ren Shore comments, “I’ve been watching kids play with the flight simulator that is built into the latest version of Google Earth. Kids are spending time with it over doing their regular work. It has interesting locations (The world) and lets kids try flying.

Pete’s PowerPoint Station

Pamala Ama writes, “Nathan, Great job on the Dec. newsletter. That is just the kind of information I can use. You also have to include Pete’s Powerpoint Station. It is full of powerpoints on any subject and includes interactive. It is my favorite site. Also check out Gamequarium.”

Link: http://pppst.com/

Carl’s Corner

MarJean Davis says, “I hope you don’t mind me getting back with you. I would like to share another website with you. It’s not online games but it’s one of my favorite sites. It called Carls Corner.

I would label it a K-3 website. It’s mainly activities to print off and use. I have a SmartBoard and use a lot of the resources on the Smartboard. I really love the word family sections and the Little Book Lane. I use this site for a lot of my resources. In fact a couple of years ago she quit teaching and had to change the domain name of her site. It took me a while to find her new site and I was feeling kind of stressed. I hope this might help some how.” Thanks, Marjean, for the lead!

Link: http://www.carlscorner.us.com/
Preschool Pioneer

Lisa Cohne from UEN writes, “Please share the Preschool Pioneer Online Library with UCET folks. Utah is one of only 8 states that does not publicly fund preschool for all children in the state. UEN has created Preschool Pioneer Library modeled after the successful Pioneer Library for that critical and underserved Utah population, 3-6 year olds. We have vetted the games (Letter, Numbers and Me) on Preschool Pioneer to be only high quality, intriguing and FREE. In addition, we have access to PBS Kids Play - a site that currently costs $80 for a one year subscription. UEN has the opportunity to provide a FREE year subscription for many families across the state I am happy to meet with parents, caregivers, principals, and teachers who work with young children or families with young to provide this additional opportunity lcohne@media.utah.edu.” Thanks, Lisa!

Link: http://preschool.uen.org/

Change Maker

Mendy Gardner suggests Change Maker as a good learning site for working with currency. Part of the FunBrain site, Change Maker’s challenge is to “Figure out how many of each bill or coin that you expect to get back when you pay for something. For example, if something costs $3.75 and you pay with a five dollar bill, you would expect back one quarter and one dollar bill.”

Link: http://www.funbrain.com/cashreg/index.html

Fact Monster

Michelle Peterson suggests Fact Monster, “Childrens Encyclopedia All ages Elementary.”

Link: http://www.factmonster.com/
Storyline Online - Children's Stories Read by Actors

Link: http://www.storylineonline.net/ (suggested by Raegan Fay)

- To Be a Drum, by Evelyn Coleman; read by James Earl Jones
- Guji Guji, by Chih Yuan Chen; read by Robert Guillaume
- Sebastian's Roller Skates, by Joan De Deu Prats; read by Caitlin Wachs
- Sophie's Masterpiece, by Eileen Spinelli; read by CCH Pounder
- Stellaluna, by Janell Cannon; read by Pamela Reed
- Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, by Mem Fox; read by Bradley Whitford
- No Mirrors in My Nana’s House, by Ysaye M. Barnwell; read by Tia and Tamera Mowry
- The Night I Followed the Dog, by Nina Laden; read by Amanda Bynes
- Thank you, Mr. Falker, by Patricia Polacco; read by Jane Kaczmarek
- My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother, by Patricia Polacco; read by Melissa Gilbert
- Knots on a Counting Rope, by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault; read by Bonnie Bartlett and William Daniels
- Brave Irene, by William Steig; read by Al Gore
- A Bad Case of Stripes, by David Shannon; read by Sean Astin
- Private I. Guana, by Nina Laden; read by Esai Morales
- Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch, by Eileen Spinelli; read by Hector Elizondo
- The Polar Express, by Chris Van Allsburg; read by Lou Diamond Phillips
- Me and My Cat, by Satoshi Kitamura; read by Elijah Wood
- Dad, Are You the Tooth Fairy, by Jason Alexander; read by Jason Alexander
- When Picasso Met Mootisse, by Nina Laden; read by Eric Close
- White Socks Only, by Evelyn Coleman; read by Amber Rose Tamblyn
- Romeo and Drollet, by Nina Laden; read by Haylie Duff
- Enemy Pie, by Derek Munson; read by Camryn Manheim

Spring Activities!

Now that the snow is melting and plants are starting to grow, this is a great time to learn about them.

The Life Cycle of Plants:

Link: http://www2.bgfl.org/bgfl2/custom/resources_ftp/client_ftp/ks2/science/plants_pt2/index.htm#

The USDA Plants Database:

The PLANTS Database provides standardized information about the vascular plants, mosses, liverworts, hornworts, and lichens of the U.S. and its territories.

Link: http://plants.usda.gov/

PlantCare.com's Plant Encyclopedia Database

Plant guide and identification information on over 2,200 plants.

Link: http://www.plantcare.com/encyclopedia/
ISTE Regional Reception - June 29

We have been invited to participate in a regional reception (CO, AZ, NM, UT & WY) at the ISTE Conference on Tuesday, June 29th, from 5:30-7:30 pm. AZTEA has organized it and has 4 sponsors which are covering the cost for the event. It will be held at the Lucky Strike Bowling Alley which is only 3 blocks from the convention center. There will be no cost to us and any UCET member is invited to attend. The only thing they ask we provide is an approximate head count so they can plan for food (finger food). If you’re interested in attending, please RSVP at...

http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dDRrNnJWSHhyclloNFZOZyYtWtc1RIE6MQ

UCET Grant Winners Announced!

UCET Congratulates the following recipients of the UCET 2010 Technology Grants!

**Merrie Smithson**
Salt Lake City School District
Lincoln Elementary
Grant Amount: $1380
Project: Increasing Access to Core Curriculum for Preschool Students with Disabilities Using Interactive White Board Technology
Description: Merrie will use her UCET grant for the purchase of Eiki projector and Mimio Interactive System to facilitate academic readiness in an accessible interactive format for preschool students who have mild to profound disabilities. She received some matching funds from the special education preschool consultant and the Benevolent Order of Elks.

UCET Vendors: Webb Audio Visual and Backbone Communications

**Melia Fidel**
Murray School District
Murray High School
Grant Amount: $1250
Project: Mustang Productions
Description: Jim will use his UCET grant for purchase of video camera and software for his class to produce podcasts, book trailers, and stop motion animation projects on math and World War II. Jim received some matching funds from his school as well as some donated audio visual equipment.

UCET Vendors: Troxel and Apple

**Rebecca Reber**
Nebo School District
Mt. Nebo Jr. High
Grant Amount: $729
Project: English Department Peer Editing Project
Description: Rebecca’s principal, Kaye Isakson, has agreed to match Rebecca’s UCET grant for the purchase of iPod Touches for Media Center. Teachers will be able to check out iPods for classroom activities that support their curriculum.

UCET Vendor: Apple

**Marianne F. Bates**
Library-Media Teacher
Albion Middle School Library
Grant Amount: $1175.50
Project: Creating Excitement in the Library with Student Response Systems
Description: Marianne’s school has agreed to match her UCET grant for the purchase of a Smart Response System to use with students and teachers to deliver library core orientations and core curriculum in her school’s Media Center. Teachers may check out Smart Response system to use with their classes as well.

UCET Vendor: Chariot Group

**James Ellison**
Alpine School District
Manila Elementary
Grant Amount: $1250
Project: Mustang Productions
One dream the internet brought close to reality is having access to all knowledge mankind has gathered. All the books, news, multimedia, history, current thinking - it's almost all there.

Google Books adds another dimension to this effort - albeit a controversial one. What is Google Books?

Think of Google Books as an online library. You can search the full text of books, and find the perfect book for your purposes and discover new ones that interest you.

Book Search works just like web search. Try a search on Google Books or on Google.com. When it finds a book with content that contains a match for your search terms, it links to it in your search results.

If the book is out of copyright, or the publisher has given us permission, you'll be able to see a preview of the book, and in some cases the entire text. If it's in the public domain, you're free to download a PDF copy.

They have created reference pages for every book so you can quickly find all kinds of relevant information: book reviews, web references, maps and more.

If you find a book you like, click on the “Buy this book” and “Borrow this book” links to see where you can buy or borrow it.

Currently, they are connecting readers with books in two ways: the Partner Program and the Library Project. The Partner program allows authors another avenue to sell their works. Google scans each book and places it online at Google books. By searching, users find these books, and Google allows a limited preview - enough so the user can decide whether to purchase the book or not.

The Library Project is an ambitious effort to create a “card catalog” of all the world’s books. Google is working with several major libraries to include their collections in Google Books and, like a card catalog, show users information about the book, and in many cases, a few snippets – a few sentences to display the search term in context.

When you click on a search result for a book from the Library Project, you’ll see bibliographic information about the book, and in many cases, a few sentences showing your search term in context. If the book is out of copyright, you’ll be able to view and download the entire book. In all cases, you’ll see links directing you to online bookstores where you can buy the book and libraries where you can borrow it.

The Library Project’s aim is simple: make it easier for people to find relevant books – specifically, books they wouldn’t find any other way such as those that are out of print – while carefully respecting authors’ and publishers’ copyrights. Google's ultimate goal is to work with publishers and libraries to create a comprehensive, searchable, virtual card catalog of all books in all languages that helps users discover new books and publishers discover new readers.

Link: http://books.google.com
Webpage Screenshot by Amina. Have you ever needed to capture an entire webpage, even the part that scrolls off the screen? I've had to quite often, so I've ended up taking a screen capture of what I could see, then scrolling down to the next part and taking another screen capture, and so on until I've got it all. Then I'd go into Photoshop and meticulously stitch them all together into one image.

No longer! A Google Chrome extension (add-on) can automate this for you instantly. It's called Webpage Screenshot. You'll need to have the Google Chrome browser installed on your computer to use it.

Link to Google Chrome download: http://www.google.com/chrome?hl=en&brand=CHMI

Link to Google Chrome Extensions: https://chrome.google.com/extensions?hl=en-US

Once installed in Chrome, the Webpage Screenshot extension will add a camera icon up in the extensions area in the upper right corner. (see #1 above) Go to the webpage you wish to capture and then click the camera icon. Webpage screenshot will gather all the page information, and you'll see it counting up the number of pages it has captured. After a moment of processing you'll see the webpage preview with a link that says, “Click here to open the image.”

Click the link, and a page will open with the title, “Webpage Screenshot” (3) You have the choice of viewing the image in various percentages. Remember, the page is just an image (a PNG) - so at this point you can right-mouse-button click on the image (or Control-Click on a Macintosh), and choose to save the image to your hard drive.

I've tested it out on a number of webpages, and it has worked flawlessly with one exception. I tried to do the UCET Newsletter page - which took Webpage Screenshot 28 images to stitch together. It crashed on my OSX 10.6.3 Macintosh, and I had to force quit Chrome. However, on Windows XP it worked just fine. Mac issue?

The thing I like about this is that if you try to save a webpage any other way, such as the “save as webpage” option in your browser, or capture a webpage in Acrobat, you loose a lot of formatting - and often the saved webpage looks little like the original. This method of capturing an image of the page preserves the look and feel exactly.

It's a “Fast & Simple extension to capture the whole webpage. Even long pages are saved in one image file. Designers can choose to resize the window before capturing.

Your privacy is important, therefore this is a local extension. It means that the extension doesn't send ANYTHING to any server. It can work even when there is no internet connection.” Give it a try!
Grant: up to $15 million for the development of high-quality charter schools

“The purpose of the Charter Schools Program (CSP) is to increase national understanding of the charter school model and to expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the nation by providing financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools, and to evaluate the effects of charter schools, including their effects on students, student academic achievement, staff, and parents.

SEAs use their CSP funds to award subgrants to non-SEA eligible applicants for planning, program design, and initial implementation of a charter school, and to support the dissemination of information about charter schools, including successful practices in charter schools.

Grant Information:

Grant Organization: U.S. Department of Education
Contact URL:
Eligibility: State Education Agencies (SEAs) in states with a state statute specifically authorizing the establishment of charter schools
Grant Deadline: Friday May 7th, 2010
Grant Value: Six to 10 awards of up to $15 million

Source: eSchoolnews

Nature By Numbers
My good friend, Dr. Eric Packenham, Utah State University professor of education, suggested that I have a look at Cristóbal Vila’s “Nature By Numbers” video.

Link: http://vimeo.com/9953368
It’s described as “a short movie inspired on numbers, geometry and nature.”

Go to...
http://etereaestudios.com
...if you are looking for more information: the theory behind the movie (Fibonacci, Golden Ratio, Delaunay, Voronoï…), stills and screenshots showing the work in progress. There are lots of free training materials and 3D workshops, too.”

Math teachers, this is a fun site to explore! Enjoy.
Free NASA CD-ROM: Adventures in Airspace Systems Education


NASA Adventures in Airspace Systems Education is a computer CD-ROM for Mac OS9 or higher or Windows XP, NT, 2000. It requires a browser, Flash player, and Quicktime. An internet connection is required to view auxiliary materials. The CD-ROM is available as a downloadable ISO disk image. Most CD & DVD burning programs can turn an ISO image back into an exact duplicate of the original CD.

The CD-ROM includes the following educational programs:

**Virtual Skies (Grades 9-12+)** - The metaphor of air traffic management allows students to engage in real-life decision-making scenarios in the areas of geography, meteorology, statistics, and aeronautics.

**Future Flight Design (Grades 5-8)** - Problem-based learning in this interactive web site teaches students about forces and motion, engineering design, and aerospace engineering.

**Robin Whirlybird (Grades K-4)** - Teachers, students, and homeschoolers alike will enjoy this online, interactive storybook about one girl’s visit to a rotorcraft research center where her mother works.

Free NASA CD-ROM: Exploring Aeronautics


Exploring Aeronautics is designed for classroom use in grades 5-8. This exciting educational CD-ROM offers an introduction to aeronautics, covers the fundamentals of flight, contains an historical timeline, examines different types of aircraft and teaches students to use the tools of aeronautics used by researchers to test aircraft designs. This teacher-paced software includes lively animations, Quicktime movies and student activities promoting the use of the scientific method in the world of aeronautics. Also, take time to visit quest.arc.nasa.gov

Free Imagine the Universe DVD - 13th Edition

http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/reference/ImagineDVD/start.html

This is a NASA produced DVD that contains four astronomy education web sites captured in January 2009. It provides information, beautiful images, and learning adventures for all ages and grade levels. I’ve included links to the captured websites below.

**Starchild** - general astronomy for grades K-8

Link: http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html

**Imagine the Universe!** - exotic objects and topics in our universe for grades 7 and up.

Link: http://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov/

**Astronomy Picture of the Day** - beautiful images and explanations for all ages.

Link: http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html

**Cosmic Times** - a historical retrospective showing how astronomy changes on human timescales.

Link: http://cosmictimes.gsfc.nasa.gov/

(Prepared and produced by members of the Astrophysics Science Division at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center to bring the excitement of their work to teachers, students, and the world.)

**Link to other NASA Educator Opportunities:** http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/opportunity/index.html
SciLab - MatLab-like Open Source Mathematics and Science Software

SciLab is widely used in high schools and universities to help model mathematical or scientific data. SciLab can be used as a tool for teaching and learning mathematics. Students can work independently and responsibly while learning mathematical concepts. Developed in Europe, SciLab is open source and free, and has a worldwide base of users that offer support, help, and extra features.

It is cross platform, with versions for Linux, Unix, Windows, and Mac OSX. It’s described as a “numerical computational package and a high-level, numerically oriented programming language. It can be used for signal processing, statistical analysis, image enhancement, fluid dynamics simulations, numerical optimization, and modeling and simulation of explicit and implicit dynamical systems. MATLAB code, which is similar in syntax, can be converted to Scilab.” (Wikipedia)

Main features
• Hundreds of mathematical functions
• High level programming language
• 2-D and 3-D graphics
• Advanced data structures and user defined data types
• Xcos: hybrid dynamic systems modeler and simulator

2-D and 3-D visualization
• Lines
• Pie charts
• Histograms
• Surfaces
• Animations
• Graphics export in many formats: GIF, BMP, JPEG, SVG, PDF...

Numerical computation
• Linear algebra
• Sparse matrices
• Polynomials and rational functions
• Simulation: explicit and implicit systems of differential equations solvers
• Classic and robust control
• Differentiable and non-differentiable optimization

Data analysis
• Interpolation, approximation
• Signal Processing
• Statistics

Extended features
• Graphs and Networks
• Interface with Fortran, C, C++, Java
• Functions for calling Scilab from C, C++, Fortran and Java
• LabVIEW Gateway

Link: http://www.scilab.org/

New! Google Drawings

With Google Docs drawings you can easily create, share, and edit drawings online. Here are a few specific things you can do:

• Edit drawings online in real time with anyone you choose, and invite others to view your edits in real time.
• Chat with others who are editing your drawing, from within the drawings editor.
• Publish drawings online to the world as images, or download them in standard formats.
• Insert text, shapes, arrows, scribbles, and images from your hard drive or from the Web.
• Lay out drawings precisely with alignment guides, snap to grid, and auto distribution.
• Insert drawings into other Google documents, spreadsheets, or presentations using the web clipboard, then tweak them inline.

With Google drawings, you can create and collaborate on flow charts, design diagrams, and other types of drawings. You can also chat with other editors from within Google drawings, publish drawings as images, or download drawings to your computer. To get started, just go to your Docs list, click Create new and select Drawings.

Once you’ve created your drawing, and have edited and shared it with others, you might want to insert it (embed it) in a Google document, for example. Use the web clipboard to copy the whole drawing, or any selection within the drawing, and paste it into your doc using the web clipboard. The embedded drawing is a copy of the original, and both can be edited independently after copying. So, if you need to make any minor changes to the drawing, you can edit it from within the document, using the embedded version of Google drawings. Simply click first the drawing and then the Edit link that appears. This version of Google drawings includes a more limited set of features.

You can use Google drawings to enhance your presentations. You may want to design complete slides within drawings and then use the web clipboard to paste them into your presentation when they’re complete.
Is Your Personal Data Really Deleted From Social Network Sites after You Delete It?

No, according to Zack Whittaker. He says that nearly a year after Cambridge University researchers found that major social networking sites didn’t erase server-side copies of your uploaded data, even though you deleted it - that some are still guilty of this issue.

In particular, Facebook still keeps copies of your deleted data. Facebook has a membership population as large as the third largest country in the world. That ends up being a lot of personal data being stored on their servers. Can you complain about it? Probably not, since it was part of the terms you agreed to when you signed up for Facebook (I’ll bet you, like me, didn’t really read through it all, either.)

Read Zack’s blog on ZDNet (Ziff-Davis Net)...

Link: http://blogs.zdnet.com/igeneration/?p=4808&tag=nl.e589

Eleven Reasons Advanced Technology Classrooms Fail


Michael David Leiboff wrote an article for Campus Technology detailing the major reasons technology classrooms fail. You’ll want to read the full article, with the detailed information he provides. Below are the eleven summary points he makes...

1. The tendency to integrate technology for the sake of creating a Smart classroom, rather than targeting pedagogy and meeting specific instructor teaching requirements.

2. Design motivated by the fear of making a mistake, by setting the goal of achieving maximum flexibility, rather than more closely targeting room design with proposed usage.

3. Failure to recognize that the ways technology will be used by teachers will naturally evolve over time.

4. Failure to identify a suitable technology quarterback—a representative of the institution who can serve as a conduit and technology advocate among the proposed academic users; representatives of the facilities or design and construction group; and the architects, engineers, and consultant team members who are charged with designing the new facilities.

5. Failure to take support and operational issues into account during the design and installation process by not hiring the chief tech support manager and allowing him or her to participate during these final implementation phases.

6. Failure to train new users in the use of classroom technology.

7. Failure to acknowledge and adequately respond to teacher’s natural resistance to change.

8. Failure to provide sufficient technical staff to adequately maintain the equipment, address technical problems quickly, and provide ongoing support for instructors who want to use the equipment.

9. Failure to recognize that initial equipment purchase and installation is only the beginning of the required funding stream. Ongoing maintenance and periodic equipment replacement, if not expansion, will be required over time.

10. Failure to conduct post occupancy followup surveys to determine perceived problems and obtain faculty insights about where improvements should be made.

11. Failure to organize and standardize classroom technology on an institution-wide basis.

A New Life for SciJinks!

If you think you’ve seen the SciJinks Weather Laboratory at SciJinks.gov, look again. It’s got a whole new persona to make its exciting content, games and multimedia more accessible than ever. SciJinks still has its Picture and Cool Fact of the day. It has “Wild Weather Adventure,” “Bad Weather Joke Machine,” and other fun and games.

SciJinks explains the reasons for the seasons, the tides, and other mysteries in colorful “now I get it!” pages. There are more images than ever and now videos too, and lots of help for teachers. Looking for information on hurricanes? SciJinks also shows you its content by topic: clouds, tides, oceans, atmosphere, seasons, satellites—you name it.

Visit or revisit SciJinks.gov and discover the treasures you missed before.

Link: http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/
A Deeper Look at Microsoft Office 2010

Ed Bott, who has written books about Microsoft products since 1994, wrote a four page article on his ZDNet blog entitled, “Office 2010: a deeper dive.” For those of you who were wondering about Office 2010 - what are the new features, is it worth the upgrade, what are the different packages Microsoft will sell? - this is a good article from an expert who has been immersed in Office 2010 for the past six months.

Link: http://blogs.zdnet.com/Bott/?p=2042&tag=nl.e539

Create Collaborative Google Maps

WikiMapps is a Brazilian website that allows anyone to create a collaborative Google Map. WikiMapps is from the same team behind the Brazilian crime map site Wikicrimes.

WikiMapps allows groups of people to share information about geographic locations. Once you have created a map other users can add comments to your mapped locations. For example, if you have created a WikiMapp about the best restaurants in a city other users can add their comments to your mapped locations. People can agree or disagree with your review of the restaurant or add extra information.

The site allows users to embed created maps in their own websites or blogs. WikiMapps also highlights the most popular and the most recently created maps on its homepage.

Link: http://wikimapps.com/


Google Virtual Keyboard for Search

Using a QWERTY keyboard to type search terms in some foreign languages can be difficult. To alleviate this problem, Google has just launched a virtual keyboard for search. The virtual keyboard for search is available for 35 languages supported by Google. To launch the virtual keyboard, simply click the keyboard icon that appears at the end of the search box when you’re searching in one of the 35 supported languages.

Microsoft Office 2007 Tutorials

If you're looking for some good Office 2007 tutorials to share with your students, this site has several.


The individual files/databases, created by each tutorial, are furnished. The site says, "Through the generosity of Microsoft and Lynchburg College, the 51 Office 97/98/2000/XP-2002/2003 and 2007 tutorials, contained on this website, are available, at no cost, to anyone who desires to download them. While the tutorials are Copyrighted, you may download, print and share them.

The tutorials are written at a 3rd to 4th grade level and are used by K-12 school systems, higher education institutions, home schoolers, charities, senior centers, out-of-work centers and businesses for Microsoft Office training.

Free Microsoft Mouse Mischief Enables Classroom Response System Using Mice

With Mouse Mischief you can spark student curiosity by incorporating interactive technology into the curriculum. Students have fun learning while seeing visual representations of their answers on a shared screen while using colorful mouse pointers (like a robot, snowflake, guitar, and many more shapes). You can enable collaborative learning when using Mouse Mischief in Team mode; in Team mode, all members of a team need to work together to agree on an answer before it can be selected.

...You no longer need to wait for raised hands; you can immediately see your students’ answers on the screen. Mouse Mischief helps make it easy for all students—even those who are often quiet in class—to participate regularly without the fear of saying the wrong answer. This can allow you to have better visibility into the progress and comprehension of your entire class so you can adjust your lessons on the spot.

Because Mouse Mischief integrates into familiar PowerPoint technology, you do not have to spend time learning new skills to use it. Additionally, you can set up your classrooms to play Mouse Mischief lessons without purchasing expensive hardware; many schools already have mice, and both mice and USB hubs are available at many stores where computer accessories are sold."

There are sample lessons on the site, videos explaining how it works, and more. It looks like it could be an alternative to buying classroom clickers, especially if you have extra computer mice in the storage closet.
Foundations offer $506 Million for Education Innovation

“A coalition of wealthy foundations is offering up to half a billion dollars to match federal grants meant to encourage education reform, taking the pressure off schools scrambling to find the matching dollars they need to get the money.

A dozen foundations plan to announce this week that they are investing $506 million, a portion of which is intended to match grants from the $650 million Investing in Innovation (I3) program from the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

The foundations also set up an internet portal for applying for matching funds from all the foundations in one step, streamlining the task of seeking money from multiple sources. School districts, schools, and other nonprofits have until May 12 to apply for the money, which will be paid out by the end of September.

Internet Portal Site: https://www.foundationregistryi3.org/

Education Secretary Arne Duncan said he was ecstatic about the foundations’ interest in the innovation program and called the partnership unprecedented.”

Source: eSchoolnews
Read Entire Article: http://www.eschoolnews.com/2010/04/29/foundations-offer-506m-for-education-innovation/

What if Lincoln Had Used PowerPoint for the Gettysberg Address?

From the website: “The Making of the Gettysburg PowerPoint Presentation

Why I did it - “Doesn’t he realize this presentation is a waste of time? Why doesn’t he just tell us what matters and get it over with?”

How many times have you heard (or muttered) that? How many of us have been frustrated at seeing too many presentations where PowerPoint or other visual aids obscure rather than enhance the point? After one too many bad presentations at a meeting in January 2000, I decided to see if I could do something about it.

How I did it - Back in my hotel room I imagined what Abe Lincoln might have done if he had used PowerPoint rather than the power of oratory at Gettysburg. (I chose the Gettysburg speech because it was shorter than, say, the Martin Luther King “I have a dream” speech, and because I had an idea for turning “four score and seven years” into a gratuitous graph.) A Google search easily found the text of the Gettysburg address, and several articles echoing my frustration, including USA Today writer Kevin Maney’s PowerPoint obsession takes off, which notes that PowerPoint was banned at Sun, and includes the Lincoln idea: “Put another way, imagine if Abe Lincoln had PowerPoint for the Gettysburg Address. ‘OK, this slide shows our nation four score and seven years ago.’” But as far as I could tell, nobody had actually written and published a Gettysburg PowerPoint presentation. (Note: a reader pointed out that John S. Rigden had an article in the March 1990 issue of Physics Today entitled “The Lost Art of Oratory: Damn the Overhead Projector” that also used the Gettysburg Address concept. David Wittenberg and Susan Hessler were nice enough to send me copies.) I started up PowerPoint and let the “Autocontent Wizard” help me create a new presentation. I selected the “Company Meeting (Online)” template, and figured from there I’d be creative in adding bad design wherever possible. I was surprised that the labor-saving Autocontent Wizard took care of all this for me! I selected the “Company Meeting (Online)” template, and figured from there I’d be creative in adding bad design wherever possible. I was surprised that the Autocontent Wizard had anticipated my desires so well that I had to make very few changes. Four of the slide titles were taken directly from the template; I only had to delete a few I didn’t need, and add “Not on the Agenda” after “Agenda”.

I wasn’t a professional designer, so I thought I’d be in for a late night doing some serious research: in color science to find a truly garish color scheme; in typography to find the worst fonts; and in overall design to find a really bad layout. But fortunately for me, the labor-saving Autocontent Wizard took care of all this for me! It suggested a red-on-dark-color choice for the navigation buttons that makes them very hard to see; it chose a serif font for the date that is illegible in low-resolution web mode, and of course Excel outdid itself on the graph, volunteering the 0.1 to 0.9 between the 0 and 1 new nations. All I had to do was take Lincoln’s words and break them into pieces, making sure that I captured the main phrases of the original, while losing all the flow, eloquence, and impact.”

Makes you think twice about creating that PowerPoint presentation, doesn’t it? You’ll want to look at the entire presentation...

Link: http://norvig.com/Gettysburg/making.html
NASA Introduces 4 New Educational Games Geared Toward Students in Grades K-8

**Build Your Own Space Mission -- Grades K-2**
In this interactive game, students choose a scientist, laboratory, spacecraft and destination as they design their own space mission. After packing the spacecraft into a rocket, they watch it blast off to their destination of choice.

Link: [http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/edu_game/](http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/edu_game/)

**Astro-Matic 3000 -- Grades K-8**
Use the Astro-Matic 3000 to learn how much you would weigh or how old you would be if you lived on another planet. Students also learn facts about each planet.

Astro-Matic 3000 supports the following national education standards and benchmarks:

- National Science Education Standards: Objects in the sky.
- National Science Education Standards: Earth in the solar system.
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standard: Recognize the attributes of length, volume, weight, area and time.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Astro-Matic_3000.html

**Let's Fly Away Airplane Dodecahedron -- Grades K-8**
In the interactive version, students click and drag the dodecahedron to see NASA aircraft. They also can read about the aircraft and print full color pictures or a coloring page. In the Build Your Own activity, students print, color and construct their own dodecahedron featuring 12 different NASA aircraft.

Interactive Dodecahedron Link:
[http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/club-house/Lets_Fly_Away.html](http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/club-house/Lets_Fly_Away.html)

**Put It Together Puzzle -- Grades K-6**
In this interactive online game, students build online puzzles of NASA pictures.

Put It Together supports the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standard:

* Understand patterns, relations and functions.

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Put_It_Together.html

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**Free File Recovery 1.1 (Windows)**
Free File Recovery is a freeware Windows utility to restore files that have been accidentally deleted from your computer. This includes files emptied from the Recycle bin as well as images and other files that have been deleted by user error from digital camera memory cards or MP3 players. It will even bring back files that have been deleted from your iPod, or by bugs, crashes and viruses.


Format: Software
Size: 3,822 KB
Date: Dec 2009
Version: 1.1
License: Free
Platform: Windows
System Req: Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5
Source: ZDNet

**Disk Space Fan 1.4.2.796 (Windows)**
Disk Space Fan is a nice disk space analysis tool for Windows. It helps you to free up disk space by quickly finding and deleting big, useless files. It displays disk space usage with a nice chart. You can navigate the folders easily with the chart. It is also integrated with Windows Explorer to open, delete and browse files or folders.


Format: Software
Size: 1,241 KB
Date: Mar 2010
Version: 1.4.2.796
License: Free
Platform: Windows
Source: ZDNet
FotoMorph 10.1.1 (Windows)

Link:  http://www.diphso.com/FotoMorph.htm

From ZDNet.com:  “FotoMorph is a free photo animation tool with a friendly user interface. Amaze your friends and family with unbelievable transformations. Morphing is an animation technique in which one image is gradually turned into another. FotoMorph lets you make incredible morphs in minutes. You’ve seen them in the movies and on TV, and now you can create them yourself. Turn a friend into a tiger. Watch your child grow into an adult. Unleash your imagination with the power of FotoMorph. FotoMorph is designed to create animations in real time. The rendering engine takes advantage of hardware acceleration, and the rendering speed easily goes up to several hundred FPS.”

From the FotoMorph website:  “FotoMorph enables you to create fun animations in a few easy steps. Each animation (or project) is composed by one or more Morph, Warp or Pan sequences. Your animation can have as many sequences as you like.

In a Morph sequence you transform one image into another. In a Warp sequence you make parts of an image move and deform. In a Pan sequence you zoom and pan between two portions of the same image.”

About.com reviews FotoMorph this way:  “For ad-supported freeware, FotoMorph does a fairly decent job of what it sets out to accomplish: it transitions one image to another over an animated timeline, whether morphing one image into another or applying warps/effects to a single image.”  About.com gives FotoMorph 4 out of 5 stars.

FotoMix v.6.1.1 (Windows)

Link:  http://www.diphso.com/FotoMix.htm

CNET describes FotoMix this way:  “FotoMix is an intuitive photo-editing tool that allows users to create dual-layer images, making it possible to add, remove, and combine elements. Although it doesn’t begin to compare to full-featured software like Photoshop, it’s not a bad choice for non-professional users who need something that’s quick and easy to use.

The program’s interface is quite simple, with the five-step photo-editing process arranged with buttons across the top. Users simply select a background image, select a foreground image, do the necessary editing on each, tweak the settings on the final composition, and save the result. We, for example, inserted a giant eggplant into the water in front of a small fishing village. We can’t say that it looked particularly realistic, but we can say that it is within the capabilities of FotoMix to combine elements from different images in a realistic way. We very rarely do any photo editing, but we found just about all of the program’s features to be intuitive, and the built-in Help file is well-written and thorough. We think that FotoMix is a great choice for users who don’t have much photo-editing experience but need a basic way to combine elements from different images or just perform basic edits and improvements on a single image; if nothing else, it’s an easy way to crop, rotate, and add text to images.

FotoMix is free, but does include advertising. The program installs a desktop icon without asking and leaves a folder behind upon removal. We recommend this program to all users.”

Quix - Your Bookmarklets, On Steroids

Quix is an extensible bookmarklet, that allows you to easily access all your bookmarks and bookmarklets, across all your browsers, while maintaining them in only one spot. All you have to do is remember the shortcut for the bookmarklet, so, basically, it’s like a command line for your browser!

Quix comes with an enormous amount of powerful commands built in: check out the demonstration video, or the first steps guide, after that, check out how to integrate it with your browser, and all the commands that are available by default. To add Quix to your browser, visit their website:  http://quixapp.com/
President Obama’s Educate to Innovate Plan

President Obama has launched an “Educate to Innovate” campaign to improve the participation and performance of America’s students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This campaign will include efforts not only from the Federal Government but also from leading companies, foundations, non-profits, and science and engineering societies to work with young people across America to excel in science and math.

As part of the campaign, this Administration hopes to do a series of events, announcements and other activities that build upon the President’s “call to action” and address the key components of national priority.

Read more about the Educate to Innovate plan, and link to governmental and business partners in the program.

Link: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/educate-innovate](http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/educate-innovate)

Join the Educate To Innovate Campaign With NASA’s Summer Of Innovation

NASA has launched an initiative to use its out-of-this-world missions and technology programs to boost summer learning, particularly for underrepresented students across the nation. NASA’s Summer of Innovation supports President Obama’s Educate to Innovate campaign for excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education.

The Summer of Innovation program will work with thousands of middle school teachers and students during multi-week programs in the summer of 2010 to engage students in stimulating math and science-based education programs. NASA’s goal is to increase the number of future scientists, mathematicians, and engineers, with an emphasis on broadening participation of low-income, minority students.

“This is an incredible opportunity for our administration to come together to address our nation’s critical science, technology, engineering and math education needs,” said NASA Administrator and former astronaut Charles F. Bolden. “Through Summer of Innovation, NASA is calling on our financial and human resources to align with federal, state, and local governments, nonprofit partners, universities and teachers to expand the opportunity for more of our young people to aspire to and engage in the future prosperity of our nation.”

Through competitive cooperative agreements to states, and partnerships with companies and nonprofits, NASA will use its substantial STEM assets -- including the agency’s scientists and engineers -- to create multi-week summer learning programs.

“NASA’s Summer of Innovation will increase the scope and scale of the agency’s commitment to a robust program of STEM education opportunities,” said Joyce Winterton, assistant administrator for education at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

The Summer of Innovation pilot will infuse NASA content and products into existing, evidence-based summer learning programs at the state level coupled with design competitions and events open to students and teachers nationwide. The program will culminate in a national event, in partnership with other departments and agencies.

NASA will use the Summer of Innovation as a catalyst to expand, align, and strengthen existing state-based networks. Awardees will be expected to implement the Summer of Innovation program and services during 2010 through the strategic infusion of NASA content and products into existing, evidence-based summer learning programs. The pilot program will seek to improve STEM performance for a diverse population of students, placing them on a trajectory to pursue further studies in STEM fields throughout their education. (Photo Credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls (L) & White House (R))

The Summer of Innovation Notice of Intent is available at...

Link: [http://nspires.nasaprs.com](http://nspires.nasaprs.com) and [http://www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

For other great educational opportunities and resources from NASA, please visit the NASA Educator Resource Center at Utah State University...

http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlnasa/opportunity/index.html
droplr for Macintosh

Droplr is a Mac program that is designed to make sharing on Twitter easier. You can download this small program for free and it will be added to your apps. Using Droplr you can easily drag and drop files to share. Those files have a wide range from pictures, to text, to screenshots. It will even store up to 1G of the files you share for free. Using Droplr is very straight forward and user friendly. If you’re a Twitter fan you’ll love Droplr to help you more efficiently share with your friends and Twitter followers.

Link: http://droplr.com/

NoSquint - Firefox Addon Let’s You See

See and read websites more easily. Zoom in on text and images simultaneously and set color levels for customized contrast on specific sites, or globally, for every site you see. Useful for those of us who squint to see a webpage, or persons with visual disabilities.

Elise Allen says, “In 2004 I noticed a gray blotch in my field of vision. Look left, there it was. Look right, yup, still there. It was the holiday season, but it turns out that gray blotch symptom gets you in to see an expert in a jiffy. Twenty-four hours later I was in surgery to reattach both of my retinas.

Even if you don’t have my unbelievably bad luck when it comes to your vision, chances are you’ll appreciate the NoSquint Firefox Add-on. You can zoom in on text and images and change background and foreground colors for a more readable contrast. Everything adjusts to make any website easier on your eyes.

Install NoSquint and you’ll see a magnifying glass icon in the bottom right of your browser window. Next to it is a percentage, indicating how much you’re zooming in currently. You can adjust settings by clicking on the icon, or by right clicking when you’re viewing a site, and choosing “NoSquint Site Settings” from the menu.”

Link: http://rockyourfirefox.com/2010/05/nosquint/

Revised Virtual Skies Now Available

NASA has just released the new face of Virtual Skies, an online interactive program introducing the key concepts in the world of aviation in six independent modules.

Your students will acquire and employ decision-making and collaborative skills while applying principles of algebra, geometry and calculus in each of these modules.

The science portion of these cross-curricular materials includes concepts involved in RADAR, sound and meteorology as it applies to flight. Each section includes online activities complemented by downloadable print materials that can be used in the classroom to supplement the geography, mathematics and science concepts.

Note: Each module can be used as a stand-alone lesson. Virtual Skies includes beautiful color graphics, problem-solving applications, a “Teacher’s Desk” guide to the on-
line program, and an extensive glossary that supports and reinforces the concepts taught in the modules.

The Virtual Skies modules include:

Overview: A brief listing of the aviation topics covered in the selected module, supporting activities and a description of an application case study.

Tutorial: The curriculum subdivided by major topics.

Take Control: Interactive activities that reinforce knowledge and skills presented in the Tutorial.

You Decide: Case study simulations that provide an opportunity to use high-level cognitive skills to solve real-world scenarios.

Certification: 20-question, multiple-choice assessments to test knowledge and a printable NASA certificate of completion with individual’s name.

Virtual Skies is FREE to all users and can be found at

Link: http://virtualskies.arc.nasa.gov

Virtual Skies is recommended for high school students, although college students and academically advanced middle schoolers also have found the site useful. After-school programs, home schools and civil aviation clubs have used Virtual Skies successfully as a supplement to their regular educational and enrichment programs.

If you have any questions, please e-mail barbara.e.patterson@nasa.gov.

iCivics - Games That Teach Students Civics Skills

Link: http://www.icivics.org/

iCivics is a web-based education project designed to teach students civics and inspire them to be active participants in our democracy. iCivics is the vision of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, who is concerned that students are not getting the information and tools they need for civic participation, and that civics teachers need better materials and support.

Games include: Do I Have a Right?, where you run a law firm that specializes in Constitutional law; Executive Command, where you get to be President of the United States for four years; Supreme Decision, you are a judge on the bench of the Supreme Court; Branches of Power, allows you to control all three branches of government (something nobody else gets to do); and Lawcraft, where you play as a member of Congress and help enact the laws of the land.

Teacher content and lesson plans available. This is a site every teacher should explore.
Games for Change - Real World Games - Real World Impact

From the website: “Games for Change (G4C) is a non-profit which seeks to harness the extraordinary power of video games to address the most pressing issues of our day, including poverty, education, human rights, global conflict and climate change. G4C acts as a voice for the transformative power of games, bringing together organizations and individuals from the nonprofit sector, government, journalism, academia, industry and the arts, to grow the sector and provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and resources. Through this work, Games for Change promotes new kinds of games that engage contemporary social issues in meaningful ways to foster a more just, equitable and tolerant society.”

If you click on any of the topic links in the Game Channels box at the right of the page, you’ll be taken to a large link list to games in the social sciences. Topics include: Human Rights, Economics, Public Safety, Public Health, Poverty, Environment, Global Conflict, News, and Politics.

Link: http://gamesforchange.org/

NASA Enables Students to Launch Virtual Space Shuttle

NASA is offering the ABCs of 3,2,1 liftoff to students and educators throughout the nation. A new computer simulation program will allow them to take on the roles of NASA engineers and launch the shuttle from their own classrooms.

The program is based on software used for training at the shuttle Launch Control Center at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The Kennedy Launch Academy Simulation System, or KLASS, gives students the chance to monitor important shuttle systems during a launch countdown and decide whether they are “go” for liftoff. They will work together as a team and learn about the different responsibilities behind-the-scenes of a shuttle launch.

KLASS was designed for sixth- through 10th-grade students to develop their science, technology, engineering and math skills.

In addition to the launch simulation software, KLASS is offering 40 hours of lesson plans and interactive resources for teachers. These materials can be used for one-day lessons or one-year curriculums.

The KLASS materials are available for download at:

http://www.nasa.gov/education/klass

For more information about NASA's education programs, visit:

http://www.nasa.gov/education

For more information about the space shuttle, visit:

http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle
11 Online Resources Devoted to Dynamic Web Development and Design

by Kasidy Stafford

For the beginning and professional web developer here are 11 outstanding websites that offer the latest in web development and design including tutorials, resources, best practices, language and webmaster tools, products, and more.

1. W3 Schools

Link: http://www.w3schools.com

Offering an extensive library of free web building tutorials, W3 Schools is a one-stop shop for great web development and design resources for both the beginner and the experienced web developer. This user friendly site provides “quick and easy learning” including HTML, browser, and XML tutorials as well as references, examples, and even quizzes.

2. A List Apart

Link: http://www.alistapart.com

A List Apart is a web magazine written by the community it serves for “people who make websites.” Contributors are seasoned professionals sharing their expertise on design, development, and meaning of web content including web standards and best practices. With over 10 years on the web, this site includes the latest research and ideas from code to content, and design to user science.

3. Webmonkey

Link: http://www.webmonkey.com

Webmonkey, a property of Wired Digital is a wiki devoted to the latest in web development, design, software, and applications. The site is very user-friendly and easy to navigate with a tool box that includes tutorials, cheat sheets, color charts, and cut and paste codes.

4. Dev Shed

Link: http://www.devshed.com

One of a family of interconnected sites, Dev Shed offers open source coding tutorials and an active forum community. Though it is not quite as easy to navigate as other web building sites, once you’ve found your way around, there is something for web developers of all ability levels including language tutorials, webmaster tools, and example scripts.

5. Smashing Magazine

Link: http://www.smashingmagazine.com

Written by an eclectic team of professional web developers, graphic designers, bloggers, writers, and artists Smashing Magazine is a site that focuses on the elements of web design offering a variety of articles, HTML technologies, WordPress templates, as well as inspiration on how to use graphics and showcase photos. This site also offers a network to share design and development ideas.

6. Developer Tutorials

Link: http://www.developertutorials.com
Developer Tutorials was created to “help ordinary people create extraordinary websites.” For you do-it-yourselfers out there, this site offers a variety of tutorials, development tools, and reputable online services to help you get started. For those who need a little extra help, or don’t have time to create everything from scratch, Developer Tutorials provides scripts, helpful hints, and answers to get your site up fast.

7. Ajaxian

Link: http://www.ajaxian.com

More for the experienced web developer, Ajaxian is a blog devoted to the creation of dynamic websites. The blog is written by seasoned writers and practitioners and features an active community of readers. Ajaxian provides the latest news in web design and development, editorials, podcasts, resources, examples, and much more. It is easy to navigate, and updated often.

8. DZone

Link: http://www.dzone.com

DZone is a link-sharing community where web developers and designers come to share their secrets to building great functional websites. The site also offers free resources and tools such as reference cheat sheets, editorials, and white papers that address and solve common issues in web development.

9. IBM developerWorks

Link: http://www.ibm.com/developerworks

IBM developerWorks is IBM’s “resource for developers and IT professionals.” With a vast collection of tutorials and articles on a wide range of development topics as well as consulting, application, and outsourcing services IBM developerWorks has something for everyone including products, solutions, downloads and more.

10. Sitepoint

Link: http://www.sitepoint.com

Sitepoint provides blogs, articles, kits, and forums for web developers of all skill levels. With a combination of free and purchasable videos and materials Sitepoint offers a great selection of references on CSS, HTML, and Javascript that are easy to use and navigate.

11. O’Reilly

Link: http://www.oreilly.com

O’Reilly is an online collection of both free and paid materials for web developers and designers. A wide variety of technical topics are covered through an extensive book and video collection as well as webcasts, and newsletters. In addition to online resources, O’Reilly also offers conferences and training, and access to Safari Books Online for a monthly subscription fee.
Gimpshop
by Huck Stewart

There are a lot of photo editing packages available. Gimp is a powerful and popular program among graphics editors who use Linux. Gimp is entirely free to download. Gimpshop was created for those who are used to using Adobe Photoshop. Gimpshop is the same free Gimp but modified to replicate Photoshop. This means that Photoshop users who may only use and not own the program could benefit from this free program Gimpshop. The tools and the layout were made to match very closely with that of the Photoshop layout. The authors recommend that already experienced users of the original Gimp should stick with the program they are used to. Gimpshop is for people making the switch from Photoshop to Gimp without having to learn a whole new program and interface. Gimpshop was made for Mac and PC users and is said to have a very close resemblance to Photoshop while still using some of its own original Gimp properties. So there are differences from Gimpshop and Photoshop. Reviews for this program have been posted which specify some of these differences and the pros and cons of the program.

http://download.cnet.com/GIMPshop/3640-2192_4-10650581.html

http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,1864649,00.asp

Also the Gimpshop website is

http://www.gimpshop.com

and has contact and download information.

Though Gimpshop is not a perfect substitute for the real Photoshop, it is an excellent program for those who know how to use Photoshop but simply can’t afford the cost for an Adobe product. Below is a side by side comparison of Gimpshop (left) and Photoshop (Right) both images taken from the same Windows PC.
**OnGuard Online - Your Safety Net**

By Huck Stewart


The government sponsored web site “On Guard On Line” is a page designed for both PC and Mac users to gain information, tips and help against internet fraud. Topics that this site has include broadband, computer disposal, cross-border scams, email scams, identity theft, internet auctions, kiosks’ privacy, laptop security, malware, online shopping and investing, P2P, phishing, social networking sites, spyware, VoIP, wireless security and others. The web site is designed for people of all ages and levels of experience with computers. It has interactive games and questions as well as videos. There is even a place to file a complaint for problems with many of these topics. There is an email that you can forward scam e-mails you may be suspicious of. This site provides you with contact information for complaints against crimes which include; spam@uce.gov (email which you forward suspicious email to), Internet Crime Complaint Center, www.bbb.org (Better Business Bureau), state attorney general (for complaints) and many other useful links and sites all with the goal in helping protect you and your computer.

**Rock Your Firefox with Add-ons!**

by Janalee Keller & Nathan Smith

Link: [http://rockyourfirefox.com/](http://rockyourfirefox.com/)

Rock Your Firefox is a fun website where there are excellent resources for teachers and children. Their add-on featured in May was something I feel would be useful. Kidzui is child friendly because it turns Firefox into a fun, kid-safe browser for children. The ages most targeted for this link would be children anywhere from 3-12. The website has been approved by both parents and teachers.

There are over a million kids’ games, You Tube videos, and websites that the children can check onto; all of them are safe for the children to view. This would be a fun thing for teachers to let their students engage in if their students were to have some free time with the computer. Parents can feel comforted knowing that their children are using a safe, educational website and learning while having fun. This link is easy and also accessible for children, teachers, and parents. Kidzui is a fun add on that would be worth teachers, parents, and children’s time to look into and discover the fun things it has to offer.

Rock Your Firefox contains links and descriptions to Firefox add-ons sorted by category: search, toolbar, collection, shopping, social networking, image, photo, persona, bookmarks, entertainment, music, music player, deals, zoom, and tabs.

You’ll find add-ons that will do almost anything you want in Firefox.

I particularly like that the site has blogging functionality, so users can report their experience using the add-ons. This allows me to make a better decision on whether to install a particular add-on or not.

I think you’ll enjoy the Rock Your Firefox site. You can follow the add-on suggestions through Twitter as well.
CyberSurgeons

CyberSurgeons™ is a development project for a new e-Mission™ targeting high school science students. The Classroom of the Future is currently testing this distance learning simulation and expect to unveil it in its final version later this year.

CyberSurgeons promises a greater integration of technology than previous e-Missions and a thorough alignment of biology standards. They’re meshing it with the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study, a thoroughly researched, high-end communications systems, and dedicated satellites to relay information.

On mission day students connect live for about 75 minutes with the chief medical officer, played by a professional educator at the Center for Educational Technologies. In the scenario the chief medical officer receives an alert from a research station in the Amazon basin in Brazil. A researcher there is in medical distress, possibly from a reaction to plants the individual has been collecting as possible treatments for cancer and AIDS. The students play the role of trauma experts. In real time they diagnose and recommend treatment for the illness and then follow up to make certain the treatment worked.

For more information visit the CyberSurgeons website...

Reading Rockets: Launching Young Readers

By Kasidy Stafford

Reading rockets is a website aimed at “teaching kids to read and helping those who struggle.” An educational initiative of WETA, the public television and radio station in our nation’s capital, through the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Readingrockets.org offers valuable resources aimed to inform and inspire teachers, parents, principals, and childcare providers. This grant funded project is guided by an advisory panel made up of leading researchers and experts in the field of reading that produce and distribute research-based PBS television programs, online services like Reading rockets and Col-orin’ Colorado (an online resource focused towards ELL students and their parents), as well as many professional development opportunities available at no cost.

The website is very user-friendly and easy to navigate with a section for parents, teachers, principals, librarians, and other professionals. It offers the latest reading research and resources, print articles, pod casts, blogs, newsletters, and answers to frequently asked questions. You will also find links to children’s books and authors, an online store, as well as speech, language, and hearing resources. Reading rockets is sure to be a great resource for parents, teachers, and administrators alike to help struggling students learn to read.
Bento 3 Student Survival Kit 1.0


About Bento 3 Student Survival Kit

Includes a free trial of Bento 3 for Mac and 5 pre-designed, ready-to-use templates to organize your lecture notes, group projects, special events, classes, and job searching.

Works with Bento for Mac, Bento for iPad and Bento for iPhone.

SoundSoap 2.4 for Macintosh


About SoundSoap

With just a few simple controls, anyone can remove unwanted hiss, room noise, rumble, electrical hum, and other background noise from almost any digital media file — including digital video (DV), QuickTime, digital audio workstation tracks, analog cassette/tape recordings, vinyl LP recordings, and more.

It could be the old LPs and cassettes you’ve been archiving to put in your iPod — that almost perfect wedding video with the annoying background noise — or the noisy guitar tracks you recorded last weekend.

SoundSoap cleans up clicks, crackles, and turntable motor rumble in recordings of scratched up old LPs, as well as the electrical hum or buzz from a guitar amp picked up in a recording session.

Broadband noise — like air conditioning systems picked up by a DV camera’s microphone, or the hiss from analog audio and video cassettes — doesn’t stand a chance.

What’s New in this Version

- Localized tool tips
- Pro Tools 8 compatibility
- Additional enhancements.

Company: BIAS, Inc.
Version: 2.4
Post Date: June 1, 2010
License: Demo
File Size: 44MB

Source for this page: Apple Downloads
22 Frames

22 Frames is a new service that provides a central location for locating captioned videos for learning English and for Internet users who have hearing impairments.

22 Frames provides more than just captioned videos. For each video 22 Frames provides a list of idioms, slang words, and commonly mispronounced words in each video. 22 Frames tells viewers where each use of idioms, slang, and commonly mispronounced words appears in each video. Viewers can click on any of the words in the lists provided by 22 Frames to find a definition for each word and to find pronunciation tips.

Applications for Education

22 Frames could be a great resource for ESL/ EFL teachers and students. The videos found on 22 Frames range from current news stories to videos from popular culture. Using a current news video on 22 Frames could be a good way to combine an English lesson with a social studies lesson.

Link: http://www.22frames.com/
**Micro Mobs - Realtime Group Messaging**

Micro Mobs is a free service that allows anyone to create their own public or private micromessaging network. To get started just name your mob (network) pick a URL then register for an account. You can register for a Micro Mobs account or use your Twitter or Facebook account to login into Micro Mobs. Once you’ve created your Micro Mobs network you can invite others by email, Twitter, or Facebook message. If you choose to make your Micro Mobs network private it can only be accessed by the people you have invited.

Applications for Education

Micro Mobs could be a good private platform for hosting a backchannel chat in your classroom. Micro Mobs might also be a good platform for keeping in contact with parents or colleagues. *(Source - Free Technology for Teachers - [http://www.freetech4teachers.com](http://www.freetech4teachers.com))*

Link: [http://micromobs.com/](http://micromobs.com/)

**Guide to Online Schools**

A site suggestion from Nathan Grimm to Nathan Smith: Guide to Online Schools exists to connect students with colleges and universities. We work with hundreds of schools across the US and Canada, presenting information on thousands of degree and certificate programs. Our goal is to be the most comprehensive authority on distance learning and online education. If you have any questions about the world of online schooling, we have an extensive Educational Resources section which we are constantly updating with accreditation and financial aid information. Also, we have a list of Online School Reviews written by actual students who have attended the universities listed on our site. Please allow us to help you find the best-fitting educational programs for your career advancement and training.

Link: [http://www.guidetoonlineschools.com](http://www.guidetoonlineschools.com)

**Free Google Guides for Teachers**

Five free guides: Google for Teachers, Google Earth Across the Curriculum, Beyond Google - Tips and Tools for Improving Internet Search Experiences, Twelve Essentials for Technology Integration, and Making Videos on the Web - Make videos without purchasing software or video equipment. From Richard Byrne's Free Technology for Teachers blog - All of these guides were designed to be used for professional development workshops.

Richard says, "Please feel free to download them, print them, and freely give them to others."


**Fuel the Brain**

Fuel the Brain is a nice collection of online mathematics games, interactive lessons, and printable materials for teaching mathematics. All of Fuel the Brain's offerings are intended for elementary and middle school age students. In addition to the standard collection of games and printable materials, Fuel the Brain offers “seasonal” activities designed to correspond to the seasons of the Northern Hemisphere.

Applications for Education

Fuel the Brain offers a games widget that you can install on your blog or website. Rather than directing students to yet another website, you can install the Fuel the Brain widget and have them play the games on blog or website they typically visit for your class.

Link: [http://www.fuelthebrain.com/](http://www.fuelthebrain.com/)
Welcome to the July edition of the UCET newsletter! Can you believe it’s mid-summer already? It’s time to explore! Perhaps you’d like to take on a new hobby - like photography, or water color painting, hiking, exploring new places. The important thing is to try something new and different. It expands your horizons, increases your knowledge, and rejuvinates the spirit.

One fun idea is to go online and request travel materials from a state’s travel bureau. I decided to order materials from Utah and the surrounding states - Arizona, California, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and New Mexico. I have received road maps, travel brochures, and magazines (all free) that describe each state’s tourist attractions. I supplement this information with further information from Wikipedia, Google Maps, and Google Earth. It’s fun to pick a destination and plan where I’d go, where I’d lodge, and what surrounding attractions I’d want to visit.

This would make a great activity for kids, too. If you’re doing this as a family, each family member could present about the place they’d like to go, and why. Then, wouldn’t it be fun to pick a place and follow the planned route and agenda? It wouldn’t even have to be a long trip. You could explore cities and towns nearby after learning all the background information you could for each one. My family chose Soda Springs, Idaho. Did you know they have an historic hotel that’s haunted. At the right, I’ve included websites for state travel bureaus. Enjoy!

State Vacation Planning Sites...

- Washington: http://www.experiencewa.com/
- Oregon: http://www.traveloregon.com/
- California: http://www.visitcalifornia.com/
- Idaho: http://www.visitidaho.org/
- Utah: http://www.utah.com/
- Nevada: http://travelnevada.com/
- Arizona: http://www.arizonaguide.com/
- Montana: http://www.visitmt.com/
- Wyoming: http://www.wyomingtourism.org/
- Colorado: http://www.colorado.com/
- New Mexico: http://www.newmexico.org/
- Texas: http://www.traveltexas.com/
- Alaska: http://www.travelalaska.com/
Climate Kids from NASA - Get Your Students Involved in Earth Environmental Issues!

A part of NASA's broader site - Global Climate Change (http://climate.nasa.gov/) - this site involves children in learning and participating in activities related to Earth's climate. Children can play games such as Go Green, Missions to Planet Earth, Whirlwind Disaster, Wild Weather Adventure, Migration Concentration, Earthy Word Games, and more.

There are learning sections that answer the big questions such as what does global climate change mean, what's the big deal with carbon, etc. Richly illustrated and well written, your students will enjoy reading through each of these sections.

There is a section of educator resources such as activities, images, posters and postcard downloads, and links to other great related sites. You’ll enjoy using this resource in your classroom.

SciJinks from NASA & NOAA - Interactive Weather for Middle School Students!

“SciJinks” is a highly interactive Web site that provides middle-school students and audiences of all ages an amazing science education opportunity. Provided by NOAA and NASA, the Web site transports visitors to the wild world of weather to learn about predicting global weather patterns.


Click on the Help for Teachers Link for suggestions on how to use the SciJinks resources in the classroom:

http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/teachers

Become a Fan on the SciJinks Facebook page:

http://www.facebook.com/scijinks

Follow SciJinks on Twitter:

http://twitter.com/scijinks
Last month, we briefly introduced “Games for Change.” Let’s look at it a bit more this month. Global issues can be a daunting subject to teach and an even harder subject for students to understand and connect to. The website Games for Change (G4C) is a nonprofit which seeks to harness the extraordinary power of video games to address the most pressing issues of our day, including poverty, education, human rights, global conflict and climate change. G4C acts as a voice for the transformative power of games, bringing together organizations and individuals from the nonprofit sector, government, journalism, academia, industry and the arts, to grow the sector and provide a platform for the exchange of ideas and resources. Through this work, Games for Change promotes new kinds of games that engage contemporary social issues in meaningful ways to foster a more just, equitable and tolerant society.

The games found on this website put you in the shoes of those directly affected by the issues the world is facing and gives you the opportunity to solve some of these problems.

For example, “Ayiti: The Cost of Life” is a game found under the poverty category. “This game challenges its players to manage a rural family of five in Haiti over four years and keep them healthy, get them educated, and help them survive.” While playing this game, students will have to plan how to provide for and educate their family with very limited income. Periodically, both good and bad surprises will happen, just like in the real world, which may help or hinder them in reaching their goal.

“Darfur is Dying” is another game that is found in the human rights category. “This game is a web-based, viral video game that provides a window into the experience of the 2.5 million refugees in the Darfur region of Sudan.” The game begins by asking you to select a character. Each character has a different age and gender. The goal is to forage for water and bring it back to your camp. While the player believes their success depends on their ability to make it to the well and back, they come to find out that it depends on the age and gender of the character they chose at the beginning.

To access the games, go to the website below. If you click on any of the topic links in the Game Channels box at the right of the page, you’ll be taken to a large link list to games in the social sciences. Topics include: Human Rights, Economics, Public Safety, Public Health, Poverty, Environment, Global Conflict, News, and Politics.

Link: http://gamesforchange.org
Remember the Milk: the best way to manage your tasks
by Kasidy Stafford

Link:  http://www.rememberthemilk.com

For teachers always on the go who are looking for a simple easy way to keep organized visit www.rememberthemilk.com. A website built to manage your tasks from grocery lists to appointments, Remember the Milk is just the tool to help a busy teacher stay on top of things at school and at home. It’s free to signup for a basic account, and you can upgrade anytime to a Pro account for an annual fee of $25.

With Remember the Milk you can manage your tasks quickly and easily, get reminders in your email, on the phone, or through an instant message, and organize things the way you want to. It also offers a real-world map to locate your tasks and plan routes to get things done more efficiently, allows you to add tasks wherever you are, and you can access your tasks from a web-enabled mobile device. There is also a collaboration tool that allows you to invite and share your lists with others, and send out reminders.

Remember the Milk provides several different services, as well as a blog of helpful tips and hints to keep you on top. With this user friendly organizational tool you can be sure to ‘never forget the milk (or anything else) again.’

Cube Your Imagination
by Kasidy Stafford

Link:  http://www.imaginationcubed.com

The General Electric Company offers a fun interactive website that puts your imagination to work. Imagiantioncubed.com is a free, user friendly, safe site for kids that allows them to collaborate together to create drawings and illustrations. Collaboration is done through email only, and up to three kids can be working on the same page at a time. If you’re worried about using email accounts, www.zilladog.com offers free, security protected, spam free email just for kids.

The tools offered in the site are easy to use and navigate. There is a pen tool for basic drawing, a shape tool, a stamp tool, and a type tool to add text. Each tool can be resized, and the color can be changed as desired. When they are done, a replay tool allows them to watch their work unfold, replaying the drawing process. Kids can also save, print, and share their work right from the site. They can even learn a lesson in conserving energy. Each kid gets an allotted amount of ink with the pen tool, teaching them to use only what they need to complete their drawing.

Teachers can use imaginationcubed.com for art assignments, illustrating stories, or a fun way to pass the time when homework is done.
Kitzu: digital kits for education  by Kasidy Stafford

Link: http://www.kitzu.com

Kitzu brought to you be the Orange County Department of Education is a website offering free, educational, media resources for students and teachers. The site is simple to navigate, and the kits are easy to download. Each kit is designed with the building blocks to help students create and share outstanding video and multimedia projects and presentations.

The idea behind Kitzu is to help students develop dynamic projects with supplied materials. Once the technology is mastered students should progress towards creating and finding their own resources using the tools provided by Kitzu. A kit includes images, illustrations, animations, video, audio, and documents. They are organized by grade level, curricular topic, or common theme.

Kubbu  by Kasidy Stafford

Link: http://www.kubbu.com

Kubbu is an online resource and ‘e-learning tool designed to facilitate teachers’ work and enhance the learning process.’ With Kubbu, teachers can share and create activities, puzzles, and quizzes to be used online, and in print. Teachers can monitor student success through a built in progress tracker, and can communicate using direct feedback through a mailing system. There is even an option to create a class web page. It is free to sign up, no download or installation required, and the teacher account comes with 30 student profiles and up to 15 activities at one time. Accounts are easy to manage, and activities can be shared between teachers.

Interactive Whiteboard Links  by Sarah Zabriskie

If you have an interactive whiteboard in your classroom, you know what a powerful tool it can be when used to teach; however, coming up with ideas of how to integrate it in your classroom takes a little work. Check out the ideas the Educational Technology Center from the Georgia department of Education has created. They have compiled a website filled with literally hundreds of links to different sites you can use on your interactive whiteboard. The site is broken up into the subjects of math, science, social studies, language arts, art, music, P.E., and others, and each subject is broken down into ideas appropriate for elementary, middle school, and high school age students. Simply click on the link, and you are taken straight the game, activity, or learning experience.

For example, one of the links I checked out is called “Quadrilateral Quest.” This is an interactive geometry applet. The applet pops up with about seven different examples of quadrilaterals. Above are listed several properties describing one or more of the quadrilaterals. Your job is to select the quadrilaterals which meet all the properties. There are about six questions you have to answer and then a quiz at the end. Great practice for students who are learning about geometry! This was only one example of the many different interactive whiteboard resources available on this site. Check it out!

Link: http://www.ettcnsc.org/Instructional_resources/other/interactive_whiteboard_links.htm

Find Out How  by Sarah Zabriskie

Have you ever wanted to find out how to do something, but when you try to look it up on Google, you're just blown away by how many options your search returns? Next time, check out findhow.com. This site gives you access to trusted, reliable how-to content on the Internet. You will find what you are looking for much faster and won’t have to wade through the vast results that will appear on Google or other search engines. Also, this is a great website for students. Have them ask a how-to question and then do a report on it through the information they find on this site.

Link: http://www.findhow.com/
The iPad is one of the latest products by Apple to hit the market. Released for sale this last April, it has proven to be a new generation of technology. It is an internet-browsing, book-reading, photo/movie-sharing tablet that’s smooth and easy to use. But, does the iPad reach the standards set by educators in order to be used in the K-12 classroom; and is it a practical use of school funds? In this article I will address the issues and concerns that educators have about the iPad and provide information that could help make the best decision for their situation. We will cover what the iPad can and cannot do, what you can expect to see in the future (according to technology speculators), ideas of how to best utilize this type of technology in your own classroom from teachers who have tried it and options from tablet-tech competitors.

There are hundreds of blog posts, review articles and videos from independent iPad users with complaints, thoughts, comments and wishful suggestions about the iPad. After reading many of these posts, I have compiled most of the pros and cons of the iPad according to users. I want to inform you that I don’t yet own an iPad, but, being a potential buyer and a very frugal person, I have done some research on it.

The iPad is roughly 9.5” by 7.5” in length and width and .5” thick. It is supposed to run off an internal battery for up to 10 hours. It is almost exactly like an iPod touch with that same home button and an on/off button on the top, but with an added screen rotation lock and (if you have only used the 1st generation iPod Touch) an external volume control button. Everything else you do with the iPad is done on the touch screen. Some of its features include all of the built in applications (apps) or programs that the iPod touch has; Photos, YouTube, Safari, iCal and many others. Some new apps are iWork, which includes Keynote (Apples version of PowerPoint), Pages (Apples version of MSWord), Numbers (Apples spreadsheet design with some similarities to Excel) and iBooks; which is like purchasing music on iTunes but with books. It also has built in microphone, speakers and a headphone jack. I can’t even begin to explain all of the available apps you can add to your iPad. There are games, social network apps, education apps, maps and many more. For the sake of educators I reviewed many of the Education Apps on the apps store web site from iTunes. There are hundreds of free apps and hundreds of apps that cost, on average, about $0.99. There are all different grade levels and categories. Educational uses could be in the areas of business, math, history, geography, language, dictionaries, thesauruses, graphing calculators, money counters, interactive games, art, fun facts, measurement converters, doodles, spelling, fractions, geology, textbooks, reading books, note takers, voice recorders, astrology, biology, chemistry (and many other sciences) and so many more that did not even make the first page. It is almost safe to assume that if you wish an app existed, it just might already be there. More and more apps are being created on a daily basis, which means that the iPad is not limited to what is in the original tablet but is based off of the capacity of independent app developers.

So now that we have a general idea of what the iPad is, let me describe my dream classroom. I am a Secondary Education Math Major and Spanish Minor. I picture taking rollcall on my iPad, never worrying about where I left the roll or having to print it out every day. I picture 10 or so groups of 3-4 students following along on their classroom iPad with their own graphing calculator apps; controlling zoom and win-
## Pros

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Light Weight</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o 1.5 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- This beats carrying around textbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Memory Storage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Minimum 16GM maximum 64GM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Enough space to have educational videos, audio books for students with disabilities and can save all of the students own work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Almost Unlimited Apps</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Free to Average $1 - $2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Application use for students and teachers (organization, educational interactive games, etc…)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Battery Life</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o 10 hours or a full days worth of class time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Very easily charged with USB port from computer or wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Can Create Your Own Content</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Pages, Numbers, Keynote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- For research papers, presentations and group projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Not a Computer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Less fragile, no spinning drives, very few buttons, less expensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Can get scratch free screen protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Keyboard Connection</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Wireless and non-wireless</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Camera Connection Ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Could capture the board for later reference or chat with other peers anywhere in the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Built In Speaker and Microphone</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Recording lectures or personal notes/thought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Playback for students with or without disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Single Task Only</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Keeps students on only one program at a time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No distractions e.g. can’t brows the web and have calculator program open at the same time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- <strong>Wi-Fi access</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Can put locks on web access with password</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Fast and Smooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Instantly turns on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No power up waiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Books</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Many are a lot cheaper or even Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Can brighten and zoom in on the screen for students with visual disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Easily held or mounted and pages easily turned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Ability to highlight and take notes on books without permanently destroying books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Programs and projects are automatically saved</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o No more lost or ripped projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Easy use</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o No learning curves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No training manual that students have to go through to use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Very natural to use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Students and most teachers will automatically know what to do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Portability</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Walk around classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Take it home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Projector Connection</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Easy to use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Environment friendly</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Paperless/ paper waste free class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No training manual that students have to go through to use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Cons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Light Weight</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o More Easily Lost or stolen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Memory Storage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Once full there is no memory upgrade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Small Task of erasing everything and the end of each year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Almost Unlimited Apps</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o May need to purchase a separate app for each iPad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- As of now there is no ability to multi-sync your purchased or free apps to more than one iPad at a time (can be done one at a time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Battery Life</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o No replacing a faulty battery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- If you forgot to charge if you are limited to the length of your cable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Creating Own Content</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o It has been said that writing a research paper or doing a project on the iPad, though possible, is very tedious and timely compared to a computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Not a computer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Does not possess the processing power to do large projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Do not make the mistake of thinking this will replace laptops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Is still breakable and could still cost a lot a lot of repair fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Keyboard Needed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Touch screen keyboards is not easy to use which means more money to buy a keyboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>No built in Camera</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o One of the biggest complaints about the iPad on the web is that even the iPod Nano has a build in camera but the amazing iPad doesn’t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>No Flash support</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Many online interactive games and educational videos are done with flash, which the iPad and iPods simply refuse to cooperate with.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>No Multi-Tasking</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Makes projects hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Can’t copy and paste from web site to pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- NOTE: it can listen to audio book and have book open at same time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Wi-Fi Access</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Needs to be in range of wireless connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pose potential problems with unwanted sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Depends on schools’ Wi-Fi capability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Compatibility</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Works great with Mac users but Windows must download iTunes (free) to sync apps/documents/projects/pictures/videos etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Must convert files/videos/documents/pictures/videos etc to Mac’s iPad supported formats if you are a Windows user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Format Factory and Microsoft Converter are a few good free programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Books</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Limit free/e-book options (needs more time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Almost as expensive as original books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Many publishers still have not utilized the e-book idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- For info on e-textbooks visit: <a href="http://www.coursesmart.com">www.coursesmart.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Limited Printing Ability</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Though it is possible and there are apps, the easiest way to print anything from the iPad is to take what you want to print from the iPad back on your computer and print</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Makes converting documents a time consuming must AND can mess up formatting of your project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Potentially Anti-Progressive for learners</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Everything is automatic (no thinking or learning by mistakes from students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Potentially cripples basic skills originally taught in the classroom e.g., Book search by index or table of contents ect, spelling, handwriting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Instant access/no waiting encourages a instant gratification environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- iPad could be seen more as a toy than a tool with games and other programs causing more of a distraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Acceptance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o May not be approved by District/Parents/Older Generation Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>Projection Compatibility</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Only apps that were built to support video showing can be seen on a projector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Does not display what is on the screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Very few apps have video support e.g. can not show a web page on your projector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <strong>No USB connection</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o For things like keyboard, mouse or flash drives for transferring information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There may be several other pros or cons that you can think of as well. Those above were just the ones brought up most in the posts and article reviews about the iPad. With this knowledge of what the iPad is and is not capable of, please remember that this is only the first generation iPad and many of the cons can be fixed by brilliant application designers and many of the pros are only just beginning. It is exciting to think about what other people may come up with after understanding what these touch screen tablets can really do. There is already talk about the next generation iPad's ability to multi-task and have a built in camera. Perhaps for marketing and business purposes, which I do not fully understand, they withheld their best ideas for re-sales in future times. With the pros and cons information you may now begin to decide whether or not this type of technology is right for your classroom or district. The simple truth is that the iPad, and similar products, would be a huge asset in closing many, but not all, gaps for teachers and their classes. The fact is that this could potentially hinder and not help an educational environment if used incorrectly or with too much emphasis.

Are there other options out there for non Mac people? Yes of course. This article gives 10 other alternatives to the iPad and what their differences are. Could they all be used in a classroom to help students learn? I think so, but some are aimed more for social networking or media players rather than note takers or e-readers. Some are much more expensive than others and some simply have more options.

So what is the future for the iPad? It is very difficult to say how long and how far these tablets may go. Thinner? Faster? Will our future computers be large tablets we can hang on the wall or place on our desks? Will each student have an interactive desk touch screen tablet? What sounds like a Sci-Fi movie is actually very nearly or already possible, though no one can know for sure until it happens. What we can speculate is the close future of the iPad.

This web site article is one of many which discusses the upgrades for the next generation iPad. Mostly, the article talks about rumors and reports from Apple and “unknown people” of new features and upgrades. What was mentioned most of all is the upgrade to an internal camera, the ability to video chat, multi-tasking capabilities, more e-book variety with highlighting and note taking options and a Verizon service hook-up. How reliable these sources are is anyone’s guess.

So what can the iPad and other touch screen tablets do for the educational world? I think the question is what do you want this technology to be able to do? If you think it’s possible, it just may be. There has been a lot of talk about the potential use of the iPad at least for our students with disabilities. With brightness and zoom control, students with visual disabilities can benefit greatly. With voice recording and interactive games students with ADHD or Autism could use this for organization help, focusing aid, note taking help and so much more. These are only just a few ideas of the iPads use for students with disabilities. From my research I personally believe that all students of all abilities could benefit from this generation of technology. As for whether or not they are worth your own time and money, well, that just requires an educated decision on your part.
Create a Graph
by Sarah Zabriskie

“Create a Graph” is a website that helps you do just that, create graphs! Using the tools on this website, you can create and customize a bar graph, line graph, area graph, pie graph, or XY graph. This site would be great for students just learning how to use graphs or for collecting and analyzing data from an in-class experiment.

When you first arrive at the page, you will be asked to select the type of graph you would like to build. Select the option of your choice and you will be taken a page which will help you create your graph step by step. Go through each of the tabs on the left labeled: Design, Data, Labels, Preview, and Save/Print to complete your graph. If you ever get stuck, just click on the help tab on the right. There you will find tutorials that will coach you through the whole process.

Link: http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/

Learning Games
by Sarah Zabriskie

It seems like the biggest focus in schools right now is helping under achieving students reach grade level. What about the over achieving students? They finish their work much quicker than everyone else and then sit in their desk or goof off because they’re bored. The internet offers many games which help students practice skills and apply knowledge they have learned in school. These games could greatly benefit your high achieving students and keep them learning all day long. Below are some ideas.

Magic Pen – This is a physics-based drawing game inspired by Crayon Physics. The goal of the game is to help the red ball overcome obstacles and reach the flag by drawing shapes, inclined planes, pivots, and hinges.

Link: http://www.bubblebox.com/play/puzzle/975.htm

Questionaut – “Journey through strange worlds and test your knowledge of English, math and science on this magical mission to recover your friend’s hat.” This game can be a little confusing in that there are no instructions. You play the game by moving your mouse around the board until the cursor displays something you can click on, then a question will appear. This game was created in England, and therefore the questions deal with English money, and English words.

Link: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/games/questionaut/

Fantastic Contraption – This game is a physics puzzle game for older grades. The goal of the game is to get the red ball into the goal. The red ball is moved by creating a contraption from the tools provided. Once your contraption is built, press the play button to see if it will work. Levels get trickier as they are passed.

Link: http://fantasticcontraption.com/

Invention at Play – These games were created by the Lemelson Center for the study of invention and innovation. This website is dedicated to helping children explore their creativity. Here students have four different kinds of games and puzzles they can experiment with, make believe/visual thinking, puzzle play/problem solving, exploration/tinkering, and social play/collaboration. On the website, these games are located on the left side of the page.

Link: http://www.inventionatplay.org/
Jitterbug - Music for Hip Kids by Sarah Zabriskie

Children love music, and they love to listen to their favorite songs over and over again. But, have you ever had a child’s song in your head that just drove you nuts? If this has ever happened to you, check out “Jitterbug” This website is filled with songs and music videos for children that are so upbeat and fun that you won’t mind getting them stuck in your head. From the website: “Our preschool daughters love music. We soon discovered who was in control! So instead of subjecting ourselves to those awful tunes (you know, the ones that irritate and don’t hold up to repeated listening!), we found there are lots of musicians making music for kids that parents could love too.”

Some song artists include: Big Don, The Macaroons, Recess monkey, Miss Sherri, Lucky Diaz, and many many more.

The best thing about the music on this site is many of the songs teach something. Help your children learn the alphabet, colors, how to count, and more by using the songs on Jitterbug. You might even find some songs and music videos from the website that are familiar to you. Several songs from Disney Movies, and TV shows like Sesame Street are included on the site as well.

Link: http://jitterbug.tv/

Google Scholar by Sarah Zabriskie

For young students, doing research on the internet can be a daunting task. There are so many resources available, and then they always have the risk of running across irrelevant information. Google Scholar is a resource found on the “Cool Tools for Schools” wiki. It is a search engine, just like Google, that gives you results in the forms of articles, scholarly journals, and other forms of literature that provides relevant information. From the website: “Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines and sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites.” So go ahead and assign those reports and let your students have access to the wealth of knowledge the internet can provide.

Link: http://scholar.google.com

Art Tutorial Wiki – Catering to everything an artist needs to know! by Sarah Zabriskie

Is drawing one of those talents you wish you had? If it is, then check out Art Tutorials Wiki. “This wiki strives to serve as a central repository for tutorials on all kinds of art, ranging from traditional techniques to digital art. In addition to tutorials custom-created by other users for this site, it also maintains exhaustive link lists for off-site tutorials.”

This wiki contains hundreds of step-by-step tutorials on how to draw almost anything. Some categories include anatomy, people, creatures, digital art, fantasy, maps, nature, comics, and much more; and that was just the icing on the cake.

However, if art is one of those talents you are lucky enough to have, you can share your knowledge by adding a tutorial about something you can create. The creator of the wiki wrote, “This page obviously only represents a small sampling of possible categories for art-related tutorials. However, this also represents the limit of my own knowledge of the field - but my limits shouldn’t impede the growth of the wiki. Thus, if you are competent in one or more subjects not listed here, please add new pages and new tutorials about these subjects to the wiki - this is the only way the wiki can surpass my own limitations and become universally useful.”

Once you have learned how to draw something from this wiki and you are ready to give your new knowledge a shot, click on the “Stock Image Directory” link. This will take you to a library of pictures, many of which are within the same categories as the tutorials, that you can practice drawing.

Not every tutorial and image is open to the public. Some resources require you to be a member of the site. To become a member, simply create your account by providing an e-mail address and a password, and you have access to everything on the site.

To access the tutorials, click on the link, “Original Tutorials” or “Tutorials Directory” on the homepage of the website. The images are also located on the homepage under the link, “Stock Image Directory.”

Good luck and happy drawing!

Link: http://artwiki.wikidot.com
Exploring Free Reading Resources on the Internet

As many of you know, there is a technology change taking place in regards to reading books. Recent consumer product shows are highlighting eBook readers - many new models have just been released this year. Amazon’s Kindle is competing head-to-head with Barnes & Noble’s Nook Reader. The new Apple iPad, with its bookstore feature, has jumped into the competition as well. Many companies are releasing eReader software - not only for their eBook readers - but for computers and other portable devices as well. Amazon recently announced that they sell more books in electronic format than paper bound copies.

I believe this is a trend that will continue. Utah State University as well as other campuses across the nation are seriously looking at (and pressuring book publishers) to sell textbooks in eBook format for students to buy and use in their classes. For example, the Campus eBookstore (http://www.campusebookstore.com/) says of itself, “Campus E-Bookstore is a development project owned by North American College stores. The goal of Campus E-Bookstore is to develop affordable alternatives and compliments to traditional course materials. We offer facilities for eBook consumers, booksellers and publishers.” I feel that this trend toward electronic delivery of books will fully blossom over the next few years.

In this issue of the UCET newsletter, we’ll explore and share sites that share ebooks for free. Some we’ve highlighted in past issues of the newsletter, many more are new resources. We hope you’ll explore, download, enjoy, and use these resources with your students. Last night, I downloaded PDF copies of Frank L. Baum’s “Wizard of Oz” series. They are scans of the original early 1900’s copies, including all the illustrations. I’ve put them on my iPod Touch, and am reading them as I take the bus to work and back home again each day. I believe this is the first year I’ve read more eBooks than traditional paper books - because they are so convenient to carry around in my pocket. Feel free to share your best reading resources with UCET. Drop me a line at Nathan. Smith@usu.edu. Enjoy this month’s issue!
I would like to tell you a little about my experience with UCET and what it is like on the board.

I began attending UCET in 1995. Each year I noticed a lot of UCET board members helping conference goers with their questions and concerns. I wondered who these folks were and how much they got paid. I figured they were all technology gurus and earned a lot of money. Since then I found out that they are all volunteers who are interested in technology and being part of the UCET conference.

Right before the keynote each year, the UCET president always encouraged people to run for the board. I didn’t think they meant me! I learned that some of my coworkers were on the board, so I asked them what it was like. They said they loved the work because of the excitement, energy, and friendships they made through their association with other board members.

I wanted to have fun, make friends, and be part of UCET, too. So I volunteered. That was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Within a short time I ran for the board, then for UCET president. I was scared at first, but have since learned that many board members are past presidents and they all pitch in to answer questions and help anybody who needs it.

Board meetings have been a lot of fun. We meet once a month, volunteer for different conference responsibilities (registration, meals, sessions, etc), and work to get everything ready for the upcoming conference.

It has been a bumpy ride trying to keep up with the changes in technology. I have learned how to learn new programs, back up my work, and troubleshoot printers and modems, etc. I used to be afraid of hitting the wrong key. Now I like to jump right in and try things out. Old dogs can learn new tricks!

Currently I am a curriculum technology specialist in Jordan School District where I work with elementary school teachers and students integrating technology into the curriculum. I love my job. It is really fun working with folks who want to learn something new.

I am having a great time working with the UCET board to put on the conference next March. I hope you will say hello if you see me at the March 2011 conference. I love to meet UCET members and hear how they use technology in their classrooms!

Thanks for taking the time to read a bit about me. Auf Wiedersehen.

eBook Readers by Sarah Zabriskie

An e-book reader is an electronic device designed primarily for the purpose of reading digital books and other electronic text documents. It uses e-ink technology to display words to readers. E-ink is a type of digital display that is easy on the eyes to read. Even though e-book readers use a screen to display words, e-ink allows it to not have the bright illuminated effect of a computer screen, but a soft, natural display that looks more like the page of a book. An e-book reader allows you to download books in an electronic format and stores them in its library. You can then access your library and read your books any where you want. The biggest advantages of using e-book readers are, portability, you can carry hundreds of books with you in one little e-book reader; price, e-books usually cost less than physical books; and many e-book readers come with different applications that allow you to connect to the internet, listen to music, or shop for books right from your e-book reader.

Not all e-book readers are created equally. Some come with internet and music capabilities, and yet may not allow you to download PDFs or other documents you frequently read. When deciding which e-book reader is right for you, think about what your needs are. What kind of documents do you read the most? Newspapers? Magazines? Make sure your e-book reader is capable of downloading those kinds of documents. Do you like to listen to music while you read? Find an e-book reader that will hold music so you can listen while you read.

The Kindle, from Amazon; the Nook, from Barnes and Noble; and the iPad, from Apple are the most popular e-book readers on the market, but don’t think you have to choose between these three only. There are many more e-book readers you can choose from. A great website you can go to in order to compare prices and features is [ebook-reader-review.toptenreviews.com](http://ebook-reader-review.toptenreviews.com/). This website compares 16 different e-book readers directly and tells you the price as well as the kind of applications and features each e-book reader has to offer. So check out the website and happy reading!

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eBook Readers by Kimberly Iverson

As e-readers become more popular the question starts to arise - are you going to get one or not? Many people love their e-readers and would suggest everybody get one. Others refuse, wanting to stay with their favored paper backs. Whereas several of us just don’t know. We don’t know what they can really offer us, if we can afford it, or which one we should get. The whole topic can sometimes seem a confusing mess.

First off, what do you want from your e-reader? In general there seems to be two categories of e-readers, those that are just for recreational reading, and multimedia e-readers. E-readers for recreational reading include such brands as the Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble Nook, and Spring Design’s Alex e-reader. Using these designs you can simply download books, magazines, or newspapers from the Internet, cuddle up in a blanket, and read. The varying details with these products come in general categories of where you get your books from, how many of those books are free, how many font sizes they offer, memory space, and how comfortable they are to hold. These e-readers are simple, have a long battery life (usually up to a couple of weeks), and have a nicer price attached. If more is wanted from your e-reader though, don’t worry, there’s much more to offer from the multimedia category.

Today is a day of multitasking. We all do it every day, and most of us are pretty good at it. Many multimedia e-readers are following that same trend. Such e-readers as the Apple iPad, Sony PRS 900 Reader Daily Edition, and Pandigital Novel fall into this category. Using these e-readers you are able to listen to music while you read, check your email, and even play games. Of course the prices of these products are going to be a lot higher than your basic e-readers, but they can be very useful. Many higher education students are finding them to be their favorite educational and entertainment tool. While sitting in a classroom they are able to highlight and take notes in their eBooks, record the lecture both visually and audibly, and are able to write the homework assignments in their calendar. Once leaving the classroom, the students are able to pack up their lightweight e-reader (as opposed to their 2-3 books for each class plus notebooks), type up a short assignment, and set the alarm so they can take a quick nap before study groups.

So what does this mean for your classroom today? Although these products seem great for the classroom there’s one big concern. What about students with visual disabilities? Some books are offered as audio books, but not all publishers allow it. Even if all books were offered as audio, these students still would not be able to navigate the screen. Especially because many of these products now have touch screens consequently the individual buttons cannot be felt with the hands. Some schools have even found themselves in legal battles because of starting e-reader pilot programs. This is a challenge that manufacturers are aware of and are striving to remedy. So far the attempts have not proven to really help the situation. In the future I’m sure this will be changed and we will see these e-readers and their capabilities used in the everyday classroom, but until every student can be reached and benefitted e-readers will stay for your own personal education and entertainment.

For a comparison of e-readers visit

The Free Library

Since 2003, The Free Library has offered free, full-text versions of classic literary works from hundreds of celebrated authors, whose biographies, images, and famous quotations can also be found on the site. Recently, The Free Library has been expanded to include a massive collection of periodicals from hundreds of leading publications covering Business and Industry, Communications, Entertainment, Health, Humanities, Law, Government, Politics, Recreation and Leisure, Science and Technology, and Social Sciences. This collection includes millions of articles dating back to 1984 as well as newly-published articles that are added to the site daily.

The Free Library is an invaluable research tool and the fastest, easiest way to locate useful information on virtually any topic. Explore the site through a keyword search, or simply browse the enormous collection of literary classics and up-to-date periodicals to find exactly what you need.

The Internet Archive

The Internet Archive is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that was founded to build an Internet library. Its purposes include offering permanent access for researchers, historians, scholars, people with disabilities, and the general public to historical collections that exist in digital format. Founded in 1996 and located in San Francisco, the Archive has been receiving data donations from Alexa Internet and others. In late 1999, the organization started to grow to include more well-rounded collections. Now the Internet Archive includes texts, audio, moving images, and software as well as archived web pages in our collections, and provides specialized services for adaptive reading and information access for the blind and other persons with disabilities.

As of the writing of this article the Internet Archive has archived over 1.5 billion webpages - a time machine that you can look at any site back through time and see how it has evolved. There are nearly 300,000 moving images that include old tv shows and movies. There are 81,000 concerts in the live music archive. There are nearly 600,000 audio recordings that include audio books. And you'll find nearly 2 and a half million text files. According to the site you can... “Download free books and texts. The Internet Archive Text Archive contains a wide range of fiction, popular books, children’s books, historical texts and academic books. This collection is open to the community for the contribution of any type of text, many licensed using Creative Commons licenses.”

A warning to teachers. You’ll want to monitor student usage of this site, as some materials may be inappropriate for younger audiences. However, overall, this is a treasure trove of resources that can be used in education.
The World Public Library

Link: http://www.worldlibrary.net/

Here’s a wonderful collection of reading and reference materials in electronic format. From their website...

“The World Public Library Association Collection shelves more than 750,000+ PDF eBooks in 100+ languages. The World Public Library Association contains 125 of the finest eBook and eDocument collections published on the Internet today. The mission of the World Public Library’s Acquisition Department is to add new eBooks 24/7 to their shelves.”

“The World Public Library is an effort to preserve and disseminate classic works of literature, serials, bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference works in a number of languages and countries around the world. Our mission is to serve the public, aid students and educators by providing public access to the world’s most complete collection of electronic books online as well as offer a variety of services and resources that support and strengthen the instructional programs of education, elementary through post baccalaureate studies.”

One collection you’re sure to enjoy is the Children’s eBook collection. “Compiled from scans of original children’s books. The World Public Library Children’s eBook Collection is a selected list of the most popular children’s books, “My First Book Collection.” Many of these titles are considered all time classics. We hope you and your family enjoy the collection. (1280 PDF eBooks)"

Annual membership in the World Public Library is only $8.95 per year.

International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP) Portal

Link: http://imslp.org/

While not reading material, this site is great for music teachers. From their website: “Welcome to the portal page of the International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP)! We at the IMSLP believe that music should be something that is easily accessible for everyone. For this purpose we have created a music library to provide music scores free of charge to anyone with internet access, with several other projects in planning. IMSLP is also entirely collaborative, and all contributions are greatly welcome.”

One collection is the Petrucci Music Library. “The Petrucci Music Library is an internet-based collaborative music score library, and is currently the main project. You will find tens of thousands of scores composed by thousands of composers here, all available for free download.”

On the site you can browse music scores by composer (alphabetical), by composer (time period), by composer (nationality), or browse by instrumentation or genre (New!).

The IMSLP Project have active user forums to assist users.
**Wattpad**

Link: http://www.wattpad.com/

From the website: "Founded in 2006, Wattpad’s vision is to revolutionize the way we publish and read written works. Wattpad is now the world’s most popular ebook community where readers and writers discover, share and connect, delivering billions of pages from our library, one of the world’s largest collection of originally-created ebooks. Wattpad provides a powerful creative outlet and social media for undiscovered and published writers to share what they have written - a romance story, fan fiction, poetry or novel - and attract millions of readers. All the written works are easily discovered on Wattpad’s website, mobile site or through the Wattpad application available on all mobile devices including Apple iPhone/iPad, Android, BlackBerry, Nokia, Samsung and more.

**Warning!**

Free sign up is required. As with all the sites listed in the newsletter this month, Wattpad features some very good written works - but you’ll also find pretty trashy literature as well. Since these works are user submissions, there’s a huge range in the quality of the works you’ll find here. I hesitated on sharing this one, but I share it with you because it is a popular eBook site. I definitely would not let my children roam this collection by themselves. Wattpad’s collection includes 250,000 works.

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**Free eBooks by Project Gutenberg**

Link: http://www.gutenberg.org

We’ve featured Project Gutenberg in an earlier newsletter, but it’s definitely worth mentioning again here.

From their website: “We carry high quality items: Our books were previously published on paper by bona fide publishers and digitized by us with the help of thousands of volunteers.

All our ebooks can be easily downloaded: Choose between ePub, Mobipocket, HTML and simple text formats.

No fee or registration is required, but if you find Project Gutenberg useful, we kindly ask you to donate a small amount so we can buy and digitize more books. Or you can help us digitize more books or help us record audio books.

Over 100,000 free books are available through our Partners, Affiliates and Resources.

Our books are free in the United States because their copyright has expired. They may not be free of copyright in other countries. Readers outside of the United States must check the copyright laws of their countries before downloading or redistributing our ebooks.”

“Project Gutenberg is the place where you can download over 33,000 free books to read on your PC, iPad, Kindle, Sony Reader, iPhone, Android or other portable device.” I highly recommend this site for anyone, including children.

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**Free OZ Books**

Link: http://sites.google.com/site/free-childrensbooks/home/oz-books

From the website: “Oz is fairyland originally created by L. Frank Baum as stories he told his four sons and their friends.

There are forty Oz works that are considered “official” Oz works. The authors of these works are referred to as “Royal Historians of Oz”.

Baum proceeded to write 14 Oz books, the first of which, “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz”, was published in 1900.

Ruth Plumly Thompson took over as a Royal Historian of Oz in 1921 with The Royal Book of Oz (originally authorship was wrongly attributed to Baum) and proceeded to write an Oz book a year for nineteen years until 1939.

Several authors wrote the final seven books of the official series. I was able to find free copies of 38 of these works online.”

You’ll enjoy this collection.
**Edit Videos With Youtube**

YouTube has always been a great place where you can upload your videos so the whole world can see them, but if you wanted to edit your videos, you would have to use a separate piece of software, up until now! YouTube has just made it possible to do some basic editing to the videos you have uploaded on YouTube. Go to...

**Link: [http://www.youtube.com/editor](http://www.youtube.com/editor)**

There, you can trim a video by placing a video in the timeline, clicking on the scissors, and using the sliders to select where you want your video to begin and end. You can combine your videos by dragging your videos into the timeline at the bottom.

You can also add music to your video without worrying about copyright issues by using YouTube's audio library. You can search by artist, genre, or keyword. Just click on the song you want, and it will be added to your video.

Once you're done, just name your video and click publish.

*All articles on this page thanks to Sarah Zabriskie and Tekzilla's Daily Tip!*

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**Turn the Web into Your Personal Music Library With Extension.fm**

Have you ever come across a website that has really great music and you wanted to listen to it again later? Chrome has a great extension that will allow you to do just that. It's called extension fm and is found at

**Link: [http://www.extension.fm](http://www.extension.fm)**

As you are browsing the internet, extension fm will find every MP3 file on the webpages you visit and then automatically create a library of music for you to enjoy later. Once installed, you can access your library by clicking the extension fm logo found in your toolbar at the top of your page. Clicking on the home button will display all the MP3s you have come across while browsing the web. Extension fm will also update its library, so if a website adds more songs, they will be added to your library as well.

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**Schedule Automatic PC Shutdown**

Do you want your computer to shutdown automatically at a certain time? You can use shutdown timer, which is available at...

**Link: [http://www.sinwise.net](http://www.sinwise.net)**

...under projects. This is available to download for free and gives you many ways to decide what will trigger an automatic shutdown.

Under options, you can specify a date or time for your PC to shutdown. Under CPU options, you can set it to shutdown after it reaches a certain amount of CPU usage or reaches a certain core temperature. Under memory options, you can set it to shutdown when your memory reaches a certain limit or stays at that limit for a certain amount of time. You also have options of how you want your PC to shutdown. In the upper right corner there is a dropdown list that will let you specify if you want your PC to shutdown, restart, hibernate, or just logoff.

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**Take a Hubble Tour with Google Earth**

The Hubble Telescope just celebrated its 20th birthday, and Google Earth has gotten in on the celebration. You can see a collection of 20 images from the Hubble Telescope by visiting

**Link: [http://earth.google.com/hubble20th/](http://earth.google.com/hubble20th/)**

You can also download a Google Earth file to view those images in Google Earth by clicking on the "download our new Hubble" option on that same page. Install Google Earth, if you haven't already, and launch the .kmz file. Google earth will switch into its sky view. You can click on the slide view to have a tour of each of the Hubble Telescope images, or you can just click on the images separately and learn only about the ones you want to see. Clicking on the "learn more" option will take you to the

**Link: [http://hubblesite.org/](http://hubblesite.org/)**

a website where you can read even more about these fascinating Hubble images.
For many of us, bookmarks on your browser are a must. There are so many good and helpful web sites you come across that you will never be able to remember them all. But with bookmarks it's easy to keep track of all the things you need to and want to remember.

There is, however, one issue for someone who uses bookmarks frequently. If you have a computer at work and one at home you may find it hard to get all your bookmarks from one or the other. Perhaps your school is getting all new computers and you have a lot of your most useful web sites bookmarked on your old one. You will have to go through and re-bookmark everything the way you had it before, or export your bookmarks from one and import them into the other. Say you found several awesome sites at school and wanted to get back to those sites when you got home. The answer to this problem can be solved through delicious.com.

Delicious.com is a web site that allows you to import all of your bookmarks from multiple computers on an internet site. You create your own Delicious account and import all of your bookmarks from your computer(s). You can tell it to replace any duplicates and you can add or delete bookmarks on your delicious account as well. If you are using a computer in a computer lab or you are on a computer you don't normally use, you can just log into your delicious account and access all your bookmarks from that site, making it quick and easy to go through your routine browser visits and updates even away from your personal computer.

Other features of delicious.com include allowing friends and family to access your bookmarks to make it easier for them to find those sites you have been telling them about and being able to view some of the most popular bookmarks browsed by the public.

A few things to note about delicious.com: It doesn't actually place bookmark tabs into your browser. It simply gives you a list of links to those bookmarked web sites. It won't actually display the synced bookmarks on your browser but you can use the links to open the bookmarks up and from there, using your new browser, add the bookmarks to your other computer into the tab bar. Delicious.com requires you to log on to their free account before you can manage or access your bookmarks. In order to be able to create an account you must use yahoo. If you do not have your own, there are step-by-step instructions on how to create your own yahoo account, which is quick, easy and free but a little annoying.

If you use multiple computers and need to get all your bookmarks together fast and easy, delicious.com is the way to go.

Note from Nathan Smith: When you add bookmarks to your Delicious account, tag them with keywords, many of which Delicious will suggest to you. Easy to do. You can easily tag a set of bookmarks for a class to access. Others you wish to share your bookmarks with can get to your account by typing the Delicious URL/yourUserName. For example, if you'd like to visit my bookmarks, you'd type this URL...

http://delicious.com/nmsmith

From there you can search for a particular tag by adding it after the username. If you've marked some of your bookmarks as private, those will not be displayed...

http://delicious.com/nmsmith/TagName

So, let's say you want your first period class to go through a particular subset of your bookmarked sites tagged 1stPeriod. You could provide a link from your homepage, or give them a URL that looked like this...

http://delicious.com/nmsmith/1stPeriod

On a different track, the real advantage of a social bookmarking site is that you can search everyone's bookmarks. It's a great search tool, because people only bookmark the best sites, generally speaking. As I search for great tools and sites for UCET, I'll often go to Delicious.com first, and search other's bookmarks. Delicious will bring back the results, and also inform me how many other members have also bookmarked that site. Sites that have been bookmarked often are usually worth having a look at.

With the great browser plug-in for Firefox and other browsers, delicious.com has become my only bookmarking solution..
We've introduced you to some fine mind mapping software in past issues of the UCET newsletter. For example, XMind was showcased in the December 2008 issue. Another fine mind mapping tool that is similar in nature to Google Docs - that is, it is an online tool, your maps are stored online, and you can share and collaborate as you would in Google Docs - is MindMeister. We mentioned MindMeister briefly in our February 2008 issue. Let's have a deeper look at this tool.

MindMeister brings the concept of mind mapping to the web, using its facilities for real-time collaboration to allow truly global brainstorming sessions.

Users can create, manage and share mind maps online and access them anytime, from anywhere. In brainstorming mode, fellow MindMeisters from around the world (or just in different rooms) can simultaneously work on the same mind map - and see each other's changes as they happen. Using integrated Skype calls, they can throw around new ideas and put them down on "paper" at the same time. 

MindMeister offers three levels of service: Basic, which is free; Premium ($59/year); and Business ($9 per month/user).

**Link:** [http://www.mindmeister.com/](http://www.mindmeister.com/)

Now, MindMeister allows you to access your online mind maps wherever you are with MindMeister Mobile, their new iPhone/iPad application.

You can easily add notes, links, images, and icons to any object in your mind-map.

MindMeister has a useful history function, so you can view all the changes made to the mindmap over time. Each collaborator is presented in a different color, so you can easily see who made changes at any particular date and time.

**MindMeister Offline Mode**

Now MindMeister allows you to work on your mind maps even when you're offline, i.e. not connected to the internet. Using the Google Gears offline library, you can now work on all your MindMeister maps wherever you are, without the need for an internet connection. When you come back online, just slide the button and all your changes (and new maps) will be synched back into your online account!

Please note that you have to be a Premium subscriber (or in your Premium test period) to use the Offline Mode.

**Geistesblitz Dashboard Widget:**

Ever had a great idea that was gone again before you had the chance to jot it down? Well, with the new Geistesblitz Tools this won't happen again. You can insert ideas into your default mind map on MindMeister directly from your Mac Dashboard, Windows Sidebar or Yahoo! Widgets Desktop, without having to open a browser or log on!

**Geistesblitz Browser Extensions**

The Geistesblitz browser add-ons come in two flavours:

**Quicksearch Extensions**

These extensions use the search interface that you find in the top right corner of Firefox and Internet Explorer 7/8 (ok so they're not really using it to search stuff, but if it gets the job done...?). For installation see instructions for your browser. Basically, you just open the dropdown of the search bar in the top right corner (the dropdown should have slight blue glow), and you click Add 'MindMeister Geistesblitz'.

**Accelerators**

Accelerators are a new feature of Internet Explorer 8 allowing you to easily use text or links that you select on a webpage with other web services. Of course, we use it to save Geistesblitzes straight from your browser's context menu.

You'll want to watch the quick demonstration video on the MindMeister site that shows all the features.
Explore Learning Gizmos  by Sarah Zabriskie, USU

Math and science are two subjects that many students struggle with. Explore Learning is a website dedicated to making math and science fun and easy to learn. It offers the world’s largest collection of inquiry and exploration based interactive simulations (called gizmos) for grades 3-12. There are more than 450 gizmos, all of which are research based and used by teachers in each of the 50 states. Gizmos are easy to integrate into the classroom. Use them in small groups, for individual exploration, or whole class instruction with an LCD projector or interactive whiteboard. Also, when using gizmos, you won’t have to worry about whether they will fit your state curriculum standards because they are already correlated to state standards and over 200 textbooks.

Explore Learning tries to make it as easy as possible for teachers. Each Gizmo lists learning objectives so you know exactly which concepts it will cover. Also, Gizmos come with a lesson plan, vocabulary sheet, student exploration sheet (a worksheet that helps students explore and learn from the gizmo), and an assessment. Every time your students take an assessment, their scores are sent to you so you can analyze and record them.

I tried a gizmo called equivalent fractions. This Gizmo consisted of 2 number lines, one on top of the other, and a machine I could use to make fractions. After making my fractions, I could move them onto the number lines and try to make them equal to each other. Once my fractions were equivalent, a line labeled equivalent slashed through the two number lines. I was also able to explore simplifying and adding fractions and showing the sums as improper or mixed fractions. From experimenting with this Gizmo, I could definitely see how it would help students learn about fractions. It would help them see the concept in a concrete way so they could later see it abstractly.

The only drawback to Explore Learning is it sounds way too good to be free, and that’s because it is. Your school or district can purchase a subscription from Explore Learning, and then you will be able to access every Gizmo, lesson plan, assessment and everything else Explore Learning has to offer. In the meantime, if you want to give Explore Learning a try and see if you could use it in your classroom, you can signup for the 30-day free trial.

To try out the Gizmos and to see what else Explore Learning has to offer, visit...

Link:  http://www.explorelearning.com/
**Wikispaces.com**

**Link:** [http://www.wikispaces.com](http://www.wikispaces.com)

To some Wikispaces has become known as the best wiki available. It can easily be used for classroom projects, conference planning, and any kind of collaboration you need. All you have to do is sign up, edit your wiki, invite others to join, and you’re ready to go. If you need added help there are also easy to follow tutorials on their web page and a ready to help staff whose focus is customer service.

For those of us that aren’t as savvy with Html or CSS, editing our wikis has been the biggest hold up. For Wikispaces this is no problem. It uses a WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) page editor. This means if you can use a basic word processor you’re ready to go. Utilizing this page editor can also help you insert widgets and links to other pages. From editing to security, everything on this page is designed with the basic person in mind.

The most basic Wikispaces plan is free with different plans going up from there. The highest plan is the private label which offers a free trial and unlimited users for educational purposes. It’s easy, it’s simple, and it’s very useful. For your next class project or for collaboration throughout your department try a wiki at wikispaces.com.

**Prezentit.com**

Slide show presentations are a very large thing in education. Everyone not having PowerPoint on their home computers becomes an issue though. Teachers don’t necessarily want to spend a lot of time at the school putting presentations together, or want to run up to school when they forget to do it before hand. That’s where Prezentit.com comes into play. Prezentit.com is a web page that can be used to put together very simple and basic slide show presentations. Once the presentation is created it can be saved online and accessed with just a web browser. After the presentation has been accessed it can be downloaded to whatever computer may be needed. Because the presentation is online other people can also access it and work on it. This also makes collaboration easier.

**Link:** [http://Prezentit.com](http://Prezentit.com)

**Apps for music teachers**

There’s a lot of great apps out there that can be of great use to educators to improve their classrooms. Here’s a few specifically for music teachers that may be of useful in your classroom. All this information was taken from the itunes app store at itunes.apple.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Compatibility</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circle Theory - By Artsiness</td>
<td>$4.99</td>
<td>iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iPhone OS 3.0 or later.</td>
<td>The Circle Of Fifths is a tool to assist in seeing the relationship between notes, provide key signatures for major and minor scales, assists in transposing between keys, and it also has a helpful guide to figure out note intervals per musical mode.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Betotte TC - By S’s Works</td>
<td>$9.99</td>
<td>iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iPhone OS 3.1.3 or later.</td>
<td>Multi divisions metronome program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iNoteTrainer - By Pokmis</td>
<td>$3.99</td>
<td>iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iPhone OS 3.0 or later.</td>
<td>This simple game challenges you to correctly identify notes in the treble and bass clefs as quickly as you can.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruments in Reach Basic - By Westover</td>
<td>$0.99</td>
<td>iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iPhone OS 3.0 or later.</td>
<td>A basic fingering chart that you choose your instrument and scroll thru the chromatic scale to find a fingering or position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musictionary Music Dictionary - By Andreas Lindahl</td>
<td>$0.99</td>
<td>iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iPhone OS 2.0 or later.</td>
<td>A music dictionary, packed with over 400 different words and terminology related to music.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythm In Reach - By Westover</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
<td>iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iPhone OS 3.0 or later.</td>
<td>An educational music game designed to improve the rhythm reading skills of students. Developed by professional music educators.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay in Tune – Chromatic tuner by Sonzea</td>
<td>$3.99</td>
<td>iPhone, iPod touch (2nd generation), iPod touch (3rd generation), and iPad. Requires iPhone OS 2.2.1 or later.</td>
<td>Allows you to tune visually using its highly accurate tuning engine or by ear with built-in reference notes. You can also fine-tune your instrument to off-pitch tunings using the calibration feature.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Johnlocker.com**

Sometimes finding the right video is hard. YouTube is a great resource, but there are a lot of videos on there that you don’t want. Searching through everything can sometimes be frustrating. Johnlocker.com is a page specifically for searching documentaries. By using Johnlocker.com you’re able to avoid a lot of those videos that just aren’t going to work.

**Link:** [http://johnlocker.com](http://johnlocker.com)

*Articles on this page by Kim Iverson, USU*
Want Your Students to Study More? There’s an App for That!

By: Kasidy Stafford, USU


Many schools these days have policies against students bringing cell phones and other technologies to school. But, what if there was a way to embrace their love of mobile devices, creating an educational experience at the same time? Apple has an app for that. Offering thousands of educational applications for iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch, Apple has created a new way to study turning the hours students spend with their technology into valuable learning opportunities.

Subjects range from English language arts, to math, and history, and even physical education, and there are applications for all ages. Teachers can encourage their students to learn by suggesting they use these applications to help them study. Don’t have an iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch? Many others like Blackberry and Android are jumping on the educational technology bandwagon offering similar applications.

7 Videos Every Teacher Should Watch

By: Kasidy Stafford, USU


As the technology boom continues into the next decade of the millennium, teachers can no longer sit back and hope that their old chalkboard ways of teaching will be just as effective as they were twenty years ago. The reality is, students in the classroom today are already savvy on the latest technology and waiting on the edge of their seats for the newest trends to fall into their hands. It’s time educators learn to embrace technology creating classrooms that are inviting for a new kind of learner.

Richard Byrne writes a blog called Free Technology 4 Teachers that has thousands of free resources and lesson plans to help teachers introduce technology to their classrooms. He believes, “that when used correctly, technology has the power to improve student engagement and student achievement.” In a blog post, Byrne lists seven videos that every teacher, principal, and educator should watch. These videos have been created to show just how much students are influenced by social media and technology, and how important it is to create a cohesive technologically friendly environment in the traditional classroom.

Seven Videos All Educators Should Watch

Summer is a time when many of us are thinking about and planning professional development workshops for our schools and for other schools. I’ve always found that a short 3-5 minute video can be a good introduction to a PD session and make for a nice thought-provoking break during a PD session. Here are seven videos that I think serve those purposes well.

The “classic” of course is the various incarnations of Karl Fisch’s and Scott McLeod’s Did You Know? Version 4.0 is embedded below, but I still prefer this version.
UEN Social Studies Workshop

The Utah Education Network would like to invite you to attend a free workshop that will “revolutionize” your Social Studies classroom.

Date: Saturday, September 18th, 2010
Time: Either 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. or 10:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Location: University of Utah - Milton Bennion Hall
Lunch and educational goodies will be provided.

If you are looking for new ways to make learning about American History fun and engaging for your students, the Utah Education Network would like to help. This workshop will provide:

• an opportunity to explore the all new Mission US online game, “For Crown or Colony?”
• strategies for effective use of the game in the classroom
• additional extension activities and free materials to help engage students in Colonial American history
• lodging and mileage will be covered for those traveling 50+ miles

Space is limited, so register today at:

http://www.uen.org/missionus/

The flyer at right provides additional information and you can contact Karen < karen@uen.org > if you have questions.

Please share this workshop opportunities with others and I hope to see you on Sept. 18th.

Bartleby.com - Great Books Online - Free!

Link: http://www.bartleby.com

This site bills itself as... “the preeminent Internet publisher of literature, reference, and verse - providing students, researchers, and the intellectually curious with unlimited access to books and information on the web, free of charge.”

You can search the site by subject, author, and title. There are separate search fields for reference works, verse, fiction, and nonfiction. This is especially helpful if you are trying to narrow your search to a particular area of study.

Bartleby.com features works such as Grey’s Anatomy of the Human Body, Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations, the King James Bible, Oxford Shakespeare, Strunk’s Elements of Style, the World Factbook, and much much more.

This resource should be in every educator’s bookmarks!
The StoryPlace Preschool Library

Link:  http://www.storyplace.org/preschool/other.asp

For teachers and parents of younger children, the StoryPlace (www.storyplace.org) has a great selection of fifteen stories. Each interactive, engaging story has bundled with it an online activity, a take-home activity, a themed suggested reading list, and a parents’ activity.

Themes include animals, babies, bath time, colors, crocodiles, firefighters, fish, gorillas, monkeys, music, pets, shapes, teddy bears, trains, and wheels.

As an example, the first theme - Animals - has with it a story entitled, “Morris’ Special Day.” This is a story about a boy who has lost his pet mouse. As the boy looks for his mouse, he finds a bear, a horse, a sheep, and a dog. Each are introduced both in English and in Spanish. Afterword you can play an online activity that reinforces the concepts taught in the story. The take home activity is a Mouse Mask you can make out of paper plates and other easily obtained materials. The themed suggested reading list includes five books you can check out at your local library, such as “Is Your Mama a Llama?” and my favorite, “Why Mosquitos Buzz in People’s Ears.” The Parents’ activity is pictured above, and centers around learning the Spanish names.

tinySpell for Windows

Occasionally you need to check spelling in an application that does not include a spelling checker and you don’t want to launch your word processor just for that. This is when tinySpell becomes handy. It is a small utility that allows you to easily and quickly check and correct the spelling in any Windows application.

tinySpell can watch your typing on the fly and alert you whenever it detects a misspelled word. It can also check the spelling of text that you copy to the clipboard. tinySpell installs itself in the system tray for easy access.

There are two versions of tinySpell - a free version, and tinySpell+ that costs about $10. You can try the plus version for free before you buy it.

Checking your spelling is simple: Option 1: While you are typing, tinySpell watches the text you enter and whenever it detects a misspelled word it beeps and shows a spelling tip, and the tinySpell icon in the system tray turns from white to yellow. Option 2: When you copy text to the clipboard tinySpell checks its spelling immediately. If it finds at least one misspelled word in the text it beeps and turns its icon to yellow. If the icon is white it means that no misspelled words were found in the clipboard text.

When a misspelled word is detected, click the tinySpell icon or press the hot-key to pop up a list of suggested replacement words. If the misspelled word is detected during on-the-fly checking or after a word is copied to the clipboard you can select a correction from the list.

Link:  http://www.tinyspell.numerit.com

Now you can spell check no matter what program you’re in.
Some Quick Links to Children’s Books at Archive.org  

Shared by Janalee Keller, USU

Here is the classic story of Cinderella, it even looks like you are reading the actual book including images:  
http://www.thefreelibrary.com/literature.aspx

Little Women - http://www.archive.org/stream/littlewomenormeg00alcoiala#page/n13/mode/2up

Jack and Jill and old Dame Gill - http://www.archive.org/stream/jackjillolddameg00londiala#page/n5/mode/2up

What the Moon saw, and other little fun tales:  
http://www.archive.org/stream/whatmoonsawother00andeiala#page/12/mode/2up

Old French Fairy Tales - http://www.archive.org/stream/oldfrenchfairyta00sgrich#page/41/mode/2up


Children’s rhymes, children’s games, children’s songs, children’s stories: a book for bairns and big folk:  
http://www.archive.org/details/childrensrhymesc00ford

Curious Creatures - http://www.archive.org/details/curiouscreatures00newyiala

Dotty Dimple - http://www.archive.org/details/dottymaysd00maysiala

Dutch Ditties for children - http://www.archive.org/details/dutchdittiesforchildren00terh

Dream life for children - http://www.archive.org/details/dreamlifeforchil00fost

Dutch Fairy tales for Young Folks - http://www.archive.org/details/gridutch00sgrich

Easy rhymes for children - http://www.archive.org/details/easyrhymesforchildren00londiala

Fables and other short poems -  
http://www.archive.org/details/fablesshort00bickiala

Fables for youth - http://www.archive.org/details/fablescalculated00tauniala

Fables for the nursery - http://www.archive.org/details/fablesfornursery00traiala

Fairy Book - http://www.archive.org/details/fairybook00maysiala

Fairy Circles - http://www.archive.org/details/fairycirclestale00villiala

Gems of Poetry for little boys and girls - http://www.archive.org/details/UF00001782

Little Bo Peep - http://www.archive.org/details/littlebopeep00londiala

Pinocchio - http://www.archive.org/details/pinocchio00coll

Puss in Boots - http://www.archive.org/details/pussinboots00londiala
VirtualBox: Free Virtual Multi Operating Systems Machine

By Huck Miloon Stewart

VirtualBox is a free program designed to run two different operating systems on one single computer. It is being compared to VMware Fusion, Parallels Desktop and Microsoft Virtual PC however VirtualBox. If it’s being used on your personal computer for educational or testing purposes, is entirely free. While those other programs aren’t extremely expensive, the free downloadable VirtualBox may just be the program you are looking for to easily run programs that were not compatible with your original operating system.

This program is not just another virtual machine to tie the gap between Windows and Mac users. This was designed for use of several “guest operating systems” on almost any “host operating system.” VirtualBox is not limited to only one host and one guest, but one system hosting many guests. You can turn on and off different operating systems for different purposes and needs.

There seems to always be a need to be able to own and run two different operating systems. The best use for this program that I have seen is to be able to quickly run software from text books that were only made to run in Windows or to run older computer games or educational software that just doesn’t seem to want to run in your Mac or PC. There are, however, even newer software programs that still are not universally compatible.

Sun Microsystems, the company that maintains VirtualBox has been known for excellent live help and chat service as well as regular updates for fixing bugs in the virtual machines. There are user manuals available on their web site for every host and guest set up as well. Installation and set up of the program was also very easy. I sat down and had VirtualBox running within 10-15 min. It gives you step-by-step instructions and suggestions on how to best set your operating preferences for your guest usage. The guest uses the hard drive memory of your host and you can choose how much memory you want to give the guest for best usage. From the program you can choose which guest operating system you would like to open up. It is important to remember that although the program to run the guests is free you still have to purchase and install the guest operating systems on your computer. It installs just like a brand new computer when you first install the software with it. That process took about 30-40 min.

There are some minor flaws with VirtualBox that you would want to be aware of - to be able to either fix or avoid. Getting used to how the program works takes a little bit of time. You have to specify which operating system recognizes the CD/DVD drive, the mouse and other basic things that you would have otherwise taken for granted. File sharing and RAM usage can be tricky as well. You don't want to give too little or too much to the guest operating system or it could cause things to crash. Having two operating systems on your computer can take up a lot of needed space. Make sure you have the space and processing power to smoothly run what you need. It has been reported as well that file sharing and printing from guest systems can give you problems. The last thing that I noticed is that you need to play around with the graphics to be able to make your guest system run in full screen mode, otherwise it stretches the screen out and looks very pixilated. Although I can't explain how to overcome these issues I can direct you to a few good resources for tips and trouble shooting guidelines for VirtualBox both from their web site and from independent user reviews.

Though the other virtual machine programs aren't overpriced, the VirtualBox free download is an excellent choice for running the operating systems you need quickly and easily. Though there are issues with the program there are many ways around them and great support services provided by the people who made and run the program.

For more detailed information about Hardware emulation, downloading and running VirtualBox please see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VirtualBox
http://www.virtualbox.org/

For more detailed information about troubleshooting, tips on faster and more efficient running and qualities and flaws of VirtualBox please see:

http://www.besttechie.net/2010/04/09/virtualbox-review/
http://www.reviewmacsoftware.com/commercial/virtualbox.html
http://www.virtualbox.org/
Get to Know Your UCET Board of Directors!

**Tricia Jackson** - Tricia Jackson has worked for Park City School District as an Education Technology Specialist since 2005. She has been a member of the UCET Board since 2008. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in Information Systems and Spanish at Utah State University. Currently, she is working with Lesley University to obtain a Master of Technology in Education in the fall of 2010. Her tech hobbies are social networking for education (Facebook etc), Google Tools, blogging and some podcasting.

**Charice Black** - Hi, I’m Charice Black. I’m currently in my second year serving on the UCET Board and have really enjoyed the experience. I love the relationships I have built, and continue to build, with the board and UCET members. I like everything about technology and consider myself a true “Tech Geek”, wearing the title with pride. This has made for a great fit on the UCET Board and in my job helping teachers and students use the UEN Videoconferencing system.

I was born and raised on a dairy farm in Utah, graduating from Parowan High School before attending Snow College in Ephraim. Then I got to spend time in Northern Virginia, just outside of Washington DC, learning that I love to travel and see more of the world. After a little more than a year in DC, I returned to Utah to attend Weber State University where I graduated with a BS in Broadcast Communications. While at Weber, I was hired to work with the EDNET system and to be a campus video producer, a job I really enjoyed. After graduation, I started with the Utah Education Network as a Distance Education Specialist, a position I have held for the past 13.5 years.

One of the major accomplishments of my life was completing my Master’s of Education degree through Western Governor’s University in 2008. One of the highlights was being able to walk in the graduation ceremony with my father, a teacher at Enterprise High School, who completed his Master’s degree at the same time. We even got our picture with the University President in the Salt Lake Tribune as a Father-daughter team.

For fun, I like to spend time with my 4 kids (and now, one son-in-law), traveling anywhere and everywhere, watching sporting events, live performances, movies, geocaching, reading, anything electronic, and sleeping when there’s time. This past summer I was fortunate to travel to Denmark with my parents, knocking another item off the “bucket list”. I love to get to know people, but I sometimes don’t start the conversation, so don’t hesitate to introduce yourself.
The Benefits of UCET

by Paula Wells, Past President, Utah Coalition for Educational Technology

When I first joined UCET several years ago, I had no idea what a wonderful resource UCET would become. UCET has benefits that are fabulous to all who utilize them. I thought I would spend a few minutes letting you in on the great benefits you enjoy as a member of UCET.

We have a great conference every year. This conference which is put together by volunteers helps give educators a yearly update on the newest and greatest in technology. Several of our vendors/sponsors tell us this is one of the best conferences around. We are extremely lucky to have so many great educators in this state who are willing to share their talents with us each year.

Our online newsletter and website are two of the best resources around. Nathan Smith does an excellent job of finding new and exciting information and resources that will help us all become better educators. Nathan searches out and finds valuable resources, usually free resources, and lets us know where to find them each month. You can also view clips from the previous conference and see who was recognized with an award as well as see who won a grant and see what their project is.

UCET is also an affiliate member of ISTE, International Society for Technology in Education, http://www.iste.org/. As a UCET member, you are eligible for discounts to the national ISTE conference held each summer. Next year the conference will be held in Philadelphia.

I think one of the best benefits of being a member of UCET is the network of educators that I have come to know over the years. I had no idea when I attended that first conference that I would be hooked for life. I have met some very helpful people, who have helped my job as an educator easier. I have been able to contact presenters to get additional information about something I saw and wanted to implement.

Another great personal benefit has been the opportunity of serving on the board of this organization. It is always great to help other people, and with this organization, I have seen some great improvements to technology in education in our state over the years. If you have not considered running for a board position, take the time now to consider it. The personal benefit and gain are much more than you give out.

As we begin another school year, I just wanted to remind everyone what a great resource UCET is to education and also to thank those people that I have had the great fortune to serve with on the board over the last several years. I would also like to thank those of you who have supported not only me but all of us on the board as we continue to develop and grow this great organization.

I wish you all a great and success school year.
With the latest craze of downloading and viewing eBooks from the web, Apple has recently come out with the new application for the iPhone and iPod Touch called iBooks. As touched on in previous editions of this newsletter, there are many eBooks available from the iBooks store, available within the application. What many users do not know, however, is iBooks powerful ability to download and view PDF (Portable Document Format) files right from the web. Here is how:

1. Open up Safari on your device and type in the address where you will find the desired PDF.

2. Go ahead and click (or touch) on the link to your desired PDF. This will load the PDF into Safari.

3. In the upper, right-hand corner, a button will appear saying “Open in iBooks.” Clicking on this will close Safari and automatically open iBooks. Depending on the size of the PDF, it may take a few minutes for it to load.

The amazing feature with iBooks is that your PDF is automatically saved on your device. Some other great features include:

• Double-tap anywhere on the screen to zoom in for easier reading. iBooks will automatically fit any text to the width of your screen.

• Search your PDF for specific text

• Easily scroll throughout the entire document using the scroll feature at the bottom of the screen.

• Save Bookmarks for future reference.

• Switch to Landscape Mode for easier viewing.
## Fall 2010 UEN Professional Development Calendar

**Link:** [http://profdev.uen.org/register/view_course_by_month](http://profdev.uen.org/register/view_course_by_month)

### Multimedia
- Digital Camera in the Classroom
- Digital Video Projects
- Multimedia Projects
- Create Online Media
- Podcasting
- Dig. Camera II: Adv. Photo Editing

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### Productivity
- Working with Windows
- PowerPoint 2007 for Teachers
- Google Tools
- Excel 2007 for Teachers
- Advanced PowerPoint (2007)

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### Strategies and Resources
- Video, Music & More in Pioneer Library
- Effective Teaching w/ Visual Media
- Use Technology to Teach

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### Web Publishing
- Web Publishing for Teachers
- Dreamweaver Part 1
- Dreamweaver 1.5: Review & Practice
- Dreamweaver Part 2
- Dreamweaver Part 3

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### Mac Classes
- Make the Most of Your Mac
- Digital Video with iMovie
- iLife Projects

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### Online Classes

**NOTE:** Registration closes 10 days prior to first day of class shown here. Time is needed for access and orientation.

- UEN-TV Workshops
- Internet Safety for Educators
- Teaching w/ Digital Video Online
- Technology Projects for Science
- Google Tools Online
- Pioneer: Resources, Multimedia & More
- WebQuests
- Six Technology Projects (STP)
- my.uen for Web-enhanced Classrooms
- LearnKey: PowerPoint (Windows Only)
- LearnKey: Word (Windows Only)
- LearnKey: Excel (Windows Only)
- Dreamweaver 1 Online
- Dreamweaver 3 Online
- Wimba for Collaborative Classrooms

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NASA Announces 2010 SPHERES Zero-Robotics Challenge

NASA and MIT are challenging high school teams to design software to program small satellites aboard the International Space Station. The competition centers on the Synchronized Position Hold, Engage, Reorient, Experimental Satellites, or SPHERES.

SPHERES are bowling-ball-sized spherical satellites used to test maneuvers for spacecraft performing autonomous rendezvous and docking. Three of these satellites fly inside the station’s cabin. Each is self-contained with power, propulsion, computing and navigation equipment.

The Zero-Robotics investigation, run by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., is designed to inspire future scientists and engineers. The teams are asked to address challenges of satellite docking, assembly and flight formation. The 2010 Zero-Robotics Challenge expands on a limited pilot program performed in fall 2009. This expanded pilot, called HelioSPHERES, will involve high schools from across the country during the 2010-2011 academic year. This new education program builds critical engineering skills for students, such as problem solving, design thought process, operations training, teamwork and presentation skills.

The first 100 high school teams to pre-register by Sept. 10, 2010, will be able to submit full proposals for the competition. Their full proposals are due by Sept. 14. More information and registration instructions are available at

http://zerorobotics.mit.edu

Twenty teams selected from the 100 candidates will compete using simulations and ground-based testing at MIT. The software of the top 10 winners will be sent to the station, and an astronaut aboard the orbiting laboratory will program the SPHERES satellites to run the students’ tests.

MIT’s Space Systems Laboratory developed the SPHERES program to provide the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, NASA and other researchers with a long-term test bed for validating technologies critical to the operation of future satellites, docking missions and satellite autonomous maneuvers. SPHERES have been used by many organizations, including other government agencies and graduate student research groups, since the program began in 2006. The satellites provide opportunities to test a wide range of hardware and software at an affordable cost.

For additional information on NASA and MIT’s Zero-Robotics program, visit


To read about last year’s competition, visit

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/9-12/features/code-of-space-robots.html

To read more about the SPHERES satellites and to see videos of them in action on the International Space Station, visit


Please e-mail any questions about this opportunity to Jason Crusan at Jason.Crusan@nasa.gov.
Blast Back to School - NASA Educational Resources

As you get ready for the new school year, consider adding a little space to your class.

NASA offers educational resources for use with kindergarten through college, as well as resources for the informal education community. Many of NASA’s educational products are quick and easy to find on the NASA website.

Visit the NASA Blast Back to School page to find educational resources and NASA events taking place in your area. From the site, you can find information relating to the following topics:

- NASA Explorer Schools.
- NASA Summer of Innovation.
- Current Opportunities for Students and Educators.
- National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program.
- Taking Up Space Blog -- Go Backstage With NASA Education.
- Homework Topics for Students.
- NASA's Education Resources -- Easy Ways to Obtain NASA Educational Materials.
- Find NASA Teaching Materials.
- NASA's Educator Resource Center Network.
- Central Operation of Resources for Educators.
- Educational Multimedia.

For more information, visit the Blast Back to School page:

http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/blast-back-to-school-2010.html

Registration Open for 2011 NASA Lunabotics Mining Competition

NASA is challenging U.S. and international undergraduate and graduate student teams to design and build a remote-controlled or autonomous excavator that could be used on the moon. The excavator must be able to collect and deposit a minimum of 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of lunar simulant in 15 minutes.

Design teams must include one faculty advisor from a college or university and two or more undergraduate or graduate students. A group of universities may work in collaboration, and multidisciplinary teams are encouraged.

Selected teams will compete in the Lunabotics Mining Competition at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida on May 23-28, 2011.

Teams must apply no later than Feb. 28, 2011. There will be a limited number of teams allowed to compete.

A webcast will be held on Sept. 22, 2010, at 3 p.m. EDT covering details about applying for the competition, the required milestones to compete on-site, and the requirements of the competition. There will be a review of the lessons learned from this past year's competitors. This webcast is an opportunity for teams, new and old, to discover what ideas worked and what did not. This is your chance to ask your questions and get answers. You may submit questions during the webcast to lunabotics@gmail.com.

In advance of the webcast

- Please visit http://dln.nasa.gov/ and click on the DLiNfo Channel button on the left-hand side.
- Pop-ups must be enabled in your Web browser.
- Please complete the brief usage form.
- A plug-in may be necessary to download, depending on your computer/browser.

For more information about the competition and to apply online, visit http://www.nasa.gov/lunabotics.

Please e-mail any questions about this opportunity to Susan Sawyer at Susan.G.Sawyer@nasa.gov.
NASA’s 2nd Waste Limitation Management and Recycling Design Challenge

NASA is inviting students in grades 5-8 to participate in the 2nd Waste Limitation Management and Recycling Design Challenge. The challenge uses real-world scenarios that meet science and mathematics content standards. Students can participate in a formal, informal or home-school setting.

Teams of up to six students will design a water recycling system for the unique environment of the moon. Teams will then test their system on a simulated wastewater stream. Proposals and results are due Feb. 28, 2011.

The winning teams will be announced in May 2011. The top three teams will receive awards. The first place team will receive an expense-paid trip to NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida. During the winning team’s visit to Kennedy, students will gain firsthand knowledge about NASA’s missions, receive behind-the-scenes tours of NASA’s launch facilities, and learn about future aerospace and engineering careers.

For more information and contest rules, please visit http://wlmr.nasa.gov/

Questions about the challenge should be directed to Jay Garland at jay.l.garland@nasa.gov.

NASA Space Settlement Design Contest

Design a space colony! Space colonies are permanent communities in orbit, as opposed to being on the moon or other planets. Designing a space colony involves physics, mathematics, space science, environmental science and many other disciplines.

The NASA Space Settlement Design Contest is for 11-18-year-old students from anywhere in the world. Individuals or teams may enter. Grades 6-8, 9-10 and 11-12 are judged separately, except for the grand prize. All participants will receive a certificate.

Submissions must be received by March 15, 2011.

For more information about the NASA Space Settlement Design Contest, visit http://settlement.arc.nasa.gov/Contest/

If you have any questions about the contest, please e-mail Al Globus at aglobus@mail.arc.nasa.gov

¡Juega al “Ozone Trap-n-Zap”!

Now available at Space Place en español, the new Ozone Trap-n-Zap game tells us why we should have mixed feelings about ozone, and gives us the chance to put it in its rightful place.

Ozone is fickle. Sometimes it’s good to us, sometimes it isn’t. It all depends on its altitude in the atmosphere. Close to the ground—it’s harmful pollution. A little higher, in the mid-troposphere—it helps clean pollution out of the air. Higher still at the top of the troposphere—it’s a greenhouse gas. And high up in the stratosphere—it absorbs harmful ultraviolet light.

Play Ozone Trap-n-Zap en español at http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/sp/kids/tes/ozone

Best wishes, The Space Place Team
Applications Open for NASA’s Free Electronic Professional Development Network Courses

NASA’s Learning Environments and Research Network and the Georgia Institute of Technology have teamed up to create the ePDN, a new initiative dedicated to preparing K-12 teachers to engage their students in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) through the use of NASA-developed learning materials and resources.

If you are looking for a way to enhance your instructional skills, meet your professional development goals, or find new and exciting resources to use in your learning environments, apply to one of our free courses today!

Applications are now open for courses starting this fall:

- **Observations, Experiments & Two Variable Data** -- This course will help teachers implementing the new Common Core high school math standards to brush up on statistics content. Participants will examine two-variable data relationships using scatter plots, time series and two-way tables. Attention will be given to measuring the strength of association, modeling of associations and explaining variability. The target audience is high school mathematics teachers without AP statistics backgrounds.

- **Getting Started in Robotics** -- During this first course in the Using Robotics to Enhance STEM Learning, participants will learn how to program the LEGO NXT Mindstorms robot. Participants will become familiar with LEGO vocabulary and parts of the LEGO Mindstorms kit as they build structural components of a robot and use math, science and engineering principles to design, build, test and operate their robots.

- **Vodcasts** -- In this course, participants will learn how to use audio and video editing tools to create new content for vodcasts that can be used in classroom lessons or created by their students. Participants will create vodcasts using NASA materials and resources. Apply Here! -

If you have questions about this contest, please e-mail your inquiries to **scientistforaday@jpl.nasa.gov**.

For more information on the ePDN and the resources it offers to K-12 teachers, visit **www.nasaepdn.gatech.edu**.

New NASA Website Aims to Engage and Educate Advanced High School Students

Advanced students require challenging materials to keep them focused on their studies and to help provide them insight into the limitless array of options in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, fields.

NASA’s Math and Science @ Work project offers challenging supplemental problems based on space exploration topics. This project engages students by providing real-world applications to promote critical thinking and problem-solving while exposing students to careers in space exploration.

These problems are for high school students in advanced classes, grades 10-12, and are formatted in a free-response style. Problems are available for calculus, physics, biology, chemistry, U.S. history and human geography.

Visit the Math and Science @ Work website at **http://www.nasa.gov/education/mathandscience**

Questions about the Math and Science @ Work website should be e-mailed to Natalee Lloyd at **natalee.d.lloyd@nasa.gov**.

Entries for the Fall 2010 Cassini Scientist for a Day Essay Contest Due Oct. 27, 2010

The Cassini Scientist for a Day contest challenges students to become NASA scientists studying Saturn. Participants examine three possible observations taken by Cassini and choose the one they think will yield the best scientific results. This choice must then be supported in a 500-word essay. Teaming up is encouraged. Winners will participate in a teleconference with Cassini scientists.

The contest is open to all students in the United States from grades 5-12, working alone or in groups of up to four students. The essays will be divided into three groups: grades 5-6, 7-8 and 9-12. All submissions must be students’ original work. Each student can submit only one entry.

Deadline for Fall 2010 submissions is noon Pacific time (3 p.m. EDT) on Oct. 27, 2010.

For more information, visit **http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/scientistforaday/**

If you have questions about this contest, please e-mail your inquiries to **scientistforaday@jpl.nasa.gov**.
Graphing calculators are usually part of the large list of back to school items to buy. Students from 7th grade through college are expected to have some way to be able to graph, plot and calculate. No matter your views on math and technology dependability, the fact is that you will have to buy one of these machines sooner or later in your academic career.

I am a Math Education major. Throughout my 4 years of high school and 4 years of college I have built up a collection of calculators. I own Two TI-86s which new, cost around $90.00, one TI-84 which cost around $120.00 new from the Texas Instruments web-site, and one TI-89 which cost $150.00; not to mention the three other simple arithmetic calculators I have sitting at home. I have nearly $500.00 worth of graphing/calculation machines in my home. Only one of these seven calculators can differentiate and integrate. One other, if the manual is studied well, can even solve for unknown variables. The cost of these machines that calculate complex equations and graph data on a 2D plane can really get to a parent who has 7-8 children or a classroom with students from low income families who can’t afford one. The learning curve for these machines is even worse, as one needs to really study the manual or (in my case) take a college level class on how to even use these calculators.

In my experience, I have rarely been given a test where I was required or even allowed to use calculators. Both my Multi Variable Calculus and Linear Algebra and Differential Equations professors stated on their syllabus that calculators were “recommended” but not “required.” My professor told me that a calculator is good to have handy when you want to check your work, but not to depend on it.

All this being said, I now give you an alternative solution to this issue; SpaceTime Calculator! When Googled, that name will take you to this web site: http://www.spacetime.us/, which is the homepage to a calculator that can do all those things mentioned above and more. The best part about this program is that it is free. Compatible with Windows and Mac, it is said to be one of the most powerful scientific graphing calculators. From that web site you can download the version that works with your operating system and within minutes start solving complex single and multi variable equations. It has thousands of “how-to’s” for different fields of study like; calculus, algebra, statistics, trigonometry, plotting, scripting, and many more. Both science and math/business teachers could use this program for a number of reasons. It has 3D and 2D features for graphing and can even demonstrate the change in graphs as a result of time by allowing animation or movement. There are other computer programs that do these same things but the interface on many of them are hard to learn. Not only are they hard to learn, but most of them are not free. With a few basic tutorials, I was able to start checking my answers from my math homework very easily. This same program is also available for sale as an app for both iPod touch and iPad users. It really is like having a graphing calculator in your hand with better graphics (no pixels), color, movement and the ability to change windows with the swipe of your finger.

Please check out this amazing program. If you are not satisfied with what SpaceTime can do then you are only out a couple of seconds of download time. SpaceTime can benefit, not only math teachers but also any family who owns a computer at home and needs to check answers from their math homework.
From The Space Place

Hello,

We have just published the latest issue of the Space Place Newsletter: News and Notes for Formal and Informal Educators. The newsletter is all about the many useful and free resources on the Space Place website that can be helpful for kids and grown-ups interested learning about science, technology, and space.

For your convenience, a .pdf version of the newsletter is included with this message. We would like to encourage you to either e-mail it, or print, photocopy, and mail it to others who may find it interesting. Also, if you would like to include a link to it in your newsletter or listserv, it may be downloaded from

http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/educators

We hope you and your colleagues find the newsletter and our website: http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/ helpful.

Sincerely,

Laura K. Lincoln
on behalf of the Space Place Team

Check out our great sites for kids:

- http://climate.nasa.gov/kids
- http://spaceplace.nasa.gov

Laura K. Lincoln, Outreach Coordinator
Jet Propulsion Laboratory M/S 606-100
California Institute of Technology
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I have inserted the Space Place Newsletter as part of the UCET newsletter this month. Enjoy.

Nathan Smith,
UCET Newsletter Editor

The Texas Education Agency Releases New iTunes U Materials for K-12 Students

Gov. Rick Perry and the Texas Education Agency have joined together to launch Texas Education on iTunes U, which provides free multimedia content to educators, students and parents in Texas and around the world.

From an Associated Press Release by SARAH PORTLOCK (AP) – Aug 25, 2010

“HOUSTON — Texas students can now download podcasts, videos and other multimedia lessons directly from iTunes through a new online program aimed at providing free, supplementary coursework that can be accessed anywhere, state officials announced Tuesday.

The Texas Education iTunes U channel allows teachers to upload material from their classes to help students understand new concepts or do more research in a specific subject area. Students and parents can access the material through home or school computers, and those with iPods can download the information to the handheld devices.

The state first met with Apple Inc. about three years ago. The governor’s office and the Texas Education Agency began working on the project in November, finding and culling existing teacher training videos and programs for students, said agency spokeswoman Debbie Ratcliffe.

“A lot of that content may already be out there, but it’s either overlooked or hard to access,” Gov. Rick Perry told about 50 students at Sharpstown High School in southwest Houston. “This will really consolidate that information.”

Teachers across the state can also trade tips and advice about lesson plans by posting and viewing each other’s videos. Already, 146,000 teachers have signed up to participate and formed 5,000 subject groups, said Education Commissioner Robert Scott...

...Other state agencies and nonprofit groups will also participate and upload content to the site. The state has partnered with PBS, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives, Scott said.

Any user can download the public, free materials the same way music and videos are accessed from the popular online store. Forum-based discussions between teachers will be password-protected.

A Perry spokeswoman said all posted material will be vetted through the Texas Education Agency and work in conjunction with state-approved textbooks.”
**ExPod for Macintosh - Free Utility Copies iPod Files**

From the website: “ExPod is a small utility for getting songs off your iPod. iTunes does a fantastic job of copying music onto an iPod, but lacks the ability to go the other way. With expod you can copy any or all of your songs (or videos) off your iPod, using whatever file naming convention you like.

ExPod copies your files back to your hard-drive untouched, and does not remove DRM from songs you bought on iTunes.

ExPod uses the disk mode functionality in older iPods. Starting with version 0.5, iPhones, iPod Touches and newer iPods are also supported.

Expod is completely free, and includes source code if you’d like to see how it works.

Expod is a Universal Binary, and requires OS X 10.4 or later. If you are using an earlier version of OS X, you can try expod 0.3.”

Link: [http://expod.joynt.net/](http://expod.joynt.net/)

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**Some Great Educational Podcasts**

**Beautiful Places in HD** - A totally different travelogue show (both in style and in content), Beautiful Places strips away the glamor, the modernity, and even the people, to take you through cyberspace to some of the more breathtaking natural wonders in the world. Video


Link: [http://www.learnoutloud.com/Podcast-Directory/Literature/European-Classics/Childrens-Fun-Storytime-Podcast/23099#podcastlink](http://www.learnoutloud.com/Podcast-Directory/Literature/European-Classics/Childrens-Fun-Storytime-Podcast/23099#podcastlink)

**Classical Performance Podcast** - From WGBH radio in Boston, Classical Performance is an audio podcast that features, at last count, over 35gGreat classical masterpieces in their entirety played beautifully for free.

Link: [http://www.wgbh.org/programs/programDetail.cfm?programID=391](http://www.wgbh.org/programs/programDetail.cfm?programID=391)

**Dragonfly TV Podcast** - DragonflyTV, the PBS KIDS GO! show that is all about real kids doing real science, taps ordinary kids doing extraordinary investigations, and showcases them in fast moving video with wall-to-wall music. Presented weekly, DragonflyTV Video Podcasts are created by Twin Cities Public Television and offered free of charge. Find out more about DragonflyTV at [http://pbskidsgo.org/dragonflytv](http://pbskidsgo.org/dragonflytv)

Link: [http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/show/index.html](http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/show/index.html)

**EarthSky - Clear Voices for Science Podcast** - If you've listened much to PBS radio, you’ve listened to the EarthSky interviews with scientists about various topics. A great, interesting podcast.

Link: [http://earthsky.org/](http://earthsky.org/)
Some Great Educational Podcasts (Continued)

**Fairy Tale Corner** - A selection of children's stories in audio (MP3) format. The Emperor’s New Clothes, The Duration Of Life (Grimm), The Little Mermaid, Clever Gretel, Rapunzel, The Twelve Brothers, and more.

Link: [http://www.chestnutbay.com/ftc.htm](http://www.chestnutbay.com/ftc.htm)

**Family Fun TV Podcast** - Each week you’ll get step-by-step video guides of popular FamilyFun crafts and recipes for every holiday and season. Whether you’re creating a cute craft, looking for a great homemade gift, or cooking up a terrific treat for the kids, we’ll show you how to get the job done in three minutes or less. Video


**Hidden Universe in HD** - Witness our universe in a whole new way! This video series (in 720p High Definition for Apple TV and hi-res monitors) highlights some of the most exciting discoveries from NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope. In-depth ‘Showcase’ features, striking ‘Gallery Explorer’ montages, and other whimsical specials take you beyond the visible to a universe of dust and stars hidden from Earth-bound eyes. Spitzer is the infrared component of the NASA Great Observatory program which also includes Hubble (visible), Chandra (x-ray), and Compton (gamma ray). For faster, iPod-compatible downloads search for the companion ‘Hidden Universe’ standard definition feed, also available on iTunes.


**HubbleCast** - latest news about astronomy, space, and the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope presented in High Definition video.


**Reading Rockets - Meet the Author Podcast** - These interviews with top children’s book authors and illustrators are an excellent way to introduce students to the creators of children’s books. Not just for children, these interviews can be enjoyed by anyone who appreciates the value of children’s literature and gets a kick out of putting a face and voice to the authors and illustrators whose work we enjoy.

Link: [http://www.readingrockets.org/podcasts/authors](http://www.readingrockets.org/podcasts/authors)

**Tekzilla Daily Tip** - Ever wonder where I learn about cool software, browser plug-ins, and new ways to do things on my Mac or PC? Here’s a secret - Tekzilla has some wonderful podcasts - including a daily tip - that shares this type of information.


There are myriads more podcasts, many that are not only suitable - but excellent resources for classroom use. Set up stations that use podcasts that the students can visit when they complete other tasks. Project on the front screen for full class instruction. The ideas for use are endless, as well as the ever-changing selection of resources. One great thing about podcasts is that you can download them to your hard drive. You’ll find that some of the great ones eventually go away, like some of the great National Geographic podcasts - but you still will have them backed up on your hard drive. Google “Podcast Directory” to find directories of podcasts. Use iTunes to visit Apple’s podcast directory.
The Space Place is a NASA website for elementary school-aged kids, their teachers, and their parents.

It's colorful!
It's dynamic!
It's fun!

It's rich with science, technology, engineering, and math content!

It's informal.
It's meaty.
It's easy to read and understand.
It's also in Spanish.
And it's free!

It has 130 (and counting) separate modules for kids, including hands-on projects, interactive games, animated cartoons, and amazing facts about space and Earth science and technology.

Earth Science Week is October 10-16. You will find copious Earth-science-related resources on both The Space Place and its sister websites, SciJinks (scijinks.gov) and Climate Kids (climate.nasa.gov/kids). In this issue, we describe a few of these resources, but you will also want to go exploring on your own.

New on spaceplace.nasa.gov . . .

Earth science is exceedingly complex. It is not a single “science,” of course, but many disciplines applied to understanding the relationships of events and conditions on our planet. Nothing seems to be black or white. Nothing is all good or all bad all the time. Helping young students begin to understand such nuances is a challenge.

One of those tricky concepts is the fickle role of ozone. Ozone is either “good” or “bad,” depending on where it’s hanging out in the atmosphere. Close to the ground—it’s harmful. A little higher, in the mid-troposphere—it helps scrub pollutants out of the air. Higher still at the top of the troposphere—it’s a troublesome greenhouse gas. And high up in the stratosphere—it protects us from harmful UV radiation.

After playing the “Ozone Trap-n-Zap” game on The Space Place, you and your students are not likely to forget these mercurial roles of ozone. Read about ozone and play Ozone Trap-n-Zap at http://tiny.cc/ozone-zap. The article and game are also available in Spanish at http://tiny.cc/ozone-zap-sp.

Spotlight on questioning (and getting good answers)

Go on, ask us anything. We will put your questions and our answers on the new “Ask The Space Place” page. Via our page on the website formspring.me, anyone can ask us anything about space exploration, Earth, the solar system, stars, and galaxies—anonymously, if desired. When we answer the question, it will also show up on our “Ask the Space Place” page, along with a link to a fun fact, game, or other genre of discovery on our web site. Go to http://tiny.cc/q-and-a to see what other questions we’ve answered, then click on the Formspring link at the bottom to ask your own question. Check back in a day or two for the answer.

For the Classroom

Earth Science Week is a great time to learn about clouds. We have three cloud posters you can download and print on an oversize printer—if you are lucky enough to have one—or take to your local print services store. At http://tiny.cc/cloud-poster, all
three posters identify cloud types by altitude. Articles and activities on the back explore Earth’s water cycle.

The Space Place also has downloadable, printable, high-resolution images with simple captions in large fonts for displaying in your classroom. Go to http://tiny.cc/images-gallery and check out the Earth collection.

For after school

“Missions to Planet Earth” is a different sort of computer game. As our “Wild Weather Adventure” game is an online board game, Missions to Planet Earth is an online card game (http://tiny.cc/earth-card-game). Either of these games is ideal as a fun, enriching activity that reinforces Earth science concepts. While the card game pits one player against the computer, the weather game can accommodate 1 to 4 players.

For the younger set

Not to forget the little brothers and sisters, The Space Place has added a few new coloring pages to its collection at http://tiny.cc/colorbook. Little ones can opt for the high-tech online “crayon” app or the low-tech print and do approach using old-fashioned, sweet-smelling wax crayons. For Earth Science Week, apt choices might be “A hot day,” “Earth,” “Weather Wizard,” or “Cloud.”

Celebrate Special Days

September 8: International Literacy Day
Celebrate Earth Science Week and Literacy Day both by reading about the “ecosphere” and doing some word find puzzles about air, water, land, and life at http://tiny.cc/ecosphere.

September 10: Swap Ideas Day
Swapping ideas is one way to think of the evolution of living things on our planet. Try one idea and see if it works. If not, try another. That’s what the “Emoticonstructor” is all about, also conveying the idea of natural or artificial selection. Go to http://tiny.cc/emoticonstructor.

September 23: Autumnal Equinox
What is an equinox anyway? Or a solstice, for that matter? Find easy explanations and lots of illustrations on our sister SciJinks website at http://scijinks.gov/solstice.

October 3, 1970: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) founded
NOAA observes and studies weather and other Earthly matters. Solve a “Weather Slyder” puzzle or two, unscrambling images of Earth and space weather at http://tiny.cc/slyder.

October 6: World Habitat Day
How did Earth become habitable in the first place? One important part of the process was the development of the happy mix of gases in our current atmosphere. Find out how that likely happened at http://scijinks.gov/atmosphere-formation.

October 10-16: Earth Science Week
All the Earth-related pages on The Space Place are linked at http://tiny.cc/earth-links. The whole SciJinks.gov website is about Earth science, with lots of videos and images to supplement your other curriculum for this important week. And don’t forget Climate Kids at http://climate.nasa.gov/kids.

And other things . . .

Our redesigned SciJinks.gov site has other educator resources, including the Earth-science-related classroom activities articles and guidance for conducting a weather-related science fair project. Go to http://scijinks.gov/teachers to explore.
Things are gearing up for the UCET 2011 conference. We would like to invite you to present a session at the next UCET conference. “UCET 2011 - Creativity, Imagination, Innovation” is our conference theme, with Kevin Honeycutt from ESSDACK and Jamie Casap from Google as this year’s Keynote speakers. We are now accepting presentation proposals for our spring conference. Presenting at UCET is an excellent opportunity for you to share your exceptional work in the classroom and with technology. UCET needs people like you! As a “thank you” for presenting your registration fee will be waived. You do not need to register as a participant if you submit a presentation proposal online. You may submit your proposal at:

Presenter Registration Form

In preparation for your proposal, please consider the following:

- Preference will be given to topics that match our needs (see below).
- Presentations must be submitted by December 15, 2010.
- No late submissions will be accepted.
- Presentation proposals must be completed online.
- Please contact, presenters@ucet.org, with any questions.

Conference Presentation Ideas: What follows are some ideas of topics that could be presented - however, you certainly are not limited to just these suggestions.

**Hardware for the Classroom**

- Student Response Systems
- Cell Phones
- SmartBoards
- Promethean Boards
- InterWrite Boards
- Document Cameras
- Digital Cameras
- Flip Cameras
- ELMO
- GPS units
- iPod Touch, iPad, iPhone
- MP3 players
- Kindle

**Multimedia**

- Digital Story Telling
- Photoshop Level 1-2-3
- Photoshop Elements 1-2
- PhotoStory Curriculum Examples
- Slide Share
- Bubble share
- Kidpix

**Technical**

- Security concerns
- Networking
- Wireless
- Firewalls

(Continued on page 2)
UCET 2011 Keynote Speakers

Kevin Honeycutt, Technology Integration Trainer

Kevin grew up in poverty and moved around the country, staying a step ahead of the ramifications of his father’s behavior. As he witnessed education around the country he collected powerful experiences that still influence his conversations and his work with educators. He spent 13 years teaching art K-12 and for the past three years Kevin has hosted a creative learning site called ArtSnacks (http://artsnacks.org) where he shares 130+ ten minute drawing videos that support standards curriculum. This social “learning” network is his Petri-dish for learning to mentor teachers and students in virtual environments and to help kids learn “netiquette”.

Kevin is currently serving his eighth year as a Technology Integration Specialist at ESSDACK, an educational service center based in Hutchinson, Kansas. At ESSDACK he researches and develops programs with a strong passion to make teachers and learners comfortable with technology. He is a school board member in the town of Inman, Kansas. Currently in his second term, he feels that one of his most important roles is to help vision what the future holds for learners and to help move his district in right, new directions. During his classroom tenure, he developed project-based approaches to learning that infused technology and problem solving skills. He created a film program for kids and developed it into a fully functioning curriculum at the high school level.

He has developed; online safety, anti-bullying and cyber-bullying curriculum which he shares with parents, teachers and students around the country and also certifies instructors in his curriculum. He continues to work with schools to develop innovative, engaging curriculum to better prepare learners for the world they will face when they graduate. Kevin is passionate about meeting the needs of at-risk learners and works with kids in juvenile detention, developing approaches to re-engage the “lost” learner. He travels the country speaking at conferences and working with educators at the grassroots level and likes to promote a “tradigital” approach to education.

He like to bring his personal life experience and a sense of humor to the mission of helping prepare 21st century learners!

Jaime Casap, Google Education Evangelist

As part of the Business Development group, Jaime works with Product, Engineering and other teams on new product incubation and exploratory efforts, technology and metadata licensing, strategic partnerships, urgent special projects, and alternative distribution for existing and new business initiatives.

His team consists of creative, entrepreneurial, highly organized leaders, well versed in a broad range of technologies, who can spot opportunities, evaluate inbound inquiries, build partnerships, collaborate with many internal functional groups globally, and negotiate and close business deals.

He is part of the Google Apps team, responsible for evangelizing Google Apps to universities in North, Central, and South America.

See Jaime at work:

Explore the whole solar system!

Next year, 2011, is the Year of the Solar System, and we are getting a head start at The Space Place. “Solar System Explorer” is a super-game containing several mini-games. Pick a planet. Or a comet. Or an asteroid. Zoom in and poke around. If it’s a planet with moons, zoom in on one of them and explore even more. And if a spacecraft is already there, or headed there, play a mini-game to help the spacecraft with its mission of exploration. Earn achievements by reading about solar system objects and by playing the games. More mini-games are coming soon. See how high you can push your scores. Post them on your Facebook page. Start exploring at ...


Explore the Solar System with NASA!

Another great solar system exploration site is the award winning Solar System Exploration from NASA. Visually stimulating, filled with information and facts, and sprinkled with multimedia and interactives - this is one of the best solar system websites available.

Sections include news and events, where you can connect to blogs, calendars, news releases, and watch the popular “What’s Up” podcast; planets, where you can find detailed information on the entire solar system (and beyond); missions, a complete record of the sturdy robots who explore beyond Earth orbit; science and technology, with in-depth reports on planetary science and technological innovations; multimedia, images, interactive features, and more that show the whole story of planetary exploration; people, where you can meet some of the people who make space exploration ideas a reality; kids, a section of the site for kids only; and education, which contains activities and resources for teachers and homeschool parents.

Link: [http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/](http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/)

Explore the Solar System with National Geographic!

Technology “Tricks or Treats”

by Jared Covili, UCET Board

As we move into October many of thoughts turn towards Halloween and the idea of “Tricks or Treats.” Now I know a lot of you out there tend to think of technology providing a lot more tricks than giving your curriculum a treat. Still, I want to share a few of my favorite technology treats that are sure to help you enhance your lesson plans and make your teaching life easier.

1. **Create a Google Account.** If you are still waiting to jump into the Google world, now is a great time. With your free Google account you have access to over 20 free tools, many of which are perfect for teachers. As an educator there are plenty of resources out there to guide you through the Google library and there’s a bunch of lesson plans you can look through as well. Check out [http://www.google.com/education](http://www.google.com/education) to get started.

2. **Animoto.** This a fantastic tool for creating unique slide shows using your digital images. The best part is that teachers can get a free pro account! This will enable you to make 10 min videos! Go to [http://animoto.com/education](http://animoto.com/education) and sign up for a six month pro account (you can renew your account at the end of your six months). Animoto has some nice examples of student projects you may browse through for classroom ideas.

3. **Weebly.** There are several different tools out there for creating a classroom website: Google Sites, myUEN, and Dreamweaver, just to name a few. The reason I’m suggesting Weebly as a web development tool is for your students. Weebly allows educators to create and manage student profiles so the kids can build their own sites under your direction. You can manage their logins and monitor the sites for content, all from your free account. The tool is very easy to use and the websites look great! Visit [http://weebly.com/education](http://weebly.com/education) to sign up for a free account.

4. **Dropbox.** A lot of our lives move between school and home. What happens when you’re working on a file at work and it’s time to go home? Dropbox makes the answer simple. Place your file in a “dropbox” folder on your work computer and it automatically saves it to your home computer as well. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve needed a file at home to find it’s only saved at school. Dropbox gives you 2GB of storage for free, with the ability to increase your storage to 8GB by referring your friends. I love this tool! Check it out at [http://www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)

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**DSN Uplink-Downlink**

Just as important as the spacecraft NASA sends to explore the solar system is the network of transceivers here at home that let us communicate with them.

The new “Uplink-Downlink” game on The Space Place is a fun way to see how it works. The spacecraft are so far away, they might as well be stationary in the sky as Earth turns below. Three different antennas (dish-type radio telescopes) of the Deep Space Network (DSN) pass by one at a time below as Earth turns. Your job in the game is to aim the moving antenna at a spacecraft, transmit a command, then receive 100% of the data sent back from as many as five spacecraft before the game is over.

As Earth turns, each DSN location comes into “view” of some spacecraft. To talk and listen to a spacecraft, the DSN antenna must link up with the signal from the spacecraft’s antenna. Then the DSN antenna must rotate to maintain that link as Earth continues to rotate through the day. Just when the DSN antenna is about to rotate out of view, the next DSN location on Earth’s surface is rotating into view. The link is “handed over” to the “new” antenna before the “old” antenna loses it. That way, the spacecraft is always in touch with Earth.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2010
1:00p.m. - 3:00p.m.

Workshops will kick-start the nanoUtah conference. Presented in parallel at:

Marriott City Center
Olympus Ballroom
220 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah

To register for nanoUtah, and for additional information, visit our website.

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR STARTING A NANO BUSINESS
Panelists from local nanotechnology businesses will discuss such topics as:
• Protecting your intellectual property
• Technology commercialization
• Entity formation and obtaining start-up capital
• Practical lessons learned for start-ups

BIG THINGS FROM THE TINY WORLD
Specifically aimed at high-school students, high-school educators, and undergraduate students, this workshop will address educational options and career opportunities in Nanotechnology.
• Nanotechnology in Energy
• Nanotechnology in Medicine
• Panel discussion on career and educational opportunities

Register online at
www.nanofab.utah.edu/nanoutah10
Get to Know Your UCET Board of Directors!

**Ross Rogers, Past President, Vendor Liaison**

Hello, my name is Ross Rogers and I have served on the UCET board for the past 5 years. I'm currently serving as the vendor liaison. My position is responsible for getting vendors to come to our conference. I also sell ads to the vendors for our program booklet. In 2008, I served as president of UCET. That was the first year we were at Murray High School. I also started the UCET Teacher Grant program during my presidency. I love working with UCET. It is always fun to work with such a great board of teachers.

I currently work for Canyons School District where I'm an Educational Technology Specialist. I have 4 elementary schools that I work with and I train teachers how to use technology on their classroom. I love working with teachers and their students on projects. Last year in Canyons, I was a Media Technology Specialist and I worked with 9 elementary schools in their libraries.

Before Canyons I worked for Utah Education Network (UEN). I was a technology trainer and traveled all over the state training teachers how to use technology.

I started my education career in Davis School District where I was a first and third grade teacher at Adelaide Elementary. I also taught before school technology classes to teachers, parents and students from my school. After school I taught drama to the fourth, fifth and sixth graders. It was so much fun to do.

I also serve on the Utah Geographic Alliance (UGA) board and last year was the chair for Bring Your Own Laptop (BYOL) at ISTE.

I have a beautiful wife and 3 wonderful daughters that are 12, 10 and 8. They bring a ton of joy into my life.

Those of you that are reading this probably came to UCET last year. It might have been your first year coming to UCET or maybe you have been to many of the conferences. I hope that you are planning to come this year again. It will be at Jordan High School in Canyons School District. We have some really cool things planned for this year and I know that you will enjoy it and learn a lot. I look forward to seeing you this year in the vendor area.

**Pam Turley, UCET Board**

Pam Turley, the C-Forum representative on the UCET Board, has been a Technology Curriculum Specialist with Nebo School District since 2007. A California native, she received an Elementary Education degree from BYU, spent 20 years certifying for her stay-at-home-Mom degree raising her 11 children and step-children, and then taught 2nd and 6th grades while earning a MEd in Instructional Technology from USU. She gets great satisfaction helping elementary students and teachers with technology integration. Often found with book (or iPad) in hand, Pam pulls out the guitar each summer for Girls’ Camp, loves to travel, and looks for every opportunity to spoil her 12 grandchildren.

**Paula Wells, Past President**

I have lived in Utah most of my life. I was born and raised in Carbon County. I worked in Business for about 10 years; then I went back to school to get a teaching degree. I began my teaching career teaching technology to students in grades K-8. I have always loved learning new things and watching children understand a new idea or concept is the best it gets.

I have a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education with two associate’s degrees; one in General Education and the other in Business Administration. I have an Elementary Education License as well as a Secondary License with the following endorsements: Business CTE/General, Bus Ed 6-8, Educational Technology, and Elementary Keyboarding. I am currently working on a Visual Arts Endorsement.

I have worked for Pinnacle Canyon Academy in Price for 11 years. I have not only taught but have held several administrative positions including: Child Nutrition Director, Assessment Director, CTE Director, Technology Director, and Licensing Specialist among others.

I have been on the UCET board for 4 years now and am currently in the last year of being on the executive board. I love working with the great people on this board and meeting all the great educators in the state. I am very happy to be serving on this board and hope to continue to help with this great organization.
Does Tech Replace Teachers?
by Charise Black - UCET Board of Directors

The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives. ~ Robert Maynard Hutchins

Headlines such as, “Robots Could Replace Teachers” (LiveScience, 2009) or “Human remote control may spell end for teachers” (CNN, 2008), sensationalize and add fuel to the debate of using technology in education. Is there any credence to these arguments? Personally, I don’t think so.

Technology is a simple, yet elegant, educational tool capable of providing access to content, ideas, and the world. As a conduit of information, technology can enhance and support all types of learning. No longer are some students left out as learning becomes dynamic and can be tailored to individual needs. Regardless of its power, technology can never replace the intrinsic value of a real person in the classroom. A machine can never replicate the complexity of the human brain or the experience of human emotion. The critical component in using technology effectively is the invaluable role of the teacher in providing the human context.

Teaching with technology in schools is not optional; it impacts every aspect of human life. Teachers who facilitate integration of technology provide students with the skills to create a brighter future for our world. John I. Goodlad said, “The richer one’s repertoire for interpreting human experience, the greater the prospect for living a rich life.” Technology as a tool will expand our repertoire, but teachers are integral for students to learn to interpret their experience.

One of the great things about the UCET organization is that it provides a forum for exchanging ideas to meet the challenge of teaching with technology. Through the UCET newsletters, the conference, and especially from fellow members, teachers in Utah are doing their part to provide our students with the best possible educational experience.

WIMA: Werner Icking Music Archive

by Bridger Burt, Utah State University

One of the big roadblocks that most Music Educators run into is being able to find affordable music for their classes. Thankfully, all is not lost. A great resource for downloadable music is WIMA (Werner Icking Music Archive), and the great aspect of WIMA? It’s free! WIMA consisted of free music uploaded by different arrangers/fellow music educators with the goal of sharing different arrangements.

WIMA contains a vast variety of genres, especially from different composers throughout history. Want to play a piece by Bach for your Orchestra? Or, how about a work from Mozart arranged for recorders? WIMA also provides different file formats for Sibelius, Finale, and even other programs so you can feel free to arrange or make changes yourself. If, however, you’re in a hurry, many arrangements have PDF files that you can download and print on the fly.

So, feel free to check out the possibilities for your music groups available online. And remember, it’s free!

Link: http://icking-music-archive.org/index.php
Qwest Granting $50,000 for Teachers’ Technology Improvements in Utah

by Rick Gaisford, UCET Board

The Utah State Office of Education (USOE) is pleased to announce the Qwest Foundation’s Teachers and Technology grant program, which for the fifth year in a row will offer funds that allow Utah teachers to provide vital technology for their classrooms. Qwest is providing a $50,000 donation that will help fund innovative technology so that individual teachers across the state can improve education in the classroom. The grants will be administered by the USOE.

The purpose of the Qwest Teachers and Technology grant program is to recognize and reward public school teachers who use innovative technology in the classroom to improve the educational experience for students. The competitive grant applications must be postmarked by November 30, 2010. Grant information and the application/forms can be found at

Link: [http://my.uen.org/39](http://my.uen.org/39) (Qwest grant tab).

“We are fortunate to have Qwest Foundation’s Teachers and Technology program in Utah,” said Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction Larry K. Shumway. “The program allows great teachers to leverage their lessons through the innovative use of technology.”

Luke Rowley from Hurricane Middle School was one of last year’s grant recipients. The Qwest Foundation grant funded an innovative proposal that provided a new computer and web conferencing hardware and software to make it possible for students to collaborate with other classrooms around the world. The program is designed to use technology in order to teach cultural awareness, history, geography and to provide experience using advanced technology.

“Now in its fifth year, the Qwest Foundation has given $250,000 to Utah teachers to help improve education in the communities where our customers and employees live and work,” said Jerry Fenn, Qwest’s president for Utah. “Last year, the Qwest Teachers and Technology grant program helped 28 teachers better prepare nearly 3,000 students to not only compete but to succeed in an increasingly technology-driven world.”

You can also find additional grants and grant writing tips and tricks at [http://my.uen.org/39](http://my.uen.org/39) (Grants Tab). If you have any questions about the Qwest program, please contact Rick Gaisford at rick.gaisford@schools.utah.gov

Make a Phone Call from Gmail

by Janalee Keller, Utah State University

Google’s chat feature is a good way to keep in touch with your on-line friends. Now there is a way to keep in touch with your friends that are not even online. One can now call anyone on the phone using Gmail. There a new phone button at the top of your gmail-chat contacts, you just have to click that button and make sure to install the voice login. Once you have this installed you can go ahead and make the phone calls that you need to. An advantage to this online phone is that you can make relatively cheap phone calls; you can make a call to Australia for only two cents a minute. Google will even give you a dollar credit just for using the service. If you want to keep in contact with your friends across the sea, then give Google’s call feature a try.

Add Widgets to Your Desktop

by Janalee Keller, Utah State University

If you are looking for an easy way to display your favorite shortcuts to your favorite content try Stick today. First you go to

Link: [http://Iwonderdesigns.com/stick](http://Iwonderdesigns.com/stick)

and enter stick - you can get your widgets for free. Stick is a Windows application (Windows XP/Vista/Windows7 only) which offers utilities such as folder explorers, web browsers and notepads in tabs that attach to the sides of your screen (called ScreenTabs). ScreenTabs are super customizable tab-shaped windows that let you access the aforementioned utilities quickly and easily.

The tab manager is your control panel for Stick. Create, delete, edit tabs on the fly. Tabs are very customizable with the ability to have their font, colors, slide behavior, transparency and more changed quickly and easily. Save groups of settings as templates and apply them to other tabs with the press of a button.
MuseScore - Free Music Notation Program for Mac /Windows

MuseScore is a free cross-platform WYSIWYG music notation program, that offers a cost-effective alternative to professional programs such as Sibelius and Finale.

You can print beautifully engraved sheet music or save it as PDF or MIDI file.

Some highlights:

* WYSIWYG, notes are entered on a “virtual note sheet”
* Unlimited number of staves
* Up to four voices per staff
* Easy and fast note entry with your keyboard, mouse, or MIDI keyboard
* Integrated sequencer and FluidSynth software synthesizer
* Import and export of MusicXML and Standard MIDI Files
* Available for Windows, Mac and Linux
* Translated in 26 languages
* GNU GPL licensed - Video tutorials on the website!

Google Mail Checker Plus - The fast way to inbox zero!

Features:

• 10 different icon sets, choose your favorite!
• Mail preview window, read mail without leaving the current tab
• Delete, archive, spam, star and mark as read functionality
• Desktop and sound notifications when new mail arrives
  • Google Apps For Your Domain support
    • Mailto-links open in your Gmail or Google Apps Mail account
    • Monitor all your labels or priority inbox
    • Translated to over 45 languages!

Link: http://musescore.org
Disney Family Fun TV Podcasts - Craft Projects Galore!

Have you been looking for craft project ideas for your classroom? Well, Family Fun TV - both the website and the podcast - may be just what you're looking for. Sponsored by Disney, Family Fun TV is actually a subset of a larger website, featuring the Family Fun magazine.

Link: [http://familyfun.go.com/magazine/](http://familyfun.go.com/magazine/)

Here you can find ideas for many crafts, recipes, printables, party items, and more. The How-To video section has (at last count) over 72 short, easy to follow videos on craft ideas you can make at home or at school. Many templates shown in the videos are easily accessed on the website - so you don’t have to create anything if you’re in a hurry.

Try out great Halloween ideas like bat-o-lanterns, ghost chair covers, egg carton pumpkins, and more. You can access the Family Fun TV videos at...


...or subscribe to the podcasts in iTunes. You’ll enjoy all the fresh, fun ideas you’ll find there.

Art Snacks

When I read about Kevin Huneycutt’s Art Snacks learning community of students and teachers, I was curious to learn more. In my previous life as an elementary school teacher in Santa Clara, Utah, I worked closely with the art community there to bring art experiences to our kids. Art was my minor as I obtained my Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education. It was also a hobby and passion in my personal life.

Kevin says, “Art Snacks and the idea of bite-sized learning combined with a community atmosphere... For the last year we have built and supported, (in collaboration with members) a social learning network called Art Snacks. We began with the notion that today’s learners “snack” on information but don’t always go deep with content. I created 100+ 5-10 minute videos that teach kids to draw things like beetles, horses, cars as well as many targeted lessons that teachers asked for like simple machines, colonial American artifacts etc. As kids draw these pictures, they post them on the network and get support and feedback from the community. Since August we have collected 5999 photos and drawings on the network and this is more than I was able to collect in 13 years in the analogue classroom.”

So I joined the community. It is moderated, kid safe, and fun. There are hundreds of Kevin's art snack videos, thousands or community submitted photos and artwork, dialog between community users, and much more. What a great way for children to become involved in a community of people who have similar interests and passion for the arts. It will be an opportunity for them to learn and grow - as well as an opportunity to share and inspire the upcoming generation of artists. A on-site registration is required to join the community...

Link: [http://essdackartsnacks.ning.com/](http://essdackartsnacks.ning.com/)
**Cosmosphere Learning Network - a Learning Community for Space Related Interests!**

Similar to Art Snacks, Cosmosphere is a learning community that consists of both adults and children who have an interest and passion for space science and related fields. Connected to the Kansas Cosmophere & Space Center -

http://www.cosmo.org/

- this learning center is another of Kevin Honeycutt’s efforts to connect students and teachers into a community of like-minded learners. Kevin says, “The Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center has been partnering with educators for years and now they’re bringing their spirit of collaboration and the power of one of the world’s most magnificent space museums to a new social learning network. The Cosmosphere Learning Network is an exciting new space where educators can find resources, connect with other educators and share lessons, ideas and more. I am honored to be partnering with these amazing people and this world class teaching and learning institution!”

The Cosmosphere also contains a NASA Educator Resource Center, similar to the one I run at Utah State University. The resource center personnel are also members of the Cosmosphere Learning Network, and are there to help teachers find resources from NASA that can help their classrooms. You must register onsite to become a member of this moderated, kid-safe community...

http://cosmospherelearningnetwork.ning.com/

Like Art Snacks, I think you and your students will enjoy this small, but growing community of space enthusiasts who have a passion for education and a keen interest in the upcoming generation of mathematicians and scientists. Your participation is warmly welcomed.

Enjoy!

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**“My Place in Space” Contest**

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies is sponsoring the “My Place in Space” art contest. The contest is open to students in grades 2-4 who are residents of the United States. This year’s contest invites young scientists and artists to explore our solar system and beyond. Artwork will be judged by a panel including artists, educators and scientists.

Entries must be submitted by mail and must be received by Nov. 1, 2010.

For more information about the contest and to find related educational materials, visit

Link: http://www.strategies.org/ArtContest

Questions about this contest should be directed to info@strategies.org.

**Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award**

Do you know K-12 teachers or district-level administrators who are making a difference in education through the use of technology? Recognize their achievements by nominating them for the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award. The Astronauts Memorial Foundation, in partnership with NASA and the Space Foundation, will recognize the accomplishments of one outstanding individual and his or her contributions to lifelong learning through the application of technology in the classroom or professional development of teachers.

Technology personnel and K-12 classroom teachers who have demonstrated exemplary use of technology to enhance learning are eligible for this award. School principals, superintendents or associate superintendents may nominate eligible candidates. The award will be presented in April 2011 at the 27th National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, Colo. The deadline for applications is Jan. 15, 2011.

Applications and more information are available online at

http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan_shepard_award.htm
International Youth Art Competition

In April 2011, experts from around the world will gather in Houston for the International Academy of Astronautics Humans in Space Symposium. As part of this event, students ages 10-17 are invited to express their ideas about the future of human space exploration through visual, literary, musical or digital art.

Artwork submissions will be judged on creativity, skill, and demonstration of meaning relevant to expressing “What is the future of human space exploration, and why is it important?” Bonus points will be awarded for artwork that does not break obvious scientific principles.

Winning art will be displayed at the Symposium and in an online gallery. Submissions must be received by Oct. 31, 2010.

For additional information and a complete list of guidelines, visit http://www.humansinspaceart.org.

Inquiries about this opportunity should be directed to info@dsls.usra.edu. Please include “HIS Youth Art Competition” in the subject line.

NASA Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project Accepting Applications for K-12 Educator Fellowships -- Cohort 3

The NASA Endeavor Science Teaching Certificate Project awards 12-18-month fellowships each year to over 40 formal educators. The project is administered by U.S. Satellite Laboratory Inc. Funding authorization for the project is provided through the NASA Endeavor Teacher Fellowship Trust Fund as a tribute to the dedicated crew of the space shuttle Challenger.

In partnership with state departments of education, Endeavor Fellows take five graduate courses in an innovative, online format from the comfort of their homes or schools. In these courses, participants gain STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) professional development. They learn to apply research-based pedagogical strategies and cutting-edge STEM content to their classroom contexts while becoming part of a network of like-minded educators across the nation.

Endeavor Fellows earn and are awarded a NASA Endeavor Certificate in STEM Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Fellows’ Leadership Distinction activities will promote learning outside the classroom walls in the fellows’ states or districts. Fifteen graduate credits are awarded from regionally accredited higher education partners.

Applications for Cohort 3 will be accepted through Oct. 15, 2010.

For more information, visit http://www.us-satellite.net/nasa/endeavor/index.cfm.

Additional questions about this opportunity should be directed to nasa_endeavor@us-satellite.net.

NASA Education Invites Students to Drop Everything!

NASA announces two opportunities for students to design and build an experiment to be conducted in a NASA research drop tower. The Dropping In a Microgravity Environment, or DIME, competition is for students in grades 9-12. Students in grades 6-9 are encouraged to participate in the “What If No Gravity?”, or WING, competition.

Four teams in the high school DIME competition will be invited to visit NASA’s Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, and operate their experiment in the drop tower. Four additional teams will send their experiment to Glenn for the drop tower staff to operate it.

The winning WING teams will have their experiments operated in the same drop tower by the NASA drop tower staff.

Proposals for both competitions are due on Nov. 1, 2010. Competition selections will be on Dec. 1, 2010, and drop tower operations will be conducted in March 2011.

The DIME competition is funded by NASA’s Teaching From Space program.

For more information about this opportunity, visit http://spaceflightsystems.grc.nasa.gov/DIME.html.

If you have questions about this opportunity, please e-mail your inquiries to the DIME team at dime@lists.nasa.gov.
Earth Science Week Contests Announced for 2010

Take part in the following contests to celebrate Earth Science Week. This year’s celebration takes place Oct. 10-16, 2010.

Earth Science Week 2010 Photography Contest -- Open to All Ages

The American Geological Institute is sponsoring a photography contest to celebrate Earth Science Week 2010. Photographs should focus on the topic “We Depend on Energy.” The contest is open to any resident of the United States. Participants should submit a picture that best represents the ways their community uses energy. Entries may be submitted electronically or by mail. Only one entry will be accepted per person. The deadline for submitting photos is Oct. 15, 2010.

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/photography/index.html

Earth Science Week 2010 Visual Arts Contest -- Open to Students in Grades K-5

The American Geological Institute is sponsoring a visual arts contest to celebrate Earth Science Week 2010. Artwork should focus on the topic “Energy on Earth.” The contest is open to students in grades K-5 who are residents of the United States. Participants should submit an original two-dimensional visual arts project that shows energy’s place in the way our planet works. Entries must be submitted by mail. The deadline for submitting entries is Oct. 15, 2010.

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/visualarts/index.html

Earth Science Week 2010 Essay Contest -- Open to Students in Grades 6-9

The American Geological Institute is sponsoring an essay contest to celebrate Earth Science Week 2010. Essays should focus on the theme “How Energy Powers the Planet.” The contest is open to students in grades 6-9 who are residents of the United States. Participants should submit an original essay no more than 300 words in length, typed, and formatted to fit on one page. Entries may be submitted electronically or by mail. The deadline for submitting entries is Oct. 15, 2010.

http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests/essay/index.html

If you have any questions about any of these contests, please e-mail the Earth Science Week staff at info@earthsciweek.org.

Earth Science Week Calendar for 2010 - Get Yours Today!

Link:  http://www.earthsciweek.org/calendar/1011files/1011calendar.pdf
Happy Halloween!
A Message from Nathan Smith, UCET Board Member over UCET Newsletters & Website

Just a quick note about this month’s newsletter - which is quite a bit larger than usual. In October, we celebrated Earth Science Week, which is sponsored by the American Geological Institute and its member societies. The topic was exploring energy - and I received a lot of information related to teacher resources on that topic - many of which I have shared with you in the newsletter. As Director of a NASA Educator Resource Center, I also received a lot of opportunities and resources from NASA which I have passed along to you.

I am always amazed at the tremendous teacher resources that are freely available on the internet. I wish I had had access to them when I was a fourth grade teacher at Santa Clara Elementary School back in the 80’s. Now that I work with pre-service teachers here at the College of Education & Human Services at Utah State University, I have a goal to share these with them and with you so that the students you teach may have as rich a learning experience as you can give them. It’s a passion of mine.

Although I gather and create much of each month’s newsletter content myself, you may have noticed that I’m involving my student employees in the process, and our UCET Board members are becoming active contributors. Ultimately, my goal is to have you, our wonderful UCET members, also contribute articles, website suggestions, and content. As a community, we have a wealth of practical knowledge and experience about using resources and technology in our classrooms to provide positive and measurable growth for our students. I sincerely invite you to share your experiences with the rest of our membership by submitting articles and suggestions for the newsletter.

I can be reached by email (nathan.smith@usu.edu) or phone (435-797-1484).

I have worked hard these past five or six years to share opportunities, resources, and training via the UCET newsletters. In the newsletter archive, there are literally hundreds and hundreds of pages of these resources now. I appreciate the many of you who have taken the time to personally write to me about how a particular resource or article helped them. Thank you. The newsletter is a labor of love, and very time consuming, and your thanks particularly means a lot to me.

One of my hobbies is photography. I hope you enjoy the fall photos that I’ve interspersed through this month’s newsletter. As always, my one hope is that each month you’ll find at least one item in the newsletter that personally grabs your attention and makes you want to explore it further. If I can do that, then I’ve succeeded.

As we approach the holiday season, I wish you my very best in your efforts as teacher, technologist, and most especially as a family member.

Sincerely,

Nathan Smith
UCET Board Member
Director of Technology, College of Education & Human Services
Director, Adele & Dale Young Education Technology Center
Director, NASA Educator Resource Center for Utah
Utah State University
2011 UCET Awards and Recognitions

Bonnie Muir - UCET President

Each year at the annual conference, UCET recognizes outstanding individuals who, through their exceptional work and achievements, have made a significant impact in the field of educational technology.

This year UCET is sponsoring two new awards, for a total of 4 awards. The awards are

- UCET Outstanding Teacher of the Year (a PK-12 teacher)
- UCET Outstanding Leader of the Year (a non PK-12 teacher)
- UCET Outstanding Young Educator of the Year (new) (an educator in their first ten years of teaching)
- UCET Media Specialist Technology Innovation Award (new)

Award winners receive:

- Recognition at the 2011 UCET Conference, March 4, 2011
- An inscribed plaque honoring their achievement
- A cash award of $500, ($250 for Young Educator) to spend as they wish
- A complimentary 2012 UCET Conference registration

The nomination forms are found at http://www.ucet.org/inUCETnew/awards.

Nominations are now open! If you know of an outstanding teacher, leader, young educator or media specialist who has made an impact at your school or district implementing or innovating with educational technology, please consider nominating them for one of these prestigious awards.

Nominations will close on February 4, 2011 to give the board time to assess the nominations and make the final selections.

We hope you will consider nominating a teacher or leader at your school or district who deserves to be recognized for their achievements!

UCET 2011 is Looking for Presenters! What to present About?

As many of you know, we asked you to a survey to submit ideas for presentations and workshops for the UCET 2011 conference. We had asked, “What would you like to learn more about at UCET 2011?” Almost 200 of you responded! Thank you!

Now we’d like you to look at that list - perhaps you are the expert needed to present on a particular topic! I know as I looked through the list, I was thinking, “I could do a presentation on that…” Would you consider becoming a presenter at UCET 2011?

All you need to do to is submit a presentation proposal. The form is online at...

Link: http://www.ucet.org/inUCETnew/conference/

Click on Presenter Registration to submit your proposal. You’ll be notified by email if your proposal is accepted. Just under that link is the link for your presentation needs from the survey.
Globe Earth System Poster and Learning Activities Book


Link to Activities: http://classic.globe.gov/fsl/pdf/Earth_System_Poster_07_Activities.pdf

Focused on upper elementary grades through secondary school - this poster and its accompanying activities purpose is to identify global patterns and connections in environmental data contained in the GLODE Earth Systems Poster and to develop an understanding of the interactions within the Earth system.

Images displaying global environmental data through the course of the year 2007 are compared in order to understand how Earth works as a system. Extension activities in the activities book connect the Earth System Poster to external web sites such as NASA, NOAA, NSIDC, and SERC.

Some student outcomes are

1) Students will be able to explore the concepts of Earth as a System.

2) Students will be able to find patterns and connections between and among maps containing different environmental data.

3) Students will understand the relationship between time and space in regard to global environmental data.

In the process students will discover, analyze, and interpret patterns in a graphic display of data. They’ll conduct an analysis of mapped data. They’ll develop descriptions and explanations using evidence, and communicate their observations and expectations.

For more information about the GLOBE project, please visit...

Link: http://www.globe.gov

GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) is a world-wide hands-on, primary and secondary school-based science and education program. GLOBE’s vision promotes and supports student, teacher and scientist collaboration on inquiry-based investigation of the environment and the Earth system. The Earth System Poster was jointly developed by NASA Earth Observations (NEO), NOAA Climate Program Office and the GLOBE Program Office.

NASA: http://www.nasa.gov

NOAA: http://www.noaa.gov/
The National Academies’ Energy Booklet


“What You Need to Know About Energy” is one in a series of informational booklets designed to engage readers in current topics in science, engineering, and medicine. Each booklet provides accurate information about a complex issue that affects us as individuals and as a nation. Sound knowledge about such issues is critical if citizens are to evaluate debates and make informed decisions in our increasingly technological world.

This booklet was produced by the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council.

A podcast is also available from the link above. Many other titles are available to read online as well.

Test Your Energy IQ

Link:  http://climate.nasa.gov/esw2010/

Take this interactive quiz to test your knowledge of energy, both in our society and in Earth’s climate system.

Also, on this site are links to many other wonderful resources, such as Energy Essentials, Educational Activities, and Data & Imagery. The Educational Activities section contains many recommended websites and classroom activities that explore specific areas of inquiry related to global climate change. For example, download this wonderful poster, “The Earth’s Energy Budget.”


Our Restless Planet Animations

Link:  http://solidearth.jpl.nasa.gov/rp.html

We live on a restless planet. Earth is continually influenced by the sun, gravitational forces, processes emanating from deep within the core, and by complex interactions with oceans and atmospheres. At very short time scales we seem to be standing on terra firma, yet many processes sculpt the surface with changes that can be quite dramatic (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides), sometime slow (subsidence due to aquifer depletion), seemingly unpredictable, and often leading to loss of life and property damage.

Accurate diagnosis of our restless planet requires an observational capability for precise measurement of surface change, or deformation. Measurement of both the slow and fast deformations of Earth are essential for improving the scientific understanding of the physical processes, and for optimizing responses to natural hazards, and for identifying potential risk areas.

This JPL site hosts a number of animations that demonstrate processes of our restless planet. Here you can view computer animations of earthquakes, land subsidence, flooding, volcanoes erupting, and more.
Space Math @ NASA

From the website: “SpaceMath@NASA introduces students to the use of mathematics in today’s scientific discoveries. Through press releases and other articles, we explore how many kinds of mathematics skills come together in exploring the universe.

How is mathematics used in science? How does simple math help students to understand recent discoveries? Where can educators find examples of worked problems in science and engineering?

During the academic year, the site will develop a variety of books, videos and individual posted problems that answer the above questions, and highlight the math behind scientific discovery.”

There are currently over 350 problems on the site that will challenge your students with real issues. The problems are available as PDF files for easy download and printing.

If you teach middle school or high school math, I think you’ll enjoy challenging your students with these!


eClips from NASA

NASA eClips™ are short, relevant educational video segments. These videos inspire and engage students, helping them see real world connections. New video segments are produced weekly exploring current applications of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, topics. The programs are produced for targeted audiences: K-5, 6-8, 9-12 and the general public.

NASA eClips™ offer unlimited flexibility in the classroom for timing, sequencing and pacing instruction to meet the needs of students and classroom instructors. Educational material for this program is selected based on national curriculum standards identified by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, or NCTM, the National Science Teachers Association, or NSTA, and the International Society for Technology in Education, or ISTE.

The video format arouses students’ curiosity and encourages them to ask their own questions. NASA eClips™ help students explore new topics on their own. Video segments can be used to determine students’ depth of understanding. Students can design their own video segments modeled after the NASA eClips™ to demonstrate their understanding of concepts taught in the classroom.

New video segments are produced weekly throughout the school year, exploring the most recent and relevant applications of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, topics.

Teachers and others can access all NASA eClips™ products on the Internet. Video segments are available at

[http://www.youtube.com/NASAeClips](http://www.youtube.com/NASAeClips)

Video segments with additional teacher materials and program information are available at

[http://www.nasa.gov/education/NASAeClips](http://www.nasa.gov/education/NASAeClips)
Tour the Electromagnetic Spectrum

Tour the electromagnetic spectrum with this series of 8 videos covering the introduction to electromagnetic waves and the different regions throughout the spectrum (Radio, Microwave, Infrared, Visible, Ultraviolet, X-Rays and Gamma Rays). These animated videos explain each region with examples from real world NASA science applications.

Link: http://missionscience.nasa.gov/ems/

Tour of the Electromagnetic Spectrum Booklet

A visually stunning 29-page booklet covering the spectrum, wave behaviors, anatomy of an electromagnetic waves, and how images are created. Each region of the spectrum is detailed with spectacular images from NASA missions.

Link to 2.2 MB screen view version: http://missionscience.nasa.gov/ems/TourOfEMS_Booklet_Web.pdf

or Link to high res print version: http://missionscience.nasa.gov/ems/TourOfEMS_Booklet_Print.pdf

This site also links to related units on understanding light.

You can also get these materials at TeacherLINK: http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tnasa/videos/dnmovies/MiscNASAMovies/index.html (username=nasamovies password=aesp)

Some Free Materials from High Interest Publishing, Inc.

From their website: “High Interest Publishing, Inc. is pleased to offer the following teaching resources without charge for classroom use by teachers.

Readers’ Theater is a semi-staged play based on a small section of a book, story or lesson. Students use their voices, facial expressions and sound effects to turn a section of text into a brief drama. The script is not memorized, but the performance must be carefully rehearsed. Often the sound effects require the devoted attention of one student. The goal is dramatic reading – either live or recorded. As much research has shown, re-reading of text is terrifically important in developing reading skills. Teachers have the permission of High Interest Publishing to download and reproduce any of these scripts for classroom use, all other rights remain with HIP.

HIP Three-Minute Reading Assessment

Many teachers have asked for a quick, one-on-one reading assessment that can be used with the reluctant readers in their classrooms. This is the beta-version of an assessment we’ve been developing over the last year. It provides a fast assessment of a student’s reading ability from grade 2 to grade 6 levels using graded selections from HIP Jr. and HIP Sr. books. Click here for more information and to download the teacher and student versions of the assessment.

Reading Assessment: What should you do next?

This chart, adapted from the HIP Reading Assessment, looks at common difficulties in reading and recommends the next steps a teacher (or parent) should take. Handy material for your teacher notebook.”

Blast Off With the New Rocketry Page for Educators and Students

NASA Education is launching a new website to get students and educators off the launch pad and on their way to becoming rocket scientists.

Visit the new site to investigate and learn about rockets. Watch and download video and multimedia features about rocketry. Explore the history of rockets and find out what makes a rocket a rocket. Learn about the pioneers who made today’s space missions possible and read about rocket scientists who are planning the space missions of the future.

Educators can find lesson plans for the classroom and keep students in-the-know with up-to-date information about NASA-supported rocketry competitions.

Visit the new website at http://www.nasa.gov/education/rocketry.

NASA’s DEVELOP Program

The DEVELOP Program is a NASA Science Mission Directorate Applied Sciences-sponsored internship that fosters the training and development of students in the atmospheric and Earth sciences. The DEVELOP Program extends the application of NASA Earth science research and technology to meet societal needs.

Students conduct projects that focus on the practical application of NASA’s Earth science research and demonstrate how results can benefit partner organizations and local communities. Advisors and mentors from NASA and partner organizations provide guidance and support for the program. Students gain experience using NASA science and technology in a professional setting.

Students from high school through doctoral levels are chosen in a competitive application process. Students selected by DEVELOP work on teams on-site at ten locations nationwide. Activities are conducted during three 10-week terms per year: summer, fall and spring. To apply to a DEVELOP center at a NASA location, applicants must be a citizen of the U.S. However, international students currently registered at an accredited school in the U.S. are eligible to apply to DEVELOP partner locations. International applicants must already have a visa that permits them to work in the U.S.

Applications for the spring 2011 session are due Nov. 15, 2010. Summer 2011 applications are due Feb 28, 2011.

For more information about this unique internship opportunity, please visit the DEVELOP website at http://develop.larc.nasa.gov.

Questions about the DEVELOP program should be directed by e-mail to NASA-DL-DEVELOP@mail.nasa.gov or by telephone to 757-864-3761.

2011 CanSat Competition

Applications currently are being accepted for the 2011 CanSat Competition.

This annual competition is open to university and college students from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe. Teams of three to 10 students must design and build a space-type system called a CanSat. Each CanSat is the size of a soda can and must be built according to the specifications released by the competition organizing committee.

All teams entering the CanSat competition are required to have a faculty adviser. The faculty adviser will oversee and be responsible for the conduct of the team at all times during the competition. The adviser is strongly encouraged to accompany the team to the competition.

Applications are due Nov. 30, 2010.

For more information about the competition and to download the application, visit http://www.cansatcompetition.com/. Questions about this competition should be directed to questions@juno.nrl.navy.mil.

2011 Team America Rocketry Challenge

Registration is open for the Team America Rocketry Challenge 2011, a national model rocket competition for U.S. students in grades 7-12. Thousands of students compete each year, making TARC the world’s largest model rocket contest.

Teams of three to 10 students are challenged to design, build and fly a model rocket that will climb to 750 feet with a raw egg payload and stay aloft for 40 to 45 seconds. The payload must then return to earth unbroken. Cash prizes are awarded to the top finishers. NASA invites top teams to participate in their Student Launch Initiative, an advanced rocketry program.

Participation is limited to the first 750 teams who register by Nov. 30, 2010. For more information, visit http://www.rocketcontest.org. Questions about this contest should be sent to rocketcontest@aiaa.org.

ESMD Space Grant Project 2011 Systems Engineering Paper Competition

NASA’s Exploration Systems Mission Directorate is inviting teams of undergraduate and graduate students throughout the U.S. to participate in the fifth annual ESMD Space Grant Systems Engineering Paper Competition. Papers should relate to one of the following areas: Ground Operations, Lunar and Planetary Surface Systems, Propulsion, and Spacecraft.

The deadline to register for the competition is March 7, 2011. Papers are due on March 21, 2011. The winning teams will be announced in April. Awards include up to $3,500 in cash scholarships and invitations to attend a future launch at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The competition is designed to engage and retain students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, disciplines critical to NASA’s missions.

For more information about this competition, visit http://education.ksc.nasa.gov/esmdspacegrant/SystemsEngineering.htm.

Questions about the ESMD Systems Engineering Paper Competition should be directed to Diane Ingraham at zola.d.ingraham@nasa.gov.
An overview of factors affecting coal quality and use in the United States.

Coal is abundant in the U.S., is relatively inexpensive, and is an excellent source of energy and byproduct raw materials. Because of these factors, domestic coal is the primary source of fuel for electric power plants in the U.S., and will continue to be well into the 21st century. In addition, other U.S. industries continue to use coal for fuel and coke production and there is a large overseas market for high-quality American coal.

Because humans have used coal for centuries, much is known about it. The usefulness of coal as a heat source and the myriad of byproducts that can be produced from coal are well understood. The continued and increasingly large-scale use of coal in the United States and in many other industrialized and developing nations has resulted in known and anticipated hazards to environmental quality and human health. As a result, there is still much to be learned about the harmful attributes of coal and how they may be removed, modified, or avoided to make coal use less harmful to humans and nature. These issues of coal quality have not been examined carefully until recently.


Gapminder World

by Amy Baldwin, Utah State University

Gapminder World is a great way to bring the world of statistics to life in your classroom. For instance Gapminder World graphs the average income per person by life expectancy to show how they are related over time. Or imagine you are teaching a unit on global pollution. You could use Gapminder World to show how different countries have lead in CO2 emissions since 1820 to the present. Maybe you have been talking about natural disasters; Gapminder World will plot what countries have been affected and how many deaths occurred in any given year.

To get to Gapminder World go to Gapminder.org and click on the Gapminder World tab. Notice the x and y-axis plot the average income per person by life expectancy. You can view the graph in either a chart or a map form by using the tabs on top. By clicking the play button you can see how countries have developed since the 1800’s. To view different graphs choose Open Graph Menu on the left hand dialog box. Graphs like “Who has the best teeth” or “Is child mortality falling” are already made. Or create your own using the drop box on the x and y-axis. Change which countries you want to highlight by selecting them on the right side of the graph.

No matter what world statistics you have been talking about, make it exciting by bringing it to life with Gapminder World.

Link: http://www.gapminder.org/world
Zoom 2

by Bridger Burt, Utah State University

For those of us who share the frustrations of using several windows at a time with a Mac there is now a solution. Zoom 2 provides several new functions, which make life easier for you and your Mac:

- **Easily switch between windows.** Just simply press a hotkey while hovering your mouse over a desired application and Zoom 2 will automatically bring that application to the front.

- **Easily move a window around your screen.** Zoom 2 will easily move your window around while you press a hotkey or combination of hotkeys. Even better, when you enable Zoom 2’s magnetics feature, Zoom 2 will automatically “snap” your windows together when dragging one close to another. The best part is that your cursor does not have to be over the title bar, like normal. Just have your cursor anywhere over the desired window, and Zoom 2 will select it for you.

- **Easily resize your window.** Again, with a preselected hotkey or combination, all you have to do is hover your mouse over the desired window, press and hold the hotkey, and simply drag your mouse in the direction (up and down, left or right, or both). Magnetics will automatically snap your window to the edge of another window or edge of your screen.

- **Hotkeys are customizable.** Say you have an application that already uses a certain hotkey combination. You can easily change your settings to work well with your applications. You can even choose to use your macbook’s “fn” key as a hotkey, as well.

Zoom 2 can be set to run in the background automatically. An icon in the status bar makes it easy to access your preferences.

Zoom 2 can be purchased for $19.95. Or, if you are feeling hesitant, feel free to try out the free 30-day trial. It is well worth your time.


Harness the wind and the sun! Power up a whole town without creating any pollution or greenhouse gases. “Power Up!” is the new game on NASA’s Climate Kids web site. In this game, your progressive town gets all its energy from wind turbines and solar panels. You have just two minutes to capture enough wind and solar energy to light up all the windows in all the houses of the town. If you succeed, you win the Platinum Award for clean energy. If just a few windows are still dark, you win the Gold. Silver and Bronze Awards are good, but you’ll learn to do even better. Try this fun new game at

Link: [http://climate.nasa.gov/kids/powerupcleanly](http://climate.nasa.gov/kids/powerupcleanly)
Free Apps for Healthier Living - iPhone or iPod Touch

Lose It! Set goals, create a daily calorie budget, record food and exercise, and view graphs of progress with this full-featured weight management app. After you enter your stats, you can create a custom plan, with an end date in mind, based on how much weight you want to lose per week. I began using this application a couple years ago. Entering food into this application is easy, with a large searchable database of both store purchased foods and restaurant foods. I began my weight loss journey at 218 lbs. Now I’m down to 179 lbs - only four pounds away from my optimum weight according to my Body Mass Index number.

I found that if I religiously entered my daily food intake and exercise, and made a point to exercise enough to stay within my budgeted daily calorie count - that the program was very helpful in allowing me to meet my weight loss goals.

Pedometer Free Simply a very accurate pedometer, if you’ll take the time and measure your stride. I walked and then measured ten steps at my normal walking pace, and divided that by 10 to get my single stride length. After entering this number into the app’s settings, it’s a breeze to use. The application uses the iPhone or iPod Touch accelerometers to sense each time you take a step. You can adjust the sensitivity of the app.

You turn on the app, hit the start button, then lock the screen and start walking. For best results, you should place your device on your torso (as opposed to wearing it on your arms or legs). If you do use your arms, the attach as near to your shoulder as you can.

As you walk, the app records number of steps, distance in miles or kilometers, calories burned, time used, and your average speed. I’ve found it to be quite accurate.

Free Microsoft Office Training - From Microsoft!

Are you wanting to learn the Office apps a little better? Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Access, Publisher, OneNote, Outlook, SharePoint, Visio, Project, and others? Microsoft has a good training and interactive tutorials site that lets you learn about any Office 2003, 2007, or 2010 application...

Micro Projector for iPad, iPod Touch, iPhone...

Microvision has released its ShowWX laser projector on the market. Priced at $449 (school pricing), the projector comes with a cable to hook it up to your iPod Touch, iPhone, or iPad. You can learn more about the ShowWX at http://microvision.com/
Eco Challenge Calls Youth to Action
(Source: T.H.E. Journal - October 2010 - page 6) “Luxury automaker Lexus has once again joined with educational publisher Scholastic to put on the fourth annual Lexus Eco Challenge. The eco-friendly education contest invites teams of students in grades 6 through 12 to compete for a chance to win part of $500,000 in grants and scholarships by creating action plans meant to help solve environmental issues. For details and to register a team, visit http://scholastic.com/lexus

Free Count-Down Timer / Alarm Clock for Macintosh
Apimac Timer is a complete and professional stopwatch, alarm clock, countdown and clock utility for Mac OS X. Apimac Timer is freeware and gives you the known ease of use of other Apimac Applications.

General features of Timer for Mac
Easy-to-use and intuitive interface with clear tab-based browsing thru stopwatch, countdown, alarm clock and clock areas. Among its features are: log (also automatically updated when some event occurs) and tickers that remind user that some timer is running every specific amount of time. Events include play alarms with your favorite sound, play song files, speak a specific message, announce the time. The stopwatch lets you also specify events occurring after a specific amount of time or events that repeat every specific amount of time, the countdown can be optionally repeated, the alarm clock can be set for a specific day or repeated daily, the clock is a convenient watch with large digits with the indication of the current day. Link: http://www.apimac.com/timer/

Programmable actions
Actions include play alarms with your favorite sound, play song files, speak a specific message, announce the time, iTunes play, pause, stop, start visuals, stop visuals and set volume.

Pro features
Apimac Timer is freeware, this means that you can freely use it as long as you wish, although some users may be interested in buying the Pro version which includes some additional features:

- Email the log to your preferred email address at a specific interval of time.
- Computer log out, restart, shut down, sleep, log event, quit application.
- Launch specific application, open a specific file with the appropriate application, execute AppleScript, execute shell script.
- Launch web address, launch FTP address, send email, ping.
- Black Screen and Sound Off.
- Perform multiple actions and AppleScript support.

NASA’s Aeronautics Memory Game for students
A fun little game to play when students have a spare moment or two. Test your visual brain power and your speed by finding the matching pairs of aeronautics images as fast as you can. Play again and increase your speed. The images are of aeronautics models of designs for conceptual aircraft, past and present, used for testing in NASA’s wind tunnels.

Link: http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/aero_matchgame/
Cloud Computing Options

by Tricia Jackson, UCET Board

First you might ask, what is Cloud Computing? There is a great video on YouTube called Three Ways to Cloud Compute by Explaining Computers.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgujalzkwrE

“Cloud computing is where software application, data storage and processing capacity are accessed over the Internet.” says Christopher Barnatt in his opening line. He goes on to explain three ways to cloud compute. They are Software as a Service, Platforms as a Service and Infrastructure as a Service. Google Apps for Education (http://www.google.com/a/help/intl/en/edu/index.html), Live@EDU (http://my.liveatedu.com/), Zoho (http://www.zoho.com/), Pixlr (http://www.pixlr.com/), Jaycut (http://jaycut.com/) and Aviary (http://www.aviary.com/) are all examples of SaaS.

How does SaaS work? There is another excellent video of explaining how this works by CommonCraft called Google Docs in Plain English

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRqUE6IHTEA

Traditionally if one has wanted to work on one document with multiple people, one has emailed it back and forth as one works with the others. This results in multiple versions of the same document and requires effort to put all the pieces together. Using a SaaS document creation application such as Google Docs, all the participants login to one website and work on the document together. This results in one document with changes that can be tracked using revision history.

Who is using this in k12 education? Increasingly more and more schools, school districts and states are choosing SaaS to cut down on software installation on each machine. SaaS also allows students to access their files anywhere there is a connection to the Internet; no flash drives involved. To learn more about Google Docs check out the presentation by Spencer, Joni, Hazel and Lexie at

https://docs.google.com/present/view?skipauth=true&id=ddnctvgt_170cbskvf68

Tricia and Chris have created a presentation on Live@EDU at

https://docs.google.com/present/edit?id=0AVRZQ8gZJPoHZGQ0XfXdnZfMJ12aHAzanB0dzg&hl=en&authkey=Clb6ybgG

New York, Oregon, Iowa, Colorado and Maryland have all incorporated the use of Google Apps in their public school systems. While Kentucky Department of Education has chosen to go with Live@EDU. Both products are free to education and have their pros and cons. Be sure to talk with your IT Department representative before making a choice for your classroom.

What are some ways to use it in k12 education? Team and group projects within and without the classroom walls. Science Fair Projects, Story Creation, History Presentations, Party Organization, Volunteer Organization, Meeting Agendas, Peer Reviews, and Storyboard Collaboration are all different uses of SaaS. Calgary Science School in Calgary, Alberta displays more examples of how Google Apps for Education are used at their school through their blog Connect! Ecker Hill International Middle School in Park City, Utah unofficially uses Google Docs for some Response to Intervention tracking, Computer Based Testing Scheduling, Student Council Elections, School Community Council Agendas, End of Year Technology Checklists, Project Proposal and Software Requests. The EHIMS PTO has used Google Sites and Docs to communicate with their constituency as well.

In short, Software as a Service is a market that is widening rapidly. It is just part of the cloud computing options that are now available to users everywhere. How you will use it will help determine which option is right for you. We would love to hear from you how you are using it in your classroom.
The following is a review of DocsTeach from the Edutech Integration Blog:


“This one is mostly for Social Studies teachers. DocsTeach from the National Archives is a site all about using Primary Documents. When you visit the site you can find already created activities using various primary sources. There aren't that many yet, but the idea is for people to create and share their own. I looked at one about the New Deal and was impressed. You can also search through the various documents (3000+) and find one you are looking for.

The best feature is the ability to create your own activities from the various documents on the site. There are seven different activities that you can create using the various sources. The activities are based around seven different strategies: Finding a Sequence, Focusing on Details, Interpreting Data, Making Connections, Mapping History, Seeing the Big Picture, and Weighing the Evidence.

You can create an account and save activities for a later date. You can also bookmark documents that you will want to use in future activities. You can customize the activities for students to work on in the computer lab or even in your classroom using just your computer to start a discussion. You can provide students with a specific web address for them to visit. Man, this site does it all for History Teachers.

This has to be the most thorough example of why we no longer will need textbooks in a history classroom. They talk about the use of Primary Documents, this has to be the best I have seen. If I go back to the classroom, I have found a definite resource to use.”

A great resource for Social Studies in the classroom. Be sure to check this one out!
**Radian - A Free Radial Application Launcher for Windows**

From his website: “Radian is a simple radial application launcher. The interface is triggered by a continuous right-click and is divided into four slices. Each slice can be configured differently, currently supporting the following modes:

- **Custom** - the slice will contain shortcuts manually dragged from existing shortcuts or files (from the Quick-Launch, Desktop, Start-Menu, Folder, etc...)
- **Quick Launch** - shortcuts from Windows’ Quick-Launch
- **Desktop** - shortcut from Windows’ Desktop
- **Recent Docs** - recently opened documents

The right-click trigger resembles the right-click mechanism on many hand-held devices, allowing you to access the menu quickly without needing to scroll to a certain area on your screen. The menu can be loaded by right-clicking and holding anywhere on the screen. A special effort was made to make sure this feature doesn’t get in the way of normal right-click usage.

Radian was created as a personal project to answer my personal requirements. The project is currently in its early beta stages, and as it evolves I’ll be adding more features and fixing different issues that arise.”

Link: [http://radian.davidberlin.co.il/](http://radian.davidberlin.co.il/)

**Travel Around the World Using Google Maps Street View & Globe Genie**

Here’s a site that lets you travel around the world using Google Maps’ street view option...

Click the teleport button and you’ll be whisked away to a 360 degree view of somewhere in the world. A google map at the right side pinpoints where you’ve landed, and you can zoom in and out on the map. The image window acts just like Google street view, so you can pan, zoom, and travel within the window. You can limit where you teleport to by unchecking any of the continent options in the upper-right portion of the window. Thanks to Joe McMichael for this fun virtual experience!

Interactive Math Resources

Pan Balance – Numbers

Use this tool to strengthen understanding and computation of numerical expressions and equality. In understanding equality, one of the first things students must realize is that equality is a relationship, not an operation. Many students view “=” as “find the answer.” For these students, it is difficult to understand equations such as 11 = 4 + 7 or 3 × 5 = 17 – 2.

Link: http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?id=26

Pan Balance – Expressions

This interactive pan balance allows numeric or algebraic expressions to be entered and compared. You can “weigh” the expressions you want to compare by entering them on either side of the balance. Using this interactive tool, you can practice arithmetic and algebraic skills, and investigate the important concept of equivalence.

Link: http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?id=10

Pan Balance – Shapes

Build up to algebraic thinking by exploring this balance tool using shapes of unknown weight. Challenge yourself to find the weight of each shape in one of six built-in sets or a random set.

Link: http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?id=33

Illuminations - NCTM Resources

Explore a library of 102 online activities that help to make math come alive in the classroom or at home. View the collection of 579 lessons for preK-12 math educators. Did you like the Pan Balance activities on this page? This is where they all came from!

Link: http://illuminations.nctm.org/
Interactive Math & Science Resources

**InterActivate**

The goals of InterActivate are the creation, collection, evaluation, and dissemination of interactive java-based courseware for exploration in mathematics and science.

The other interactives you see on this page from the InterActivate site. Enjoy.

Link: [http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/](http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/)

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**Equivalent Fractions Pointer**

Visually represent two unique fractions that are equivalent to a given fraction. The fractional value is shown on a number line as you color in the fraction. Equivalent Fraction Pointer is one of the Interactivate assessment explorers.

Link: [http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/Equivalent-FractionPointer/](http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/Equivalent-FractionPointer/)

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**Clock Arithmetic**

Work with various types of clocks in order to learn about modular arithmetic operations. Parameters: Number of hours on the clock.

Link: [http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/Clock-Arithmetic/](http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/Clock-Arithmetic/)

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**Comparison Estimator**

Compare two sets of objects, using estimation to determine which is greater. Estimate a number of objects, the length of a line, or the area of a shape. Parameter: error tolerance. Comparison Estimator is one of the Interactivate assessment explorers.

Interactive Resources

MathTools
Math Tools is a project of The Math Forum @ Drexel, funded in part by the National Science Foundation. The goal is to create a community digital library that supports the use and development of software for mathematics education. We began work in September of 2002 and through the help of many people there is already an active and rich resource center.

You are the key. The point is to enable users to help each other use technology effectively in the math classroom. By sharing our experiences, activities, comments, and needs, we can help each other find tools that are known to work well and learn how to use them and improve them. Teachers, students, researchers, publishers, and software developers are all working together in Math Tools.

Link: http://mathforum.org/mathtools/

CITEd Research Center
CITEd’s Research Center offers evidence-based, promising, and emerging practices based on the latest research. Explore how technology can be used to enhance instruction with an emphasis on students with special needs. Browse research and its implications for your classroom, school, and district.


IXL
A site (requires membership) that has many activities for students for grades pre-K through 8th. Activities are aligned to state core standards and objectives (including Utah's). Hundreds of activities here.

Link: http://www.ixl.com/

FunBrain
Parents need to know that this site offers games designed to build on skills that kids are working on in school; in fact, some games are designed to be used in the classroom. The site displays quite a few ads and links to other non-threatening sites.

Link: http://www.funbrain.com/
**Gone Bananas!**

Finally the most popular game from the Just4Fun page is now available to play and learn! So, play your favorite fun game after doing some math first. (Fun4TheBrain Game).


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**Diaper Derby**

It is time for the babies to race. Answer the subtraction questions quickly and accurately to speed up your baby and have him win the race! (Fun4TheBrain Game).


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**Farmer Fred’s Pumpkin Patch!**

Farmer Fred, from Harvest Hootenanny, now needs your help to get the pumpkins ready for his customers. Practice your subtraction facts while growing pumpkins and helping Farmer Fred! (Fun4TheBrain Game)


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**Fun4TheBrain**

Bringing education and fun together: All games here were made by Exuberant Games. Each game goes through important information for a certain subject matter for grades Kindergarten through 6th grade. The math games are great if you need to review your math facts for addition, subtraction, or division. Be sure to check out our new games for other subjects.

- English games to review parts of speech
- Reading games to help learn sight words
- Science tutorials and games are coming soon!


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**Gone Bananas!**

Finally the most popular game from the Just4Fun page is now available to play and learn! So, play your favorite fun game after doing some math first. (Fun4TheBrain Game).

Look at these!

**Math Nook - Worksheet Generators**

Math Nook - Worksheet Generators

YouTube Demo: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-MfPuUiW](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-MfPuUiW)

**Home School Math**

Home School Math
HomeschoolMath.net is a comprehensive math resource site for homeschooling parents and teachers: find free worksheets, math ebooks for elementary grades, extensive link list of games, interactive tutorials & quizzes, curriculum guide, and math teaching help articles/lessons. The resources emphasize understanding of concepts instead of mechanical memorization of rules.

Link: [http://www.homeschoolmath.net/](http://www.homeschoolmath.net/)

**PBS Games for Kids**

PBS Games for Kids
More games that you can shake a stick at here - featuring lovable characters that kids have come to know. For example, Curious George, Arthur, Ruff Ruffman, and the Sesame Street cast.

Link: [http://pbskids.org/games/](http://pbskids.org/games/)

**Math Nook - Free Math Games**

Math Nook - Free Math Games

**Math Nook - Free Math Games**

Math Nook - Free Math Games

YouTube Demo: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-MfPuUiW](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-MfPuUiW)
SEN Teacher - Free Teaching Resources for Special Education

SEN Teacher provides cost-free teaching & learning resources for students with special needs and learning disabilities. Many resources here may also be of use to educators of primary and elementary students.

All the resources available or listed here are free for use in schools, colleges and at home.

- Maths Printables has a selection of free printable worksheets, cards and maths manipulatives.
- Literacy Printables has handouts and teaching aids which support reading and writing.
- Other Printables has certificates and resources for Science, PSHE and other subjects.
- Web Links lists favoured websites with cost-free learning resources and information.
- Downloads lists favoured websites with cost-free learning resources and information.
- Search Tools are custom Google search engines which index free resources and info sites.

Link: http://www.senteacher.org/

The Ultimate Guide to Special Needs Teaching: 100+ Resources and Links

Whether you have an entire class of students with special needs, or you’ve welcomed a student with a disability into your traditional classroom, this massive list of resources will help you research different disorders and conditions, review special lesson plans, and find the support you need to work with your students and help them succeed.


Math.com

Math.com is dedicated to providing revolutionary ways for students, parents, teachers, and everyone to learn math. Combining educationally sound principles with proprietary technology, Math.com offers a unique experience that quickly guides the user to the solutions they need and the products they want. These solutions include assessment, on-demand modular courses that target key math concepts, 24/7 live online tutoring, and expert answers to math questions. In addition to solutions, Math.com offers exploratory and recreational introductions to the world of math that will lead to deeper understanding and enjoyment. The range of services, products and solutions offered makes Math.com the single source for all math needs. Math.com is a division of Leap of Faith Financial Services Inc.

Link: http://www.math.com/
Free NASA Lithographs, Bookmarks, Posters, and more!


Many educators are not aware that NASA produces a huge volume of teaching material - videos, lesson plans, units, posters, bookmarks, trading cards, educational briefs, and much more. I gave you the username and password to the NASA Videos earlier.

**Bookmarks and Trading Cards** - NASA produces bookmarks and trading cards that encourage students and teachers to visit online educational resources, or to explore STEM content fields. (STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.) Here you’ll find things like designing 21st century aircraft, with paper glider designs on the back. You’ll find Galaxy and Solar System trading cards that you can print and share.

**Lithographs** - NASA lithographs are mini posters. Usually 8 1/2 x 11 inches in size, the front will contain a photo, illustration, or painting. The back side of the lithograph will provide additional information, resources, graphs and charts, etc. One of the most popular series of lithographs are the Solar System Lithograph set. The thumbnails above are just some of the lithographs available to teachers.

**Posters** - NASA posters are wonderful. A beautiful and informative image on the front; On the back are lesson plans, additional information and resources, links to online activities, and more.

**Educator Kits and Briefs and Magazines** - Educator Kits are collections of NASA materials that are based around a theme, such as the Sun-Earth connection. Briefs are short educational documents that describe a scientific principle or a NASA project.

Please note that the collection of NASA materials available at TeacherLINK were current when printed. Each will have a NASA number on it somewhere - such as EP-2002-03-406-HQ - which stands for an Educational Product in the year 2002. Please keep in mind the date published - as information and technologies have progressed since its publication date - the information may no longer be correct or current.
LibreOffice - A New Fork in the Road for OpenOffice

A new community has been established to further the cause of the free, open source OpenOffice product - The Document Foundation.

Link: http://www.documentfoundation.org/

According to its website, the Document Foundation...

- is an independent self-governing meritocratic Foundation, created by leading members of the OpenOffice.org Community.
- continues to build on the foundation of ten years' dedicated work by the OpenOffice.org Community.
- was created in the belief that the culture born of an independent Foundation brings out the best in contributors and will deliver the best software for users.
- is open to any individual who agrees with our core values and contributes to our activities.
- welcomes corporate participation, e.g. by sponsoring individuals to work as equals alongside other contributors in the community.

The Document Foundation is proud to be the home of LibreOffice, the next evolution of the world's leading free office suite.

LibreOffice is currently available for download in beta - and you can download Windows, Mac, and several Linux versions at their website.

Although there have been other forks for OpenOffice in the past, this one looks promising because there are some major players that have committed themselves to the effort, such as BROAD, Novell, Google, Red Hat, and others. Oracle has been invited and is seriously considering joining the effort.

The early focus of the community will be to polish the existing code, absorb the various community patches that have been created, and to eventually create a more responsive and expanded office suite that is compatible with most commercial office products.

Khan Academy Videos

Khan Academy is famous for the fantastic educational videos produced by Salman Khan. Khan's mathematics and science videos are available on YouTube, on iTunes, and on Khan Academy.org.

Link: http://www.khanacademy.org/

There you’ll find a wide selections of teaching videos on Algebra, arithmetic, banking and money, biology, brain teasers, calculus, chemistry, economics, developmental math, differential equations, finance, history, and much more.

The Khan Academy is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) with the mission of providing a world-class education to anyone, anywhere.

They are complementing Salman’s ever-growing library with user-paced exercises-developed as an open source project—allowing the Khan Academy to become the free classroom for the World.

Log in to the Khan Academy web application for user-paced practice and instruction.
Offisync

by Pam Turley, UCET Board

Tired of switching between Microsoft Office and Google Docs? Now access your Google docs with one click from your Windows Microsoft Office applications. The Google Doc opens in the corresponding Office application, where you can edit it and save it in either format.

Installing the Offisync plugin adds a new toolbar to any version of Microsoft Office:

Windows users can now collaborate in real time using either Office or Google Docs. Another plus: Google Search and Google Image Search is accessed through the Offisync ribbon.

Download link: http://www.offisync.com/

Overview video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06Mw9R61xUs

GeoGebra - Free Mathematics Software

Are you looking for free mathematics software for learning and teaching? You might consider having a peek at GeoGebra...

- Interactive graphics, algebra and spreadsheet
- From elementary school to university level
- Free learning materials

GeoGebra is free and multi-platform dynamic mathematics software for all levels of education that joins geometry, algebra, tables, graphing, statistics and calculus in one easy-to-use package. It has received several educational software awards in Europe and the USA.

- Graphics, algebra and tables are connected and fully dynamic
- Easy-to-use interface, yet many powerful features
- Authoring tool to create interactive learning materials as web pages
- Available in many languages for our millions of users around the world

Link: http://www.geogebra.org/cms/

Edutopia is thrilled to share with you our latest classroom resource guide highlighting new solutions for connecting home and school in order to improve student learning and success.

Whether you’re a teacher, parent, or district administrator, this new guide provides you with relevant and valuable tools and resources for how best to strengthen the bonds between schools, families, and communities.

To get your copy (PDF), go to the following URL:

Link: http://www.edutopia.org/home-to-school-connections-guide

What’s Inside the PDF:
* 1. Go Where Your Parents Are
* 2. Welcome Everyone
* 3. Being There, Virtually
* 4. Smart Phones, Smart Schools
* 5. Seize the Media Moment
* 6. Make Reading a Family Affair
* 7. Bring the Conversation Home
* 8. Student-led Parent Conferences
* 9. Get Families Moving
* 10. Build Parent Partnerships

Teacher Sourcebook

A key resource for working with the 100 milestone documents in the classroom, the Teacher Sourcebook includes an annotated timeline, key themes, guidelines to primary sources, and detailed lesson plans.


Get to Know Your UCET Board

Kelly Dumont, UCET Past President Liaison and Affiliate Representative: I have had the honor and privilege of serving on the UCET Board for ten years now. I enjoy being involved on the board. I had no idea how involved I would get ten years ago though. The reason I love UCET is its mission, to advocate and promote the effective use of technology in Utah’s educational institutions, provide a forum for the exchange of information on technology, and to bring together parties that are interested in the use of technology.

I have been employed in education for the past twenty-one years. I taught 5th and 6th grades for eleven years. For the past eleven years I have been an Educational Technology Specialist, nine years with the Jordan School District and now the past year and a half with the Canyons School District. There are a lot of challenges facing education. Technology is not a cure-all, but it can help simplify tasks and help make instruction appropriate for all students.

I have a home life (believe it or not). I have been married for almost thirty years to the love of my life. We have six children - four girls and two boys, and now seven grandchildren, five boys and two girls. They are all spoiled.

I try to be active in my community. I have coached little league baseball for about twenty years.

Technology-wise, I am into multimedia production, photography (I wish I had a better eye for it), podcasting, social media and iOS devices. I am honored to be an Apple Distinguished Educator and a Google Certified Teacher.

Most of all, I love working with great teachers (which is all of you).
Engineering Design Challenges

NASA’s Classroom Connection

Engineering Design Challenges connect students in their classrooms with the challenges faced by NASA engineers as they design the next generation of space vehicles, habitats, and technology.

Designed specifically for middle and high school students, teams work with their teachers on design challenges that help students achieve national goals in science and mathematics, and build thinking skills.

Working under the supervision of their teachers, students design, build, test, redesign, and rebuild models that meet specified design criteria, employing the same analytical skills as engineers as they improve and refine their designs. The design challenge culminates in the classroom with each student team preparing and presenting the process they used and the results of their work.

How to Participate

Participating in a design challenge is easy. Simply download the Educator Resource Guide and follow the step-by-step instructions. There is no application form required to participate and your results are tracked internally, so there is no requirement to “submit” results.

Educator Resource Guides are available on a wide range of topics. Below are just a few examples of the resources NASA has for teachers to use in the classroom.

Water Filtration
http://www.nasa.gov/education/waterfiltration

On the Moon
http://www.nasa.gov/education/moonguide

Adventures in Rocket Science
http://www.nasa.gov/education/rocketscience

Thermal Protection Systems (TPS)

Spacecraft Structures (SS)

In-Depth NASA Engineering Design Challenge Projects

Student teams can also participate in more in-depth NASA design projects. Requirements vary for each project. Please go to the project Web site for details on how to participate.

High Schools United With NASA to Create Hardware

The High Schools United with NASA to Create Hardware (HUNCH) project is a collaborative effort among NASA Space Operations and Exploration Systems mission directorates and Marshall Space Flight Center’s Academic Affairs, Training and Crew Operations, and Ares Projects offices. They provide “work-world” experiences for students by engaging them in the design, fabrication, and rapid prototyping of multiple products for use in the Ares I mockup. High school students will be challenged to meet NASA’s work requirements as they coordinate to plan, design, and model hardware for the Ares I upper stage and J-2X engine.

Go to <www.nasa.gov/education/HUNCH> for more information.

NASA Great Moonbuggy Race

The Annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Race, held each spring in Huntsville, Alabama, at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, requires students to design a human-powered vehicle that addresses a series of engineering problems that are similar to problems faced by the original Moonbuggy team. Student teams consisting of six members are responsible for building their own buggy and choosing two team members to drive the course.

Go to <http://moonbuggy.msfc.nasa.gov/> for more information.

Student Launch Initiative

The NASA Student Launch Initiative (SLI) involves middle and high school students in designing, building, and testing reusable rockets with associated scientific payloads. This unique hands-on experience allows students to demonstrate proof-of-concept for their designs and gives previously abstract concepts tangibility. Teams must qualify to be eligible to participate in SLI.

Go to <http://education.msfc.nasa.gov/sli/> for more information.

Team America Rocketry Challenge

The Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) is the world’s largest rocket contest, sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and the National Association of Rocketry (NAR). Approximately 7,000 students from across the nation compete in TARC annually. Teams design, build, and fly a model rocket that reaches a specific altitude and duration determined by a set of rules developed each year.

Go to <http://www.rocketcontest.org/> for more information.
Videos Online

Check out these videos from the Federal government.

U.S. Government Channel
www.youtube.com/USGovernment

NASA Podcasts
www.nasa.gov/multimedia/podcasting/

Ocean Explorer
www.youtube.com/user/oceanexplorergov

Environmental Protection Agency
www.youtube.com/user/USEPAgov

Peace Corps
www.peacecorps.gov/wws/multimedia/videos/

Parents and Teachers

We have an educator’s section filled with activities, lesson plans and more.

Did you know that you can find:

Practical tips to help kids navigate the online world.
www.onguardonline.gov/topics/net-cetera.aspx

Information about public servants and the important work they do.
publicservicerecognitionweek.org/celebration_toolkit/PSRW10_guide_teacher.pdf

What you can do to Stop Bullying Now!
www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/adults/default.aspx

Field trips to national parks.
www.nps.gov/learn/

A way to connect art and curriculum.
www.nga.gov/education/classroom/

About FCIC
The Federal Citizen Information Center, part of the Office of Citizen Services (OCS) in the U.S. General Services Administration, is a trusted source for information about consumer problems and government services.

May 2010
On Kids.gov, you can...

- Find out who makes ads and how they work. www.admongo.gov/
- Explore My Wonderful World. www.smithsonianeducation.org/mywonderfulworld/
- Discover different energy sources. tonto.eia.doe.gov/kids/
- Become a neighborhood explorer. www.fws.gov/neighborhoodexplorers/
- Learn how to escape from a fire. www.firesafety.gov/kids/
- Become an Analyst. www1.nga.mil/kids/Pages/default.aspx
- Decorate cakes in the art bakery. www.nga.gov/education/classroom/interactive/cake.htm
- Use resources from the World Digital Library. www.loc.gov/wdl/
- Find fun facts and games about Earth, space and technology. spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/
- Go backward and forward in the Climate Time Machine. climate.nasa.gov/kids/

About Kids.gov

Kids.gov is a place to explore, learn, and have fun! Our site has three sections—one with content appropriate for children in grades K-5, one for children in grades 6-8, and another for teachers and educators. Parents don’t have to worry about unsafe links or advertising. All the websites linked on Kids.gov are trustworthy, so you can browse freely.
Earth’s energy comes entirely from the sun. Energy drives everything from local weather on the scale of hours to days, to global climate on the scale of years to decades. It fuels the growth of plants on land and powers currents in the ocean.

NASA develops, deploys and manages an array of satellites that monitor and measure energy as it flows into, through and out of the Earth system. Different sensors focus on the different processes by which Earth’s atmosphere and surface absorb, reflect and emit energy.

NASA’s space-based perspective allows scientists to observe energy changes and interactions within the Earth system on a global scale. By integrating observations with modeling, NASA data and analyses enable a better understanding of past and future climate variability and change.

Learn more about climate and Earth’s energy budget at [http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/EnergyBalance](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/EnergyBalance).

### Eyes on the Earth 3D

Fly along with NASA’s Earth Observing System satellites as they orbit the Earth. View real-time data in an immersive, 3D environment.

### The Scientific Visualization Studio

works closely with scientists to create data visualization products that promote a greater understanding of NASA Earth and Space Science research activities. Visualizations are searchable by keyword, mission, instrument, scientist, etc. They can be downloaded as movies of various file types and resolutions or as stills.

### NASA Earth Observations (NEO)

was developed to help museums, science centers and other informal education institutions access imagery of NASA’s global datasets. Images are available in several formats, including those supported by Science On a Sphere and other global kiosk displays. Includes access by Web Mapping Service so that kiosks and other applications can update automatically.

### For the Latest Education News

Subscribe to the NASA Earth and Space Science Education Enews by emailing [ese_ed_newslist-subscribe@lists.hq.nasa.gov](mailto:ese_ed_newslist-subscribe@lists.hq.nasa.gov) with “Subscribe” as the subject. Or go to [http://science.nasa.gov/educators/earth-and-space-science-education-e-news](http://science.nasa.gov/educators/earth-and-space-science-education-e-news). This free monthly email includes upcoming educational programs, events, opportunities and resources.

A Catalog of NASA Earth Science Education Programs and Resources is online at [http://science.nasa.gov/educators/earth-science-education-catalog](http://science.nasa.gov/educators/earth-science-education-catalog).

### 2010 EARTH SCIENCE WEEK!

Get the latest on NASA plans for Oct. 10–16 Earth Science Week at [climate.nasa.gov/esw2010](http://climate.nasa.gov/esw2010)

### DATA & IMAGERY

**Eyes on the Earth 3D** • [http://climate.nasa.gov/Eyes/index.html](http://climate.nasa.gov/Eyes/index.html)

Fly along with NASA’s Earth Observing System satellites as they orbit the Earth. View real-time data in an immersive, 3D environment.

**The Scientific Visualization Studio** • [http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov)

works closely with scientists to create data visualization products that promote a greater understanding of NASA Earth and Space Science research activities. Visualizations are searchable by keyword, mission, instrument, scientist, etc. They can be downloaded as movies of various file types and resolutions or as stills.


was developed to help museums, science centers and other informal education institutions access imagery of NASA’s global datasets. Images are available in several formats, including those supported by Science On a Sphere and other global kiosk displays. Includes access by Web Mapping Service so that kiosks and other applications can update automatically.

**MY NASA DATA** • [http://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov](http://mynasadata.larc.nasa.gov)

Students of all ages can investigate microsets of NASA Earth science satellite data, including atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere, ocean and land surface. Data are available along with lesson plans, computer tools and an Earth science glossary. Citizen science project ideas are also available.

**Giovanni** • [http://daac.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni](http://daac.gsfc.nasa.gov/giovanni)

provides a simple and intuitive way to visualize, analyze and access vast amounts of Earth science remote-sensing data without having to download the data.

**Earth Science Picture of the Day (EPOD)** • [http://epod.usra.edu](http://epod.usra.edu)

collects and archives photos, imagery, graphics and artwork with short explanatory captions and links exemplifying features within the Earth system.
**K–12 Education: Resources & Programs**

**LEARNING ACTIVITIES/RESOURCES**

**Climate Kids** • [http://climate.nasa.gov/kids](http://climate.nasa.gov/kids) • This kid-friendly Web site for ages 10–12 answers the big questions about global climate change using simple illustrations, humor, interactivity and age-appropriate language. Includes a collection of Earth-science-related games and a Green Careers section which profiles real people doing jobs that help slow climate change.

**MY NASA DATA** • [http://my.nasa.data.larc.nasa.gov](http://my.nasa.data.larc.nasa.gov) • Students of all ages can investigate microsets of NASA Earth science satellite data, including atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere, ocean and land surface. Many new data types continue to be added to the collection along with online lesson plans, teacher-friendly documentation, computer tools and an Earth science glossary. MY NASA DATA can be used with existing curriculum and to enable students to practice science inquiry and math or technology skills using real measurements of Earth system variables and processes. Examples of climate and energy-related lessons include:

- **Seasons and Cloud Cover: Are They Related?** (grades 6–12)
- **Solar Cell Energy Availability from around the Country** (grades 8–12)
- **Earth’s Energy Budget—Seasonal Cycles in Net Radiative Flux** (grades 9–12)


**Climate Change Wildlife and Wildlands Toolkit** • [http://www.globalchange.gov/resources/educators/toolkit](http://www.globalchange.gov/resources/educators/toolkit) • This resource for middle school and informal educators/toolkit is targeted audiences: Our World (K–5), Real World (grades 6–8), and Launchpad (grades 9–12 and the general public). Examples of NASA eClips™ related to climate and energy are:

- **Our World** (K–5): A-Train Satellites, Cloud Inspection, Cool Clouds, and Monitoring the Earth’s Climate with CERES
- **Real World** (grades 6–8): Global Cloud Observation Day and Monitoring Earth’s Energy Budget with CERES
- **Launchpad** (grades 9–12): Clouds and Earth’s Radiation Budget and Global Warming—How Humans Are Affecting our Planet.

**Earth Exploration Toolbook** • [http://serc.carleton.edu/eet](http://serc.carleton.edu/eet) • is a collection of computer-based Earth science activities for middle school to college level instruction. Each activity, or chapter, introduces one or more data sets and an analysis tool that enables users to explore some aspect of the Earth system. Step-by-step instructions in each chapter walk users through an example—a case study in which they access data and use analysis tools to explore issues or concepts in Earth system science. Several chapters use NASA Earth science data.

**PODCASTS/VIDEOS**


**NASA eClips™** • [http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/nasaeclips](http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/nasaeclips) • are short, educational video segments that inspire and engage students, helping them see real world connections. The programs are produced for targeted audiences: Our World (K–5), Real World (grades 6–8), and Launchpad (grades 9–12 and the general public). Examples of NASA eClips™ related to climate and energy are:

- **Our World** (K–5): A-Train Satellites, Cloud Inspection, Cool Clouds, and Monitoring the Earth’s Climate with CERES
- **Real World** (grades 6–8): Global Cloud Observation Day and Monitoring Earth’s Energy Budget with CERES
- **Launchpad** (grades 9–12): Clouds and Earth’s Radiation Budget and Global Warming—How Humans Are Affecting our Planet.

**PROGRAMS—GET INVOLVED!**

**GLOBE** • [http://www.globe.gov](http://www.globe.gov) • (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) is a worldwide hands-on, primary and secondary school-based science and education program. GLOBE’s vision promotes and supports students, teachers and scientists to collaborate on inquiry-based investigations of the environment and the Earth system. GLOBE is sponsored by NASA, NOAA, NSF and U.S. Department of State.

A new GLOBE Student Climate Research Campaign (coming September 2011) will engage students from around the world in the process of investigating and researching their local climate and sharing their findings globally. SCRC is comprised of learning activities, events, and research investigations. Teachers can start preparing their students now to participate in SCRC. For more information, go to: [http://www.globe.gov/explore_science/conduct_research/scrc](http://www.globe.gov/explore_science/conduct_research/scrc).

**S’COOL (Students’ Cloud Observations On-Line)** • [http://scool.larc.nasa.gov](http://scool.larc.nasa.gov) • S’COOL is a real-time, collaborative science experiment that elementary through secondary students conduct with NASA scientists. Participants make ground truth observations of clouds for comparison with satellite data. These observations help NASA scientists validate the measurements from NASA’s CERES satellite instrument (Clouds and Earth’s Radiant Energy System). The S’COOL Web site includes several educational resources, including tutorials, cloud ID charts and ideas for projects. The site also includes information on Roving Cloud Observations for S’COOL, a program for citizen scientists.

**NASA’s Global Climate Change Education (GCCE) Initiative** • [http://gcce.larc.nasa.gov](http://gcce.larc.nasa.gov) • has awarded several grants to organizations across the United States to explore innovative ways to teach the science surrounding global climate change and Earth system science. Funded projects include all levels of formal and informal education, including a range of activities, such as courses and workshops for educators, learning resources, citizen science projects, research opportunities for teachers and students and more. Visit the NASA GCCE Web site to learn more about the funded projects and link to resources and datasets for climate change education.

This satellite map shows the distribution of thermal infrared radiation emitted by Earth in September 2008. Most heat escaped from areas just north and south of the equator, where the surface was warm, but there were few clouds. Aokin the equator, persistent clouds prevented heat from escaping. Likewise, the cold poles radiated little heat. (Map by Robert Simmon, based on NASA CERES data.) From the feature article “Climate and Earth’s Energy Budget” in the NASA Earth Observatory at: [http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/EnergyBalance](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/EnergyBalance).

This NASA poster depicting the Earth’s Energy Budget, with Activities, is available at [http://science-edu.larc.nasa.gov/energy_budget](http://science-edu.larc.nasa.gov/energy_budget).
NASA is celebrating the Martian “Year of the Solar System” from now until August 2012. During this time, NASA will launch missions to Earth, the Moon, Mars, and Jupiter. Missions will arrive at Mercury and asteroid Vesta. Missions will encounter Comets Hartley II and Tempel 1. It will be an exciting year. Here at The Space Place, we are ready to help students understand these events and share in the excitement.

What’s new on spaceplace.nasa.gov . . .

In observance of the Year of the Solar System (actually a 23-month Martian year long), we have built the Solar System Explorer “supergame.” An animated solar system is ready to explore. Click on an object to zoom in and learn about it, read about any space missions there, and maybe play a game. Several mini-games are contained within the supergame. The game also keeps track of the players’ exploration achievements and game scores. Players can post their achievements and scores to their Facebook pages and challenge their friends to do better.

Spotlight on Cool Subjects—like the solar system

The “Planets and the solar system” menu (http://tiny.cc/planet-menu) covers everything from the Sun to Pluto. The newest activity there is the Deep Space Network Uplink-Downlink game. The huge radio telescopes of the Deep Space Network keep the planetary space program grounded—so to speak. Visitors will have fun operating the huge antennas to send commands to the spacecraft and to collect data and images they are beaming back from all over the solar system.

Other games, puzzles, hands-on projects, interactive viewers, an ode in verse, and lots of amazing facts are linked to this page. The solar system is a favorite topic area for Dr. Marc too, so you will find links here to several of his “Ask Dr. Marc” answers, with audio.

For the classroom

When children learn about the solar system, Pluto is often a favorite. Lots of kids (of all ages) were upset when the International Astronomical Union decided in 2006 to “demote” Pluto to dwarf planet status, pointing out that Pluto is actually just one of the 100,000 thousand or so icy Kuiper Belt Objects. NASA had already launched its New Horizon spacecraft in January 2006. This spacecraft is still on its way to Pluto, its moon Charon, and the Kuiper Belt, and won’t arrive until 2015.

A Space Place classroom activity article describes the New Horizons mission to Pluto-Charon and the extreme challenges presented to the scientists and engineers designing the mission. Read about the very strange Pluto-Charon system, and use the questions at the end for class discussion or as a writing assignment. Go to http://tiny.cc/new-horizons.

Out of school time

The all-time favorite hands-on activity on The Space Place is the CD Saturn ornament—just the thing for a holiday decoration. The materials are simple, the construction is fun, and the result is gorgeous. Give it a try at http://tiny.cc/cd-saturn.

Special days ahead

November 4: EPOXI spacecraft meets Comet Hartley II today!
Download and print a fun comet factsheet at http://tiny.cc/comet-fun.

November 11, 1889: Birthday of Edwin Hubble.
Hubble discovered that ours isn’t the only galaxy and that the universe is expanding. That partly explains why the sky is dark at night. Check out Dr. Marc’s explanation at http://tiny.cc/dark-night for a more complete answer.

November 27, 1571: Birthday of astronomer and mathematician Johannes Kepler.
Kepler is the father of modern astronomy. Find out what Kepler did that began to unloose the secrets of the sky, http://tiny.cc/planet-distance. Do a fun, outdoor activity with students to demonstrate the scale of the solar system, http://tiny.cc/orbit-scale.

December 7, 1995: The Galileo spacecraft is first to orbit an outer planet.

December 14: Geminids meteor shower peaks tonight!
Meteor showers occur when Earth passes through the path of icy, rocky debris left behind by a comet. Play the “Tails of Wonder” game and learn more about comets at http://tiny.cc/comet-tails.

December 19, 1972: The last of the manned missions to the Moon, Apollo 17, returns to Earth.
Did the astronauts find water on the Moon? Have we found water yet? Check out “I See Ice” and find all the places in the solar system where ice can be found—including some surprises. Go to http://tiny.cc/icy-places.

Don’t forget . . .

The Space Place calendar is available to download and print for the entire school year at http://tiny.cc/sp-calendar. You’ll find more fun days to celebrate by visiting The Space Place and doing activities, playing games, or reading amazing facts.
Join in the Student Showcase & Presentations at UCET

Celia Powell, UCET Board

Teachers, we would like to invite you and your students to participate in the 2011 UCET Student Showcase. Many of you are infusing your curriculum with technology and have a lot to offer other teachers and we would like you to share with us and bring your students to UCET.

Participation works in one of two ways. First, you may display your projects in the Student Showcase during lunches. This is a great opportunity to network with other teachers and other students using technology in the classroom. Second, you and your students may sign up to teach a session during the conference. This gives your students an opportunity to share their expertise in a more structured setting.

If you are willing to share your expertise and your students’ work with others, your registration for the conference will be free. This offer is limited to one teacher per session, but you are welcome to work in tandem with other teachers in your school or district. Teachers who would like to participate need to sign up using the following link:

https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dDZNbEI2OHhtVHhniNC1aOT1NX0U2dXc6MA#gid=0

Please join us!
National Spaced Out Sports Design Challenge

Students in grades 5-8 throughout the United States are invited to participate in Spaced Out Sports, a national design challenge that applies Newton's Laws of Motion by designing a game for the International Space Station astronauts to play in space. The goal is for students to learn the “science behind the game” on Earth and in microgravity.

Students will submit game demonstrations via a playbook and video. Awards include: 1st Place -- NASA schoolwide celebration; Top 3 Teams -- games played and broadcast on the space station; All Contributing Schools -- participation in a Digital Learning Network webcast with astronauts on the space station. Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2011.

Spaced Out Sports student and educator resources include posters, bookmarks, curriculum guides, a career video and Digital Learning Network Modules. All include NASA astronauts, engineers and celebrity sports figures engaging students in relevant space-sports connections by explaining and demonstrating the “science behind their work and/or game.” Featured are: NASA astronauts Leland Melvin and Nicole Stott; Olympic gymnast Nastia Liukin; NASCAR’s Juan Pablo Montoya; basketball’s Temeka Johnson; football/Super Bowl champions New Orleans Saints; and hockey’s Ryan O’Reilly and the Colorado Avalanche.

Guide activities and DLN modules include talk shows that explain application of Newton's Laws in sports and space, followed by Science and Sports Challenges, where students design/construct sporting equipment and games and predict the difference between a game played on Earth and in microgravity.

Spaced Out Sports is managed by NASA’s Stennis Space Center Education through the Teaching From Space Office at NASA’s Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston.

For more information and to register for the challenge, visit: http://education.ssc.nasa.gov/spacedoutsports

If you have questions about Spaced Out Sports, please e-mail inquiries to ssc-spacedoutsports@nasa.gov.

2011 College Aerospace Scholars

The National Community College Aerospace Scholars program is designed specifically for community college students across the U.S. who are interested in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Selected participants gain access to an interactive, online learning experience where they complete Web-based lessons. Participants also travel to NASA for a three-day experience where they work with NASA engineers and scientists developing a proposal for a fictitious Martian rover. The only cost to applicants is a $30 registration fee. Travel costs, food and lodging are covered by NASA.

Applications are available online and must be submitted by Dec. 9, 2010.

For more information about this opportunity and to apply online, visit https://aerospacescholars.jsc.nasa.gov/NCAS/.

Inquiries about the National Community College Aerospace Scholars program should be directed to jsc-ncas@mail.nasa.gov.
Christmas Teacher Resources

by Bridger Burt, Utah State University

‘Tis the season! It’s that time of the year, and there are a great amount of resources for teachers available online. Here is a list of just a small fraction of the free resources to get you and your students started this Christmas season:

SMARTBoard Christmas Holiday Resources
http://smartboards.typepad.com/smartboard/smartboard-christmas-holi.html

Specific online activities designed for the SMARTBoards in your classroom. Some examples are building a snowman, connect-the-dot activities. This site also contains some word-search and riddle activities.

Christmas Resources for Primary Teachers
http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/teacher/christmas.html#advent

Contains activities to do both online and printable activities to do in the classroom. Also available are Christmas-centered lesson plans along with clip art, lyrics to Christmas songs, and much more!

Teachersmouspad.com
http://www.teachersmousepad.com/Christmas/Happy%20Holidays1.htm

Huge resource for Christmas printouts, links to online resources. All free!

2010-2011 Faculty Institutes for NASA Earth and Space Science Education

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010-2011 Faculty Institutes for NASA Earth and Space Science Education, also known as FINESSE. These two-day workshops assist university and community college science and education faculty in preparing future teachers in science. The 2011 institutes will incorporate the theme of Our Solar System in a New Light, in conjunction with the upcoming Year of the Solar System.

FINESSE workshops are free, and participants receive a $300 stipend and lunch. During the workshops, NASA Earth and space scientists and educators share inquiry activities, data and resources.

FINESSE workshops will take place Dec. 11-12, 2010, at the American Geophysical Union fall meeting in San Francisco, Calif.; Jan. 18-19, 2011 at the Association for Science Teacher Education conference, in Minneapolis, Minn.; and Feb. 24-25, 2011 at the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs conference, in San Diego, Calif.

For more information about the workshops and to apply online, visit http://www.lpi.usra.edu/education/faculty-Institutes/. Inquiries about the FINESSE workshops should be directed to Christine Shupla at shupla@lpi.usra.edu.

To learn more about the upcoming Year of the Solar System, visit http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/yss/.
Top Free Downloads from ZDNet.com

**HDClone Free Edition 3.9.4 (Windows)**

The Free Edition of HDClone is the ideal tool for moving or cloning contents of entire hard disks. Since it works on physical level it can be used with any operating system and any filesystem. HDClone copies the data for you. This allows you to transfer entire system installations to a newer hard disk quickly and easily (hard disk migration). It also adds the additional disk space automatically if desired. Since HDClone has its own operating system and is self-booting, it can be used even if the installed operating system is damaged. Therefore HDClone is also a great solution for data rescue on damaged hard disks or system installations. The commercial versions HDClone Basic Edition, HDClone Standard Edition, HDClone Professional Edition, and HDClone Enterprise Edition offer extended features.

http://downloads.zdnet.com/abstract.aspx?docid=2141879&promo=100200&tag=zd-left;tab1

**FotoSketcher 1.98 (Windows)**

FotoSketcher turns digital photos into beautiful pencil sketches or paintings in seconds. This free program can help you create images that really look like they have been hand drawn by the best artists. If you want to turn a portrait, the photograph of your house or even the picture of your pet into a black & white or colour pencil sketch, then look no further, FotoSketcher will do the job in just a few seconds. Now you can print stunning images to make original gifts for your friends or relatives, or print on birthday cards or even T-shirts. And best of all, it comes with absolutely no strings attached! This program is free, and does not contain any adware, spyware or virus.

http://downloads.zdnet.com/abstract.aspx?docid=2213607&promo=100200&tag=zd-left;tab1

**Disk Investigator 1.5 (Windows)**

Disk Investigator helps you to discover all that is hidden on your computer hard disk. It can also help you to recover lost data. Display the true drive contents by bypassing the operating system and directly reading the raw drive sectors. View and search raw directories, files, clusters, and system sectors. Verify the effectiveness of file and disk wiping programs. Undelete previously deleted files.

http://downloads.zdnet.com/abstract.aspx?docid=1457319&promo=100200&tag=zd-left;tab1

**TweakNow PowerPack 2010 2.3.2 (Windows)**

TweakNow PowerPack is a fully-integrated suite of utilities that lets you fine-tune every aspect of your computer’s operating system and Web browser. The Registry Cleaner module provides you with a safe and simple way to clean Windows Registry. To keep your computer always at top performance, we recommend to clean your registry at least once a month. For Windows tweaking lovers, the suite provides more than 100 hidden Windows settings in the Windows Secret section. Using modules included in this section, you can easily customize your Windows like geeks do. The Virtual Desktop module lets you run as many as four custom-designed desktop configurations simultaneously, allowing you to tailor your computer screen to your mood and your work requirements.

http://downloads.zdnet.com/abstract.aspx?docid=1936175&promo=100200&tag=zd-left;tab1

**AML Free Registry Cleaner 4.21 (Windows)**

AML Free Registry Cleaner is Registry-cleaning software. It will safely clean and repair Windows Registry problems with a few clicks and enable you to enjoy a cleaner and more efficient PC. The registry is the nerve center of your PC, and problems with the Windows Registry are a common cause of Windows crashes and error messages. With a detailed startup-manager you can see what all programs start automatically with Windows and optionally disable them. AML Free Registry Cleaner also finding and removing common junk files that accumulate over time. It comes pre-configured with 22 types of file extension that can usually be considered disposable, and you can extend the range by adding your own file types. AML Free Registry Cleaner also provides a detailed overview of running programs and processes. AML Free Registry Cleaner also allows you to search for words in the entire registry.

http://downloads.zdnet.com/abstract.aspx?docid=1685187&promo=100200&tag=zd-left;tab1

**WinUtilities Free Edition 9.9 (Windows)**

WinUtilities (Free Edition) is a multi-functional system performance and optimization suite for Microsoft Windows. This collection of tools lets you supercharge your PC’s performance, enhance its security, tweak and optimize its settings, and customize and personalize
your screens. Registry Cleaner makes your system more stable by cleaning out the bad Registry entries that build up each time you install and uninstall software. The program’s Registry Optimizer defragments and rebuilds your Registry, making your entire system run more smoothly and quickly. The program includes powerful tools to clean and optimize your hard drives. The Disk Cleaner removes clutter and unnecessary files from your PC, allowing it to run more quickly. The DiskDefrag module defragments your hard drive, keeping it running efficiently. WinUtilities’s Windows Optimizers keep Windows running faster. The Memory Optimizer ensures that memory is released properly when you stop running each program on your system.

http://downloads.zdnet.com/abstract.aspx?docid=2301781&promo=100200&tag=zd-left;tab1

**VideoSlurp YouTube Downloader 1.51 (Windows)**

VideoSlurp YouTube Video Downloader is a simple application that allows you to download your favorite YouTube videos to your desktop. Browse YouTube from your favorite browser and when you find the video (or videos) you like, simply copy each URL and press the VideoSlurp download button for your downloads to begin. VideoSlurp can download video in both normal and high quality formats, and can also download audio from YouTube to MP3 files. VideoSlurp can queue an unlimited number of videos for retrieval and download multiple videos at once allowing you to create large archives of your favorite content very quickly. Or, if you prefer, VideoSlurp comes with a simple and quick browser designed to make video downloads a one-click operation. Setup bundles Microsoft Bing toolbar (by Zugo).

http://downloads.zdnet.com/abstract.aspx?docid=2307517&promo=100200&tag=zd-left;tab1

or

http://www.videoslurp.com/

**Glary Registry Repair 3.3.0.852 (Windows)**

Glarysoft Registry Repair is an advanced registry cleaner for Windows that allows you to safely scan, clean, and repair registry problems. Problems with the Windows registry are a common cause of Windows crashes and error messages. Glarysoft Registry Repair allows you to fix your registry and optimize your PCs performance with a few simple mouse clicks.

Barnes & Noble Nook - Now in Color

Excerpts from an October press release: “The first full-color touch device dedicated to reading everything and built on Android™, NOOKcolor opens up a whole new world of digital reading materials of all kinds, in addition to providing access to the largest bookstore with an unprecedented selection of over two million digital titles a single search away. Digital content – from bestsellers to favorite magazines in full color, and interactive children’s picture books and enhanced cookbooks – has never looked better than on NOOKcolor’s stunning 7-inch VividView™ Color Touchscreen.

... - All your content at your fingertips: Your entire library is always a touch away with 8GB of memory. That’s approximately 6,000 NOOKbooks or a combination that might include 1,000 books, 25 full-color magazines, 10 newspapers, 50 kids’ books, 500 songs and 150 photos. Plus, NOOKcolor has expandable memory using a microSD™ card. And with Barnes & Noble’s Lifetime Library™, existing customers of NOOK products and software-enabled devices will instantly be able to access their personal Barnes & Noble digital libraries on NOOKcolor. With this digital library advantage, Barnes & Noble ensures that your content always goes wherever you go and is always protected and accessible on a variety of devices, as well as BN.com.

...For the first time ever, enjoy the largest collection of popular children’s picture and chapter books in an engaging digital form through the new NOOK kids offering. Through exclusive AliveTouch™ technology, your child can interact with words and pictures, easily find a favorite story, and even have some read aloud to them. Enjoy a broad and growing selection of ... picture books – an unprecedented offering that will double before year’s end – and nearly 12,000 chapter books for children, plus exciting enhancements coming soon. Learn more at www.NOOKkids.com.”

Universities Now Offering Books in ePub Format at iTunes U

From Campus Technology magazine: “Three institutions—Oxford University, Rice University, and Open University--have added e-books for free download through iTunes U, Apple’s educational area in its iTunes Store. Each is taking a unique approach to the selection of its e-books, but all are using the EPUB format.”

From Oxford University’s site: “Shakespeare’s entire First Folio, including original spelling, is being made available for download for free today, as Oxford University becomes one of the world’s first universities to add ePubs to iTunes U, a dedicated area within the iTunes Store.

Like the University’s hundreds of free audio and video podcasts available on iTunes U, the ePubs are available for anyone to download and enjoy.

This development comes shortly after Oxford on iTunes U celebrated its second anniversary by surpassing five million downloads of its audio and video material.

The University is also making six plays by contemporaries of Shakespeare available, including The Duchess of Malfi by John Webster.

Dr Emma Smith, Lecturer in English Literature at Oxford, whose lectures on iTunes U have been particularly popular, said:’It’s great to have released free ePubs of both First Folio Shakespeare plays and lesser known works.”
An interactive whiteboard is a piece of technology equipment that looks similar to any whiteboard in a classroom - but this board has built in touch sensitivity and connects to your computer, either wirelessly or by USB cable. The computer is also connected to a projection system, which projects your computer’s image on the white board. Because the interactive white board is touch sensitive, you can control the computer right from the board as you would control any touch screen device such as an ipod touch or smartphone. Usually, the boards come with a set of dry erase markers (or electronic pens that simulate dry erase markers) and an eraser. You can use these markers, and the whiteboard software installed on your computer records what you write on the whiteboard and allows you to save and publish those for your students. This combination of being able to use the interactive whiteboard as both a computer and a chalkboard allows for some very powerful interactive learning and teaching.

So basically, if you were to ask what an interactive whiteboard is, the short answer would be, “It’s a device that allows you to easily share one computer with a larger audience without being tied to a keyboard and mouse.”

The first interactive whiteboards were just that - a whiteboard with touch screen sensitivity built in. As technology advances, newer projectors eliminate the need for a touch sensitive board. The projectors themselves are able to sense where you are touching a projected image and allows the computer to respond accordingly. These work on any whiteboard or smooth surface. Many technology classrooms are equipped with large screen LED or LCD TVs that have an added touch screen overlay.

A short, five minute Youtube video demonstrates most of an interactive whiteboard’s features and how to use them. Please visit...

Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=319sEUVW6zk

What are the pros and cons of using interactive whiteboards? Let’s start with some of the cons...

1) Some argue that niche, specialized technologies like interactive whiteboards are often much higher in cost and slower to advance technologically than many other main-stream interactive electronic devices.

2) Although some setups eliminate or reduce this effect, if you are standing between the projector and the whiteboard, your shadow will obscure part of the projected image.

3) Sometimes the touch sensitivity is inaccurate, too sensitive, or not sensitive enough - which can lead to a frustrating experience. For example, if you rest your palm on the board while writing...

4) Requires time and practice to learn to use effectively.

5) As with any technology, sometimes things go wrong, and you’re left to scramble for alternative teaching strategies.

What are the pros?...

1) It’s an engaging, interactive technology for teaching, demonstrating, and learning.

2) It allows you to share a computer display with a larger audience, and at the same time allow you to be at the board teaching.

3) It allows you to save and easily share notes written on the board with others electronically.

**Interactive Whiteboard Resources:**

Georgia Department of Education Interactive Whiteboard Links:
http://www.ettcnsc.org/Instructional_resources/other/interactive_whiteboard_links.htm

Promethean Planet Interactive Whiteboard Community:

SMART Exchange: Find Lesson Plans for Your SMART Board and Connect with Teachers
http://exchange.smarttech.com/

Scholastic’s Smart Lessons Collection
http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=447

Scholastic’s Interactive Whiteboard Lessons Collection
http://www.scholastic.com/interactivewhiteboards/

Learning Today's Interactive Whiteboard Lessons K-5

Another interesting technology that turns any whiteboard into an interactive one is Luidia’s eBeam product. A small sensor device attaches to a regular whiteboard and connects to your computer via USB or wireless. Special pens with infrared signals to the device just where your pen is touching the whiteboard. This costs about half what an interactive whiteboard does.
Get to Know Your UCET Board! This month: Guy Durrant

Guy says, “I grew up in Cache Valley, and attended Cache County Schools; I graduated from Utah State University in biology and chemistry. As an undergraduate, I took a single computer science class using Fortran IV. I later did graduate work in Chinese literature at BYU and Arizona. My educator career began at Daggett District in 1988 as a secondary science teacher. I taught earth, life and physical science to junior high students, and biology, chemistry, physics and environmental science to high school students. My second year, I took on yearbook and photography. At other times, I have taught world civilizations, US history, computer literacy, and a digital multimedia class.

When I arrived at Manila High, I was the only teacher who was computer literate. I brought my own computer to school, which convinced the superintendent that I was earnest in my desire to use technology. Unlike most educators my age, I did not begin on Apple IIe or Commodore computers. By the middle of my second year, I was given responsibility for technology for the district, which at that time had more to do with distance education than it did with computers. As you can tell, with my background in biology, chemistry and Chinese, I was very well prepared academically to step into the roll of technology director. Teachers did not have computers. Only the superintendent and a couple of secretaries had computers, and there were a small handful of IBM PC computers used in the business lab for word processing. I whined and nagged until the superintendent/principal allowed me to move a school computer to my classroom. I managed the school’s SETOC studio; SETOC (predecessor of EdNet) comprised a half dozen of Utah’s colleges, the Uintah Basin technology center, and Manila High School. No other high school in Utah had an EdNet installation at that time.

Over the years, I have completely built (and re-built) Daggett District’s computer network. I ran all of the wiring and fiber optic cable, installed and managed switches, hubs and servers, installed and in many cases, built computers for student and teacher use. The smaller of Utah’s districts usually have only one person handling technology, so we aren’t specialized as is the case in larger districts. On the other hand, the chain of command is quite short. In 1995, as UtahLINK began connecting school districts to the Internet, I decided to link our buildings with fiber optic cables. My crew was the two maintenance workers, Superintendent Gerold Erickson, and I. It was intimidating, but we didn’t let lack of knowledge stop us. Beginning in 1994, I was in charge of professional development for several years, during which time our teachers gradually gained proficiency in using computers in the classroom. We are fortunate in having a good ratio of students to computers (about 5 students to 4 computers in the high school and 3 students to 2 computers in the elementary schools). We face the same challenges as other districts in keeping up with rapidly aging technology. All of our classrooms have audio amplification systems, and all have either a projector or a large LCD television. We do not have interactive whiteboards, but we are acquiring clicker technology. For about eleven years I have had the assistance of Robert Gordon, NUES technology trainer (and fellow UCET board member), in providing professional development to our our staff.

I greatly appreciate the foresight of those educators, many of them active in UCET, who gave birth to UtahLINK. UtahLINK and EdNet were the forerunners of the Utah Education Network. Other states are envious of the services we receive from UEN. UCET has been advancing technology in Utah schools for thirty years, and has been a partner with UEN since its inception. In Utah, we accept that we must accomplish much with paltry and erratic technology funding. UCET produces one of the best state technology conferences in the country, and does so at a minimal cost to participants; UEN is our principal partner in providing a great conference.

I first attended the UCET (then known as UCCE) conference in 1990. At one of the early conferences held in Salt Lake, I was asked to run for the board. I was elected to the board of UCCE in 1992 as the middle school representative, the name change to UCET took place as I joined the board. After my two-year term expired, I was editor of the UCET newsletter Interface for couple of years, then became president-elect. I served through the three-year presidency cycle, and have been an appointed board member since that time, serving as the system administrator and historian. My specific duties within UCET are to host and maintain the UCET web/email server and to build and tear down the vendor network at each conference. Over the years, I have attended nearly every board meeting, either in person or via EdNet or Skype.

I am proud of my long association with UCET. It has benefited me in innumerable ways. For a teacher from Utah’s smallest county and smallest district, UCET has allowed me to break out and benefit from the knowledge and abilities of colleague educators around the state. I have worked with dozens of dedicated board members who devote much of their free time to ensuring that UCET achieves its mission. I am a firm believer in using technology to enhance and improve teaching and learning, and in the use of technology as an end to itself (technology for learning’s sake, for teaching’s sake and for its own sake).” (Photo: Guy Durrant (pushing) and Robert Gordon (riding))
**Mixxx-Free, Open Source Audio Mixing - Be Your Own DJ**

**Link:** [http://www.mixxx.org/](http://www.mixxx.org/)

From their website: “Mixxx is free, open source DJ software that gives you everything you need to perform live mixes. Our advanced mixing engine gives you complete control over your live mixes. Hot cues, looping controls, and our high fidelity EQs let you mix and remix with more control. Create your own MP3 DJ mix today!” Downloads include Windows 32 and 64 bit versions, Mac OS X, and Linux.

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**More Christmas and Holiday Resources**

by Amy Baldwin, Utah State University

Get in the holiday spirit early this year by starting to decorate right now! Need some Christmas clipart to help you get started? Here are some websites where you can get free clipart for Christmas.


Now, you’ve put up the tree and the lights to decorate the house, but have you spruced up your computer? Here are some links for holiday inspired desktops backgrounds for your computer.

- [http://www.freechristmassavers.com/wallpapers.htm](http://www.freechristmassavers.com/wallpapers.htm)
- [http://desktops.org.ua/wallpapers/christmas/5/](http://desktops.org.ua/wallpapers/christmas/5/)

Maybe you are looking for free craft projects ideas or coloring pages for the kids to keep them busy during the holiday break. There are lots of ideas that recycle common household items. Try making a Christmas tree from an old paperback book or a reindeer from a branch. Turn your old light bulbs into Santa Claus or make your own snow globe. There is wide range of projects to choose from, but whatever you pick will be fun!


And while you are busy coloring or doing a craft you can listen to free Christmas music. This website has hundreds of free Christmas mp3 music downloads. All free to download and listen to, load up on your iPod, burn on a personal CD and to share with friends.

- [http://feelslikechristmas.com/](http://feelslikechristmas.com/)

So get in the spirit and have fun this holiday season doing crafts and listening to free music while you spend time together with your loved ones.
Waste Limitation Management and Recycling Design Challenge for Grades 5-8

If a one-liter bottle of water costs $20,000, what would you do? That may sound like a silly question but it’s a real problem. Transporting supplies, including water, to the International Space Station (ISS) costs about $20,000 per kilogram!

NASA is developing advanced technologies that will permit astronauts to explore the solar system, including the Moon, Mars, and asteroids. Closed loop water recycling systems are an important component of these enabling technologies. A lunar base represents one potential exploration destination. The Moon provides an excellent test case for students to assess how mission requirements and available resources relate to the design of a sustainable water recycling system. However, the technologies students create could be applied to water recycling systems on other worlds including Earth.

Look around your classroom. Some of your students may become those future astronauts. Certainly, some will be working in jobs that will support a future Moon base. Managing supplies of basic items, like water, will be a huge and exciting challenge. But you and your students don’t have to wait ten or more years to get involved. You can do it right now with NASA’s Waste Limitation Management and Recycling Design Challenge (WLMR - DC)!

If you are a grade 5 to 8 teacher or a homeschooler or science center or museum educator working with grade 5 to 8 students and are looking for real world challenges that meet science and mathematics content standards, WLMR - DC is for you!

Form development teams of up to 6 students and a teacher or a mentor. Design a water recycling system for the unique environment of the Moon. Test your system on a simulated wastewater stream and report your proposal and its results to NASA.

Just meeting the challenge will make your students and you winners but you might do better than that. The top team nationally will win an expense-paid trip to the NASA Kennedy Space Center for VIP tours, meetings with NASA scientists and engineers, and much more!

Classroom time is precious and every effort has been made to tie the challenge and supportive activities to your curriculum standards and expectations. We hope you and your students will enjoy this real world application experience!

Help NASA prepare for a future Moon base by designing a simulated system to recycle and reuse water on the Moon. The Waste Limitation Management and Recycling Design Challenge (WLMR DC) is a great opportunity for middle school level teams (grades 5-8) to participate in real science and engineering projects.

The winning team will receive an all-expense paid trip to the NASA Kennedy Space Center and more.

Link: http://wlmr.nasa.gov/
Boost Your Piano Playing Skills

Link: http://pianobooster.sourceforge.net/

From the website: “PianoBooster is a fun way of playing along with a musical accompaniment and at the same time learning the basics of reading musical notation. The difference between playing along to a CD or a standard midi file is that PianoBooster listens and follows what you are playing on a midi piano keyboard.

PianoBooster has been designed to allow you to play along on a midi piano keyboard with the scrolling notes shown on the screen. The notes you press on the keyboard appear as coloured lines on the musical stave, the colour of which depends whether you have pressed the right or wrong note.

A different musical instrument sound is used for your playing depending whether you are playing the right or wrong notes. This feature also allows PianoBooster to be used with printed sheet music so you can hear if you are playing the right notes while at the same time keeping your eyes on the printed score. The music accompaniment will automatically wait for you to find and play the correct notes in the piece.

Piano Booster is piano teaching software that can provide piano lessons for beginners as well as for advanced players. It can be used for teaching music theory and is useful for piano practice and learning piano technique.”

Features:

- Piano Booster follows your playing when playing along to a musical accompaniment. (If you stop then so does the music).
- Play a single hand and Piano Booster will play the other hand in time with you (and will also play the violins, the bass, the drums etc. in time with you).
- Change the speed of playback to match your playing ability.
- Transpose +/- 12 semitones without stopping the playback.
- Change the Key Signature of the piece.
- Plays any standard midi or kar file.
- Play along to any instrument in the midi file.
- Adjust the part volumes separately.
- See the accuracy of your playing.
- Change the start bar to start playing from any bar in the music. The repeat bars allows you to practice just a few difficult bars continuously.
- Timing markers are white crosses that are drawn over each note and show if you are playing ahead or behind the beat.
- A different instrument sound is used for the right and wrong notes that you play.

Youtube Demo: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7YaD1VreuM

Maxima, a Computer Algebra System

Link: http://maxima.sourceforge.net/

Maxima is a system for the manipulation of symbolic and numerical expressions, including differentiation, integration, Taylor series, Laplace transforms, ordinary differential equations, systems of linear equations, polynomials, and sets, lists, vectors, matrices, and tensors. Maxima yields high precision numeric results by using exact fractions, arbitrary precision integers, and variable precision floating point numbers. Maxima can plot functions and data in two and three dimensions.

Inkscape - Vector Graphics Software

Link: http://inkscape.org/

What is Inkscape?
It's an Open Source vector graphics editor, with capabilities similar to Illustrator, Corel Draw, or Xara X, using the W3C standard Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) file format.

Inkscape supports many advanced SVG features (markers, clones, alpha blending, etc.) and great care is taken in designing a streamlined interface. It is very easy to edit nodes, perform complex path operations, trace bitmaps and much more. They also aim to maintain a thriving user and developer community by using open, community-oriented development.
Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!

ABC Animals ($1.99)
Letters, phonics and handwriting for preschoolers. It’s like having preschool in the palm of your hand!
Link: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/abc-animals/id292402752?mt=8

Word Magic (99¢)
Word Magic is nominated for Best Educational App by 2009 Best App Ever awards and also featured in “Apps for kids” by Apple
Link: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/word-magic/id293630633?mt=8

Clifford’s BE BIG with Words (99¢)
Clifford the Big Red Dog™ and friends share their BIG adventures for kids on the iPhone™ and iPod *touch!
Help Clifford, Cleo and T-Bone give Jetta ideas of things to paint by spelling words. As they play, kids will experiment with letters and letter sounds as they learn to spell three-letter words. Kids are guided toward spelling the words by choosing from a selection of letters from Jetta’s painter’s palette. Once a word is spelled, watch as a picture is painted of the word to show its meaning!
Clifford’s BE BIG with Words is a great word game for kids who love Clifford and love to learn!. Building an understanding of words through alphabetic awareness is critical in cultivating reading skills in young children.
FEATURES:
CHARACTERS FROM THE HIT TV SHOW THAT AIRS MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY ON PBS KIDS® - Clifford, Cleo, T-Bone, Emily Elizabeth and Jetta have lots of word-building fun in store for kids!
OVER 100 WORDS: Build a child’s vocabulary with 115 three-letter words that are age-appropriate and found in everyday life.
WORD-BUILDING, SPELLING, & VOCABULARY: Kids will learn how to use letters to build words in an engaging way along with their beloved friend, Clifford. Additionally, kids will learn to associate words with the objects they represent, an essential skill for language development.
PHONICS: Once a word is completed, each letter that spells the word is read out loud. Additionally, each word is pronounced showing kids the connection between sounds, words and their spellings. Building an understanding of words through alphabetic and phonemic awareness is critical in cultivating reading skills in young children.
Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!

Dictionary & Thesaurus (Free)
This easy-to-use app features a search bar, thesaurus, search history and word of the day.

Spanish Tutor (Free)
Introduce or help your kids review Spanish with this app that features native speaker audio, puzzles, written tests, flash cards, and a multiple choice quiz.

Textropolis ($1.99)
Travel word-wide and build up your Textropolis by finding the words hidden in each city. Play through 30 different cities in this free-play word discovery game. Stumble across a new word? Textropolis includes definitions for every word in the game. Watch each city grow as you discover its words and add to your total Textropolis population! Shake your phone or iPod to get a helpful hint when you are stuck, and you can even send postcards from your best cities to a friend via email to show off your vocabulary!

iWriteWords ($2.99)
Small children learn to write by tracing words with this game.
Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!

Spell & Listen cards - the talking flashcards for spelling ($4.99)
Kids rearrange letters to form basic words, improving their vocabulary and sight reading.

TypeFast - typing tutor (99¢)
If your kids don't have time to take a typing class, they can use this app to learn how to type faster and more accurately.

Grammar Up ($4.99)
Help kids learn adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs, infinitives, gerunds, conjunctions, and other grammar basics.

Spell & Listen cards - the talking flashcards for spelling ($4.99)
Kids rearrange letters to form basic words, improving their vocabulary and sight reading.

Grammar Up ($4.99)
Help kids learn adjectives, nouns, verbs, adverbs, infinitives, gerunds, conjunctions, and other grammar basics.

Manual for the United States of America ($1.99)
Whether you need to cram for a History final or just got a new job leading a world superpower, having America’s founding documents close at hand is essential. We combined our free copies of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence along with several other important references into one easy to use Pad/ iPhone/iPod Touch application.
The Oregon Trail ($4.99)
Embark on Gameloft’s refreshing revisit of the classic game you used to play on Apple II now.

Civilization Revolution ($6.99)
Build. Discover. Conquer. Rule the World! Lead your civilization from the dawn of man to the modern age and beyond in Sid Meier’s Civilization Revolution. Go head to head with history’s greatest leaders as you wage war, conduct diplomacy, discover new technologies, inspire your nation and build the most powerful empire the world has ever known. Both paid and free lite versions available.

On this day... (Free)
“On this day…” is a stylish calendar that lets you view historical events, birth and death dates on your iPhone and iPod touch.
Link: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/on-this-day/id317064309?mt=8

Math Cards (99¢)
Quick quizzes in basic math for iPhone and iPod touch. Improve math skill with the built-in lessons on arithmetic, percentage, and letter grades.
**Kids Math Fun~Third Grade ($1.99)**
This app is devoted to third grade math skills, including basic arithmetic. Games like Double Dare and Minute Math keep it fun, too.


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**KidCalc 7-in-1 Math Fun (99¢)**
This app teaches young children number recognition, and older kids arithmetic. It features a birthday party theme, and includes flash cards, puzzle game, running timer, and more.


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**PopMath Basic Math (99¢)**
PopMath is a fun game for kids of all ages to practice basic math. Pairs of bubbles float on the screen and your goal is to pop each pair. For example, one bubble says “7” and another says “3+4”. Simply touch one bubble and then the other to pop them both.

At any time, you can choose different operators: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Once you’ve popped all pairs on a level, you see your time for that level and can move on to the next level, or keep practicing that level.

New levels increase the numbers shown in the bubbles, up to 1000 for addition/subtraction and 20 for multiplication/division.


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**Pocket Universe: Virtual Astronomy ($2.99)**
Have you ever looked up at the night sky, and wondered what exactly you were looking at? Pocket Universe is an easy-to-use app that will help you learn constellations, bright stars and planets. You can literally hold up your iPhone 3GS/4 in front of you, and the app will use the built-in compass to display the same view of the sky you see - but one that’s complete with names and information. If you want your kids to learn the constellations, or to impress a date with the names of the stars, this is the only app you need.

Mathemagics - Mental Math Tricks

Amaze and delight others as you multiply, divide, and square at lightning fast speed. Learn and practice the tricks of mental math calculation in a fun and engaging application. Study any of the math tricks and then practice them as you progress through various levels of proficiency. Tease your brain with a quick practice session while waiting in lines, riding in the car, or on the plane. Only the basic math skills of addition, subtraction and simple multiplication and division are needed to achieve astonishing results.


Mathematical Formulas (99¢)

Mathematical Formulas is the perfect app for you who likes mathematics and easily forgets formulas which you need in certain situation. Without a good app, it’s tough to remember all these complicated and easy forgettable formulas. You don’t even want to write down all your formulas on ten or even 20 different post-it papers and loosing them all the time. But hey, why don’t have them in ONE place and easily access them whenever you want to?

This app is especially made for this kind of a situations. Mathematical Formulas contains all the basic functions you’ll need. You won’t no more worry about forgetting the basic formulas such as the quadratic formula and etc.


The Chemical Touch (99¢)

Explore the properties of the elements, the standard amino acids, and the nucleobases with The Chemical Touch. A touch sensitive periodic table and chemical information companion, it provides a wealth of information right at your fingertips. Recolor the periodic table by selecting properties other than Atomic Mass to visually investigate periodic trends. Having exhausted the built-in information, the internet button opens the Wikipedia page for the selected element, amino acid, or nucleobase.

Link: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-chemical-touch/id288060442?mt=8#

Brain Tuner Lite (Free)

Get your brain in shape with Brain Tuner, a great math game for all ages.


Mathemagics - Mental Math Tricks

Square numbers in the 50’s

Choose your answer.

View Lesson

Correct!

57² = ?

3249

294

4293

3441

Choose your answer.

Wrong

Right

Learn Sight Words (99¢)
Over 300 sight words flashcards based on the popular Dolch Word List. In most schools, children are expected to learn these “high-frequency” words by sight, without sounding out, by the end of the first grade.


Learn Numbers (99¢)
HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN NUMBERS AND COUNTING
Over 100 interactive number and counting flashcards organized to introduce numbers to young children, and help them master numbers as they grow.

COUNTING 1-12 - Count by touching the animals on each card. See & hear the number counted with each touch. Helps your child connect a number to a quantity. Count all the numbers and see the animals dance!

NUMBERS 0-100 - A complete deck of interactive number flashcards. See each written in number AND word form. Touch to hear numbers clearly pronounced.

MAKE YOUR OWN SETS
Want to focus on only odd or even numbers? Or practice counting by 5, 10? Build custom sets with just the numbers you want. Perfect for matching classroom lessons.


Newspapers (99¢)
The most comprehensive and easy to use directory of thousands of local newspapers with free online content around the world. United States newspapers are included, and all other regions and countries can be added with the optional World Newspapers upgrade.


Free Books ($1.99)
Ah, to describe an app in two words... Free Books is just that- Free Books!

Preschool Music (99¢)

Preschool Music contains four, fun, musical activities including: 1.) Sea Beats: Explore the beats and rhythm of music with this animated, virtual aquarium featuring 12 unique swimming sea creatures! 2.) Singing Birds: Learn about music and harmony as children interact with these fun, animated, musical birds. 3.) Note Maker: Play the keys of a virtual piano and learn how to create and read musical notes with a singing, animated parrot! 4.) Singing Sheep: Create your very own melodies by "playing" the singing sheep game!


Art (99¢)

Your kids — ages 12 and up — will learn about important artists like da Vinci, Georgia O'Keefe, Jackson Pollock and more with this searchable app that features quizzes, a slideshow, newsletter, and more.


Instruments in Reach Basic (99¢)

A fingering chart on your iPhone or iPod touch. This application is designed as a quick reference guide for instrumentalist. Perfect for young band and orchestra students, this was created by a former band director. Simply choose your instrument and scroll thru the chromatic scale to find a fingering or position. Quick and simple rather than having to pull out your method books every time you need to look up fingerings. This application is a basic version and is designed for the beginning thru middle school player, but can be helpful for musicians of all levels. In this version, only the most common fingerings are included and only the basic ranges of each instrument.


iLibrary+audio (99¢)

It is an advanced multimedia book reader with text-audio synchronization! Plus bedtime story controller! It brings iTouch/ iPhone users comfortable reading experiences with extremely easy operations:

- Open the first chapter of a book; touch the "audio" to show audio window.
- Click “download all chapters” to start download.
- After about 10 seconds, touch “play” to listen to audio, and the text scrolls automatically at the natural reading speed.
- It continues to the next chapter. It is so easy that you may continue to read/listen through the whole book WITHOUT a single touch!!

Our research shows that high quality audio greatly helps users read through books, especially on mobile devices.

**Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!**

**TeachMe: Kindergarten (99¢)**
TeachMe: Kindergarten is an educational iPhone app which teaches four different age appropriate subjects to Kindergarten aged children: sight words, addition, subtraction and spelling. Parents can select which subjects they want, set different difficulty levels, and even choose specific questions. Parents can review performance history for each subject to check how their child is doing.


**2010 World Factbook (99¢)**
The complete CIA World Factbook at your fingertips, including extensive information on more than 250 countries and locations throughout the world. Whether you’re an avid traveler, a busy student, or someone who just likes to stay informed, this is the app for you!


**Flashcards Deluxe ($3.99)**
You can create flashcards either on your computer or directly within the app. If you don’t want to make your own, you can browse and download flashcards from this app’s own shared library or from Quizlet.com’s 2 million+ flashcard sets.


**Alphabet Fun ($2.99)**
iPad app. Learning the A-B-Cs was never like this. Alphabet Fun makes the most of Multi-Touch technology on iPad to teach kids letters, numbers, and colors. They’ll swipe through colorful images and easy-to-read text. They’ll trace over letters with their fingers right on the iPad display. They’ll even write entire words. Kids think it’s a game. Parents think it’s educational. Everybody wins.

**Educational iPad Apps**

**The Elements ($13.99)**

Discover the 118 elements of the Periodic Table up close on the large iPad screen. Flick to rotate 360 degrees and inspect each one. Then read the element’s story. You’ll learn its origins, how it was discovered, and its significance in the universe. You can even see it all in 3D using 3D glasses (sold separately). The Elements features a live connection to the Wolfram | Alpha computational search engine. So you’ll have the latest data at hand.


**GoSkyWatch Planetarium (Free)**

GoSkyWatch Planetarium now for the iPad. Easily and quickly identify and locate stars, planets, constellations and more with a touch or by simply pointing to the sky. Have fun with family and friends discovering the images in the night sky. Go outside and explore the night sky.


**Beautiful Planet HD for iPad (99¢)**

A groundbreaking app that captures the breathtaking beauty of our world and its cultures with a collection of galleries three decades in the making by travel photographer and explorer, Peter Guttman. Beautiful Planet includes over 570 images spanning seven continents and 160 countries. Featured on Wired.com as “One of 5 Sweet Apps for your iPad”.


**Bloomberg for iPad (Free)**

Packed with tools to teach students about how the world markets function, the Bloomberg app could be a great asset for middle and high school students interested in learning basic investment practices. The program interface is clear and intuitive, making a sometimes intimidating process much more fun. And best of all – it’s completely free.

**Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!**

**Monster Mix & Match ($1.99)**

Carry 27000 monsters in your pocket! A 21st century take on a classic children’s toy, creating a unique monster has never been easier or more fun. Monster Mix and Match is an entertaining way for children to explore their creative side while promoting both critical thinking and problem solving. With 27000 possible monster combinations, Monster Mix and Match is an entertaining and educational diversion that will keep children coming back for more.


**Preschool Arcade (99¢)**

Fully animated, with dozens of great sounds for little ones to enjoy, plus it is educational! Teaches alphabet recognition for all the letters of the alphabet both capital and lower case, enforces basic number recognition and counting skills (from 1-10), cognitive matching learning methods, fine motor skills, and much more.


**Highlights Hidden Pictures™ ($1.99)**

The original Highlights Hidden Pictures™ – classic, fun and irresistible – now on the iPhone and iPod touch! Eight puzzles included with purchase.


**I SPY Spooky Mansion (99¢)**

The overwhelmingly popular, search and find game makes a splash on the iPhone™ and iPod touch®!

Play the hidden object adventure based on Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick’s best-selling I SPY Spooky Night book.

Through the creaking gates, you’d best beware. A spooky mansion awaits... enter if you dare! Find yourself trapped on the grounds of a scary and mysterious mansion where your only escape is to collect 7 keys hidden throughout the estate. To reveal the keys, solve 21 I SPY riddles and puzzles by searching for hidden objects in areas of the mansion—the library, living room, laboratory, graveyard and more!

**Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!**

**Math Equation Solver (99¢)**

Need to solve two variable equation? No problem, simply enter $X,Y$ coefficients, press calc and that all. Great tool to check your math calculation and skills.


**Magic Piano (99¢)**

Experience the world's most popular piano for iPad with the #1 music app in 80 countries. Play timeless pieces on spiral, circular or regular keyboards, or follow beams of light – mastery requires only imagination. Designed exclusively for the iPad by Smule, creators of Ocarina, I am T-Pain and Glee Karaoke, Magic Piano was inspired by the world-renowned pianist Lang Lang.


**Dr. Seuss’s ABC ($3.99)**

From Aunt Annie riding an Alligator to the Zizzer-Zazzer-Zuzz, Dr. Seuss teaches young readers the ABC’s through hilarious words and pictures, guaranteed to entertain any young child.

New features only available in this e-book include professional narration, background audio and enlarged artwork for each scene. To promote reading in young children, individual words are highlighted as the story is read and words zoom up when pictures are touched. By combining the original text and artwork of Dr. Seuss with features that entertain and promote reading, this e-book appeals to readers of all ages.


**Brushes ($4.99)**

Brushes is a painting application designed from scratch for the iPhone and iPod touch. Featuring an advanced color picker, several realistic brushes, layers, extreme zooming, and a simple yet deep interface, it is a powerful tool for creating original artwork on your mobile device.

Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!

**Business English ($5.99)**
For businesspeople who work with international partners, this guide teaches the basics of holding a conversation.


**Dictionary of Business Terms ($7.99)**
Created for the average consumer, this dictionary offers a searchable reference tool for understanding business.


**ABC Wildlife ($2.99)**
Join Little Explorers as they explore a world of letters, words, and animals! Where each new word leads to a new animal discovery with beautiful photos and vibrant videos.


**Dinosaurs Unleashed! (99¢)**
What little kid doesn’t love dinosaurs? Now they can learn everything they want about these fearsome beasts.

Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!

**Music Learning Adventure (Free)**
This app uses videos, flashcards, and music to teach kids the power of music and harmony.


**Silly Numbers ($3.99)**
An interactive and fun way to learn to count! Starting with "One Tasty Pie," kids will love the art and animation of this entertaining iPad app. Silly characters come to life and teach your children early number skills.


**Sound Touch ($2.99)**
Baby can touch the screen to hear the sounds of a variety of animals and instruments.


**500 Daily English Mistakes ($1.99)**
Learn the FIVE HUNDRED Mistakes you could be making on a daily basis! All in the subjects of speaking, pronouncing, and writing English language.

American Sign Language Flashcards (Letters and Number) ($1.99)

American Sign Language Flashcards is a fun way for children to learn the sign language letters and number. Each card letter is associated with a picture that your child can easily learn.


French English Dictionary & Translator ($1.99)

French English Dictionary & Translator is an easy to use, user friendly dictionary, with a very big database (more than 64,000 translation pairs). No internet connection is required.


LearnSpanish Levels I & II with Bueno, entonces... (Free)

The first two parts of this fast-paced, edgy, and fun Spanish language app are free. You’ll love it enough to buy the rest.


SAT Vocabulary Practice For Dummies ($3.99)

The SAT Vocabulary Practice For Dummies App focuses exclusively on the vocabulary you need to know to get a good verbal score on the SAT exam. You’ll quickly increase your vocabulary with flashcards, practice tests, word lookup, and fun ways to incorporate new vocabulary into your daily routine, such as getting out of gym class or chores, placating an irate parent, refusing a date, bamboozling a traffic officer, or leaving a legacy in your yearbook. This app features proven study methods, such as making associations, repetition, and paying attention to prefixes, suffixes, and roots of words. Regardless of how strong or weak your vocabulary currently is, SAT Vocabulary Practice For Dummies App will build your vocabulary and boost your test scores.

The History of the United States is a historical compilation detailing the events from different eras that defined both the economic and social evolution of the United States of North America, it will find important dates as well as illustrations of the most important events and to mention birth of their traditions and geographical boundaries in the global map of North America.


Shakespeare In Bits: Romeo & Juliet iPad Edition ($14.99)

Struggling with Shakespeare? Let Shakespeare In Bits help with this all-new fully-animated study edition of Romeo and Juliet featuring Kate Beckinsale and Michael Sheen.


Earth Flags HD ($1.99)

Discover Flags all over The World! This great app puts Our Planet in the palms of your hands. What will you discover? Capital Cities, populations, extension areas, internet TLDs, calling codes, currencies and more.


Presidents of the United States for iPad (99¢)

Need to know something about the Presidents? This app can tell you!


HD History of the United States (99¢)

The History of the United States is a historical compilation detailing the events from different eras that defined both the economic and social evolution of the United States of North America, it will find important dates as well as illustrations of the most important events and to mention birth of their traditions and geographical boundaries in the global map of North America.

Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!

**iTopPeople HD ($2.99)**
This highly engaging app teaches you with mini-bios of 100 famous people from around the world.


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**Classical Music. Listen and Learn. 50 compositions and Quiz ($1.99)**
Educational collection of 50 famous classical compositions. Quiz game 'Who is the composer?' Complete listing at link below...


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**Harmonica (99¢)**
Harmonica features a genuinely-sampled 10-hole diatonic harmonica. Both single notes and chords are playable, as are “blow” notes and “draw” notes. Harmonica includes all 12 keys - it’s like having 12 harmonicas in your pocket!

Harmonica couldn’t be simpler to use. Simply touch your lips to the Harmonica, and play away! You don’t even need to blow! If you’d prefer not to put your iPhone in your mouth, Harmonica works with your fingers too.


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**My Little Note for iPad ($1.99)**
My Little Note for iPad is an educational application mainly for your kids. Using this simple application, you can learn reading musical notes.

Algebra Boot Camp for iPad ($4.99)

Algebra Boot Camp is an excellent guide for students of all ages and skill levels. Using clear, step-by-step instructions accompanied by full color illustrations, this app is perfect for any visual learner who prefers seeing what to do rather than reading lengthy explanations.


MathBoard ($3.99)

MathBoard is appropriate for all ages from kindergarten (with simple addition and subtraction problems) to elementary school where learning multiplication and division can be a challenge. You can control the range of numbers you want to work with, the amount of questions you want to answer and even assign a time limit per quiz. MathBoard will make learning math fun.

Link:  http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mathboard/id373909837?mt=8#

Periodic Table of the Elements (Free)

This is a standard periodic table of the elements - a necessity for anyone interested in or even exposed chemistry. However, the version differs in that instead of cramming all the information for an element into one little square, you can select a chemical attribute and have the entire chart color coded to plainly show how the different elements vary with regard to the selected trait.

Science Glossary (Free)
A glossary of scientific terms and short biographies that support our science education website, http://www.visionlearning.com. All definitions link to related terms and to free, detailed science learning modules. Though geared for high school and undergraduate student’s using our website, the glossary and modules are appropriate for anyone generally interested in science.


Solar Walk - 3D Solar System model ($2.99)
Let's find out more about our neighboring planets in the Universe, play around with them determining the speed of circulation, time, choosing a particular planet to become the center of the Universe, seeing the moons of Saturn, Jupiter, Mars and Uranus. The 3D model in the Solar Walk app is the exact reproduction of the real solar system.

Solar Walk stands out among other astronomy apps having a very beautiful and smooth graphics and animations. The Earth as well as other planets look so realistic that you can even see the clouds together with the relief of mountains, lakes, oceans.


Star Walk for iPad ($4.99)
You’ll love this interactive astronomy guide, which helps you discover more than 9,000 stars, planets, constellations, and more.


ThatQuiz Math ($3.99)
ThatQuiz Math is an iPad-optimized app for math practice. It contains all of the math content from www.thatquiz.org for access anywhere you have your iPad, without a network connection. Test yourself with hundreds of easily configurable math tests. Areas include basic arithmetic, multiplication tables, geometry, algebra, sets, measurement, graphing, money, calculus, exponents, fractions, decimals, time, probability, and much more. This is a comprehensive program suitable for students in grades K-12. Quizzes begin with the most basic skills and end with highly advanced topics, so there’s something for everyone in the family. Visit the web site www.thatquiz.org to try before purchasing. With ThatQuiz Math for the iPad, you’ll have math practice tests available anytime and anywhere.

Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!

HDenergy (99¢)
A little more than a century the main sources of energy were the strength of the animals and the heat obtained by burning wood. Human ingenuity had also developed some machines that took advantage of water power to grind grain or to prepare the iron forges, or the force of wind on sailing ships or windmills. But the big revolution came with the steam engine, and since then, the great development of industry and technology have changed drastically, the energy sources that drive modern society. Now, the development of a country is linked to a growing energy consumption of fossil fuels like oil, coal and natural gas.

To zoom (in / out) all text and graphics, you can use two fingers to enlarge.


Constitution for iPad (Free)
Senator Sam Ervin pulled one out of his pocket during the Watergate Hearings... Now prepare to own any legal debate with a copy of the US Constitution on your iPad!

Link: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/constitution-for-ipad/id363287472?mt=8#

The Art of Fighting Without Fighting - Techniques in Personal Threat Evasion ($7.99)
This app contains the entire text of a book on how to avoid getting into a street fight.


New and Note-worthy on iTunes! Audubon Butterflies is your essential guide to 653 butterflies of North America. Now you can identify every species in your backyard, parks, gardens, the woods or fields with thousands of professional color photographs.

Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!


Audubon Mammals is your essential guide to mammals in the US and Canada. Created in affiliation with the National Audubon Society, Audubon Mammals features in-depth information on 240 species, drawings of mammals tracks, high-quality photos detailing every species, and the first-ever online field guide community, AudubonGuides.com


**1400+ Dinosaur Handbook Complete ($1.99)**

This list of dinosaurs is a comprehensive listing of all genera that have ever been included in the superorder Dinosauria, excluding class Aves (birds, both living and those known only from fossils) and purely vernacular terms. The list includes all commonly accepted genera, but also genera that are now considered invalid, doubtful (nomen dubium), or were not formally published (nomen nudum), as well as junior synonyms of more established names, and genera that are no longer considered dinosaurs. Many listed dinosaurs have since been reclassified as everything from birds to crocodilians to petrified wood. This application includes 1300+ items including corresponding images and write ups which include Description, Location, History and Stories behind the find and Much More.


**iBird Yard Plus HD ($4.99)**

iBird Yard HD for iPad is an interactive guide to the most popular bird species found in the backyards of North America. By request we have added 86 birds to the database to include most raptors and common shorebirds. Designed specifically for the iPad, this product contains illustrations, photos, bird calls and comprehensive facts to help you identify and enjoy 234 North American bird species.


**National Geographic World Atlas HD ($1.99)**

Designed specifically for the iPad, National Geographic’s World Atlas HD puts our best maps in the palm of your hand.

Aquarium Handbook Complete

The Database stands at 7000+ items and contains the full collection of aquarium programs which are the following:

- Sharks Handbook
- Marine Aquarium Fish
- Freshwater Aquarium Fish
- Brackishwater Aquarium Fish
- Corals
- Marine Aquarium Invertebrates
- Freshwater Aquarium Invertebrates
- Brackishwater Invertebrates
- Marine Aquarium Plants
- Freshwater Aquarium Plants
- Brackish Water Plants
- In Large Aquarium
- Nature
- State Fish
- Tank Samples ...

And Lots More! This application also contains things not available in other applications and will continue to grow at no extra charge.


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MyCongress (Free)

MyCongress is a portal to detailed information about your elected U.S. Congressional officials. Track their news, video and Twitter feeds. Look up their official Open Congress profile or contact them directly. MyCongress helps you get in touch with your government.


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Dictionary.com - Dictionary & Thesaurus - iPad (Free)

Everything you love about Dictionary.com on the iPhone is now available on the iPad!


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WORLD BOOK - This Day in History for iPad (Free)

This Day in History for iPad is an interactive multimedia calendar that displays historical events for the current day or any selected day, along with related media such as photos, illustrations, music, and speeches. You can hear the national anthems of countries on the day they became a nation, listen to presidents’ speeches on the anniversaries of their inaugurations, and play sound clips from famous artists on their birthdays.


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Aquarium Handbook Complete

Aquarium Handbook Complete The Database stands at 7000+ items and contains the full collection of aquarium programs which are the following:

- Sharks Handbook
- Marine Aquarium Fish
- Freshwater Aquarium Fish
- Brackishwater Aquarium Fish
- Corals
- Marine Aquarium Invertebrates
- Freshwater Aquarium Invertebrates
- Brackishwater Invertebrates
- Marine Aquarium Plants
- Freshwater aquarium and pond Plants
- Brackish Water Plants
- In Large Aquarium
- Nature
- State Fish
- Tank Samples ...

And Lots More! This application also contains things not available in other applications and will continue to grow at no extra charge.

Exoplanet (Free)

Exoplanet is a daily updated database of all discovered extrasolar planets. Main features: 1) Database with physical parameters of every known exoplanet. 2) Interactive visualisations and animations accommodate the scientific information. 3) Interactive 3D plot shows the position of all exoplanets in our Milky Way. You can zoom into any planetary system. 4) Push notifications are sent out whenever a new planet is discovered. 5) Interactive multi-touch correlation plots. 6) Extensive background information on exoplanets and detection methods.


Photo Effects HD (99¢)

Photo Effects HD is a new application for the iPad that will let you add many different effects to your photos, such as a realistic lighting to your dark photos.


Soccer Trainer (Free)

Soccer Trainer is THE application to help you develop your game skills. Developed by professionals of soccer, you will find the latest techniques to improve your game, agility, overall health.


TapTyping - typing trainer ($3.99)

Master typing on your iPad, iPhone, or iPod Touch! TapTyping will enhance your abilities with lessons for your specific skill level.

**ArtikPix - Full ($49.99)**

ArtikPix - Full is an engaging articulation app with flashcard and matching activities for children with speech sound delays. Since the app includes child friendly language, you don’t have to be a speech-language pathologist to facilitate practice. Children use ArtikPix - Full to practice sounds independently, with a speech-language pathologist or their parents.

Utilizing fun and modern graphics, ArtikPix - Full has all 21 decks with 40 cards each (840 total cards) for the following sounds: th, f, v, ch, sh, k, g, s, z, l, r, s-blends, r-blends, l-blends, p, b, m, n, t, d, j. The decks are combined, selected for sound group (e.g., beginning th, er), then practiced in full-featured flashcard and matching activities. The features include recorded audio, voice recording, and scoring (aka data collection).


**CourseNotes ($4.99)**

CourseNotes lets you take notes during your classes and keep them organized by subject and class meeting. Review your notes later and search through multiple class meetings and notes all at once. You can also keep a ToDo list by marking notes as ToDo items, or track them as assignments and provide a due date.


**Tangram XL Free**

Simple version of popular Tangram designed with kids in mind. Avoids unnecessary design and decoration to keep kids attention over important geometric concepts that the game develops.

The pieces are handled naturally following the movement of fingers as much to move them or turn them both at once. Double tap on the diamond to flip it.


**eTextbooks for the iPad (Free)**

Access your CourseSmart eTextbooks and notes using the iPad. This free app is a perfect complement to a CourseSmart eTextbook subscription. NOTE: This application requires an internet connection. This application does not download the book to your iPad.

Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!

**SLCC (Free)**
Salt Lake Community College - Continuing Education
SLCC presents a way for students to meet their continuing education requirements whilst on the move! Download complete courses to take with you, and when you are ready, take a test online and receive your certificates by mail.


**BrainPOP Featured Movie (Free)**
Learn something different each day with the free BrainPOP Featured Movie App for the iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch! After watching BrainPOP’s daily animated movie, you can test your new knowledge with an interactive quiz.


**Notability ($4.99)**
Take notes in style, record in sync, save notes in folders, and share with ease. Type notes with your choice of fonts, colors, and bold, italic or underline. Watch the words wrap around your photos, figures and web pages. Record the lecture, tap a word during playback to hear what was said at the moment you typed that word. Save your notes in subject folders in the library to save time finding, sorting, searching and reviewing. Photos and figures float on the notebook page, and can be moved, re-sized, captioned, labeled, drawn on, and more. Email your notes as PDF files. Back up your notes in iTunes File Sharing. Notability is streamlined to make you a better note taker on iPad.


**ArithFit ($1.99)**
ArithFit is an app mainly targeted towards getting children to practice arithmetics, but it is an engaging game, not an app that is just asking questions. Even though it is considered an educational game for children, it can also be totally enjoyed by adults.

Educational iPad or iPod Touch Apps for Kids!

**Mild EleMints 2: Free Periodic Table**
Mild EleMints 2 is the interactive Periodic Table for the iPad. It is the free version of EleMints, which not only offers a Periodic Table, but also a Plot Graph, Element listing, Electron Diagram and a wealth of information on every element.


**Cranberry ~ flash cards for iPad ($3.99)**
Cranberry helps you study with flash cards on your iPhone. Make flash cards with Cranberry, or choose from over a million free public flash cards. When you study, Cranberry tracks your progress on each card and presents cards you need to study.


**Statistics 1 for iPad ($5.99)**
Statistics 1 is an E-Textbook with lessons, calculators, simulations, quizzes, flashcards, decision trees, a glossary, and a list of formulas and symbols.


**SpaceTime for iPad ($19.99)**
The award winning math app for iPhone is now available for iPad! Space-Time 4.0 is the most powerful mathematics app and graphing calculator ever developed for the iPad.

Tux, of Math Command

Link: http://tux4kids.alioth.debian.org/tuxmath/

TuxMath is an arcade game that helps kids practice their math facts. The main goal is to make it effective and fun!

TuxTyping

Link: http://tux4kids.alioth.debian.org/tuxtype/

TuxTyping is an educational typing tutor for kids starring Tux, the Linux penguin. This educational game comes with two different games for practicing your typing, and having a great time doing it.

TuxPaint for Children

Link: http://www.tuxpaint.org/

Tux Paint is a free, award-winning drawing program for children ages 3 to 12 (for example, preschool and K-6). It combines an easy-to-use interface, fun sound effects, and an encouraging cartoon mascot who guides children as they use the program.

Kids are presented with a blank canvas and a variety of drawing tools to help them be creative.

Tux Paint runs on a variety of platforms, including all versions of Windows (including Tablet PC), Mac OS X 10.3 and up, Linux, BeOS and Haiku, FreeBSD and NetBSD. It works well on older, slower systems, as well as thin-clients such as LTSP, Citrix® and Windows Terminal Services. It even runs on some handheld computers!

Tux Paint is free, Open Source software, distributed under the terms of the GNU General Public License. It is developed by volunteers around the world. They work on it as a labor of love, with the hopes that people will find it useful, and in turn share it with their own friends and family.

Because Tux Paint (and other open source software) is free of cost and not limited in any way, a school can use it today, without waiting for procurement or a budget!
MAGIX Slideshow Maker

MAGIX Slideshow Maker livens up old images and videos! This free program easily transforms pictures and recordings into multimedia slideshows with effects, transitions, camera pans, and much more. Select the right music and present in cinema-quality on your PC, in your free Online Album, or directly on YouTube™! It’s that easy to impress friends, family, and acquaintances! Moving photo presentations can be create without any prior knowledge!

Quickly and easily create the perfect slideshow:

* Load photos & videos
* Add style & music
* Export as a file for the web; direct YouTube™ export from within the program.

MAGIX FunPix Maker

MAGIX FunPix Maker lets you tug on the ears and noses of crabby colleagues, magically get rid of a friend’s beer belly, or give your boss goggle eyes. This free software enables images to be easily deformed with the mouse. Whether caricatures or artistic distortions – the results created by MAGIX FunPix Maker mostly provide one thing: fun!

Quickly and easily create funny pictures:

* Open the pictures in the program.
* Distort any number of areas in your images.
* Save them as a new image, mail them, print them, or edit them in other programs.

In a flash, MAGIX FunPix Maker can turn portraits into caricatures and other images into distorted works of art.

MAGIX Xtreme Print Studio

MAGIX Xtreme Print Studio is the ideal program for unique CD/DVD cases and labels. Quickly and easily design and print labels, covers, inlays, and booklets. Even complete track listings, shapes, and lines can be added.

This free program perfectly rounds off the look of your homemade CDs and DVDs!

Quickly and easily design matching covers & labels!

1. Select the type of project or format
2. Add and design images, text, and graphics
3. Print covers, labels, and inlays

Whether covers for music CDs, movies, title images for videos or slideshows, or a label for your backup copies, MAGIX Xtreme Print Studio makes it all possible! This freeware accepts images and graphics that were made by you, scanned in, or downloaded from the Internet. If the photo has been embedded already, it’s easy to convert it to the format you need.
Seussville.com - Where Dr. Seuss Educates and Entertains

Link: http://www.seussville.com/

A fun, entertaining site that’s everything Dr. Suess - with videos, games, and activities. Sections for parents and teachers as well. Enjoy.

Educational Freeware

Reviews of the best free learning games, software, and websites!

Link: http://www.educational-freeware.com/

From the website: “Welcome to educational-freeware.com! We find and review high-quality free educational software and websites - mostly for kids, but also for grown-ups. We have a large selection of web-based software (check the Online tab), as well as Windows educational software to download (under the Downloads tab).

Many of the software titles are multilingual. In order to find free learning games and software in your language, you can list the freeware by language.”

Some recent articles you’ll find there are... 10 Websites With Easy Crafts for Kids; 5 Websites Where Kids Get Free Homework Help; 10 Websites With News and Current Events for Kids; 10 Websites to Find Cool Science Experiments for Kids; Google Educational Tools That Are Useful For Any Classroom; and Free Educational Clip Art for Teaching Materials. You’ll find this site a treasure!
Flight Controller Game

A new game on the NOAA/NASA SciJinks website puts you in the position of an airline Flight Controller whose job is to safely steer planes around such hazards as air turbulence, lightning storms, and near-invisible volcanic ash. Luckily, you have maps updated in real time with information from the GOES-R satellite so you can easily see where trouble lurks. See how many of the 12 different types of scenarios you can handle to safely land all your flights within the allotted time. Check it out at

Link: [scijinks.gov/aviation-game](http://scijinks.gov/aviation-game)

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Need Help Learning to Work Video? Try Video CoPilot

Link: [www.videocopilot.net](http://www.videocopilot.net)

From the website: “Video Copilot is a progressive web presence offering high quality tools for motion graphics and visual effects artists. We show you the things you won’t learn anywhere else and provide the highest quality free tutorials on the net. Our goal is to always deliver powerful and distinctive tools to enable artists to realize new skills and amplify their craft.”

Video CoPilot has a number of video tutorials on how to accomplish certain effects using various software programs, mostly After Effects. Each video tutorial thumbnail in the list will give you a short video preview if you hover over the thumbnail image.

You’ll find tutorials on how to turn still images into moving images. How to do explosions, pans and zooms, and more. I found the videos quite interesting to watch, and very informative. If you’re into video, you’ll want to explore this site.
Google Lit Trips

Link: http://googlelittrips.org/

The site advertises, “A Different Way to Read Great Literature!

This site is an experiment in teaching great literature in a very different way. Using Google Earth, students discover where in the world the greatest road trip stories of all time took place... and so much more!”

Here’s an excerpt from a blog: “Jerome Burg wants his students to “chew on” the really, really important ideas of a novels. Take, for instance, The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck—which he says, “may have a lot more relevance than any of us should feel comfortable with.”

By using Google Earth, he and an associate (Matthew Hart) at Granada High School have actually plotted out three-dimension versions of the journeys made in The Grapes of Wrath, Candide, Macbeth, The Aeneid, and others novels on the site GoogleLit Trips. Jerome says the idea to do this “exploded” in his mind, and he feels these Google Maps projects can draw the students into really studying literature in a way that the authors would have wanted. For example, in The Grapes of Wrath, you can see the flatness of the land, watch a video of a dust storm, see photos or art of the time period, and read chapter notes and questions from the teacher.”

Using Google Earth, a PC or Mac with an internet connection, and an optional passport, you can go on LitTrips that other educators have shared on the Google Lit Trips site.

The LitTrips are divided into categories by grade levels - K-5, 6-8, 9-12, and Higher Education. At left, you can see some of the latest entries, such as Puddle-To-The-Sea and The Kite Runner. Create your own LitTrips and share them here as well.

If you teach literature, I think you’re in for a unique experience as you go visit locations through Google Earth.

Prezi - a PowerPoint Alternative

by Zena Zabriskie, Utah State University

For anyone looking for an alternative presentation method to traditional PowerPoint Slides, please meet Prezi. This new presentation tool has been created for the purpose of allowing the presenter greater flexibility, creativity, and self-expression.

There are many great benefits to using Prezi. First of all, one of the greatest perks is that you are not limited to a sequence of slides. You will no longer have to say, “That is a great question. We will be discussing it after 2 more slides.” You can discuss it now! The program is set up more like a spider-web-diagram than a slide show. This organization is great for showing relation of the content and keeping the audience interested. The basic outline is always there to guide your presentation, but it does not limit your discussion topics.

Also with Prezi there is no more worrying about your computer having the “latest version” or carrying around a tiny USB drive and possibly losing it… Your presentation is on the web and can be accessed from any computer! And even if you don’t have internet, Prezi allows you to install the program to your desktop so you can create, edit, and show presentations even while offline!

This program sounds a little confusing at first, but Prezi is actually quite easy to learn and use. On the website it says, “Prezi is simple: You Write, Zoom, Arrange. Using these simple means, you can express many things with great impact.” The website even has example presentations to help you get started. Check it out for yourself at...

Link: http://www.prezi.com
elInstruction Grant Opportunity

Press Release: In an effort to help school districts across the United States leverage technology to enhance the classroom experience for both teachers and students, elInstruction, a leading educational technology company, is providing $3,500 professional development grants to 25 school districts across the United States.

The single biggest education technology challenge facing districts is helping teachers effectively use technology, according to 47 percent of school district leaders recently surveyed by the National School Boards Association (NSBA). Survey results, released on Oct. 18, revealed a continued need for professional development to assist teachers in better using technology in their classrooms.

With this new grant program from elInstruction, schools or districts use the $3,500 to host an education technology conference that offers sessions on a variety of instructional technology tools and pedagogical best practices.

“We understand that placing technology in a classroom isn’t enough to improve learning outcomes,” said Eileen Shihadeh-Shald, Vice President at elInstruction. “Rather, to realize true student progress, several interdependencies must come together—including professional development that helps educators implement research-based instructional strategies.”

Christina Johnson, eighth grade math teacher in Broward County, FL, and conference attendee said, “This conference revolutionized how I am going to use this equipment in the classroom. Now I have all these ideas in my head bouncing around, and I am ready to go back to my classroom and use them to get my kids involved in the teaching process as well.”

Applications are now being accepted through Dec 31, 2010 for Spring 2011 grants at http://www.elInstruction.com/EdTech.

About elInstruction

elInstruction is a leading education technology company dedicated to providing interactive teaching and learning technology and services that help educators drive academic progress every day, and give administrators the ability to monitor, aggregate, and analyze student performance data. The company offers educators and administrators a family of software, student response systems, fixed interactive whiteboards, mobile interactive whiteboards, and powerful enterprise-based administrator tools.

elInstruction’s research-based solutions have been shown to increase student engagement and achievement while providing real-time feedback and performance data to educators and administrators. Millions of students, teachers, and professors use elInstruction® technology in 500,000 K-12 classrooms and more than 1,000 higher education institutions around the world. Available in more than 40 languages, elInstruction® technology is enhancing education in over 90 countries worldwide.

elInstruction has offices in Denton, TX; Columbia, MD; Scottsdale, AZ; Cincinnati, OH; and Paris, France.

To learn more about elInstruction, please visit http://www.elInstruction.com. For media inquiries, please contact Julie McKinney at Stanton Communications at (410) 727-6855 or jmckinney@stantoncomm.com.

UEN Climate Science named 2010 Environmental Ed Program of the Year

(St. George, Utah) – The Utah Society for Environmental Education (USEE) has recognized the Utah Education Network’s Climate Science Project as the 2010 Utah Environmental Education Program of the Year. USEE presented the award Saturday, November 13, 2010 at its annual conference in St. George, Utah. The award winning project is online at http://uen.org/climate

“USEE conducted a survey of Utah teachers last year and the results showed a severe lack of credible science information for them to teach about climate. UEN fulfilled that need, with funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and a cadre of Utah scientists, educators, and students,” said USEE Chief Content Officer Laura G. Hunter. “The UEN team and our many community partners worked hard on this project to make sure we got the science right, and in a way that middle grade students could understand. We’re pleased it’s getting such a great response from teachers and students, and a respected organization like USEE.”

“USEE honored UEN’s Climate Science project for many reasons. The timeliness of the topic, the quality of the information, the response to a voiced need by teachers, and more, made the project stand apart from the rest of the nominees,” explained USEE Executive Director Andree’ Walker Bravo.

UEN Climate Science is a web-based collection of resources for teachers, students and home educators. It includes a series of two-minute animated videos UEN commissioned with Planet Nutshell in Cambridge, Massachusetts. “In one episode we visualized an entire climate system from mountains to desert to jungle. With animation you can do that,” said producer Joshua Gunn. “Our mission is to present complex topics in a fun and understandable way. It’s rewarding to work on something that’s so important and will make an impact with teachers and students.”

The Utah Society for Environmental Education is a statewide leader in promoting high quality environmental education in Utah. It encourages environmental literacy and serves as an information resource for to educators, K-12 teachers, higher education and the Utah community at large. The organization seeks to ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability for Utah.

The Utah Education Network is an award-winning consortium of public education, higher education and the state’s library system. UEN provides broadband connectivity to Utah school districts, public colleges and universities and public libraries throughout the state. UEN also provides instructional services and professional development for educators, connects hundreds of Utah class rooms via interactive video conferencing, and operates UEN-TV.

For more information, contact:
Rich Finlinson
801-585-7271
My daughter came to me the other day with a handful of audio files in .FLAC format - a high quality open source audio codec. She complained that they wouldn’t play, and she wanted to put them on her iPod. I tried pretty much everything in my computer “toolbox” but none would recognize that particular file type.

So I went hunting. I came across a marvelous, free piece of software called All2MP3. It was said to be able to convert APE, MPC, WMA, FLAC, WAV, and OGG into MP3 files. So I decided to download and try it out.

I was impressed with its simple drag and drop interface. I dragged several files onto the opening window.

You quickly get a progress status bar, giving you options for quality (from “Less” to “Super”) and the capability to automatically trash files after conversion. By default, All2MP3 puts the converted files into the source folder.

It converted the files flawlessly, deleted the originals as I had asked. Super quality ends up being 320 KBS for the resulting MP3 files. So I thought I’d really put it to the test and dragged 300 FLAC files onto it. That made it think for a few minutes, but it had no trouble processing all 300 of them. I was impressed with how fast the conversion went - typically ten to fifteen seconds per song to convert (the FLAC files were often 70-80 MB in size - so we're not talking small files here).

I found that it won’t convert everything you throw at it, but it does convert many video file types into MP3 audio as well. I would highly recommend this addition to any Mac user's toolbox.

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**Christmas Song Lyrics**

Link: http://www.christmas-lyrics.org/

“Looking for the lyrics for popular Christmas carols? The lyrics of Christmas songs, and favorite Xmas carols are included on this site. Christmas lyrics are based on Christian songs and relate, in the main, to the Nativity. Enjoy and Merry Christmas Everyone!”

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**Grant Funding Opportunities**

AT&T Foundation grants  
http://www.att.com/foundation

Hewlett Packard U.S. grant programs  

Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program  
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/lsl/index.html

Intel Community grants  
http://intel.com/community/grant.htm

NFIE Innovation grants and Learning & Leadership grants  
http://neafoundation.org/grants.htm

RGK Foundation grants  
http://rgkfoundation.org/public/guidelines

Toshiba America Foundation grants  
http://toshiba.com/taf

Verizon Foundation grants  
http://foundation.verizon.com/grant

Best Buy Children's Foundation  
http://communications.bestbuy.com/communityrelations/teach.asp

No Child Left Behind: Enhancing Education through Technology  

Sprint Foundation grants  
http://sprint.com/responsibility/commitment.html

For descriptions of each of these grants and several others, please visit...

http://smarttech.com/us/Resources/SMART+education+programs/Grants++and++fundraising/Grant+information