

The Effective One Computer Classroom

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Classroom Discussions

You can use almost any educational software or Internet sites from the front of the classroom to guide and direct student learning and to inspire discussion. It helps to create roles for the groups so each person has a perspective to help guide the discussion.

Amazon Interactive at <http://www.eduweb.com/ecotourism/eco1.html>

Web Adventures from <http://www.eduweb.com/adventure.html>

Town Council Web Adventure from <http://www2.remc11.k12.mi.us/connect/adventure/>

Decisions, Decisions series and the **Choices, Choices** series from Tom Snyder Productions at <http://www.teachtsp.com> or (800) 342-0236.

Internet Projects can be done with one Internet connection in the school. Even teachers with an Internet connection at home only could do many of these projects.

My list of project pages: <http://server.remc11.k12.mi.us/bcisd/classres/projtrip.htm>

Schools around the world: <http://web66.coled.umn.edu/>

Adventist schools: <http://www.tagnet.org/schools/>

<http://www.tagnet.org/SDAsource/>

<http://www.andrews.edu/inst.html> (type *school* in the search box)

Internet Projects can also be done by kids working in teams. When I taught, I had my 5th and 6th grade students team up with the Kindergarten students to draw a picture and write a sentence about it. Simple paint programs such as **Windows Paint** or **KidPix** can be used for this. I emailed the files to a teacher in California who posted them on a web page.

Devices for large group presentations

Scan converters

- 4 Converts computer video signal to NTSC video
- 4 Computer must have an external monitor connector.
- 4 Use with large screen monitor (27" or larger")
- 4 Do not always work with Mac & PCs

LCD Projection panels

- 4 Most common computer projection device.
- 4 Many different models from different manufacturers
- 4 Wide price range
- 4 Insist upon color, active matrix technology
- 4 Usually can be used with Macs and PCs - different cable.
- 4 May need a splitter cable for simultaneous viewing.
- 4 Some allow other video sources to be connected. (VCR, Video disc, etc.)

- *Write a rebus story.
- *Tell main idea of a story with the SlideShow.
- *Use stamps to illustrate place value.
- *Have students sort stamp objects.
- *Create an alphabet book on a topic you're studying.
- *Make a slide show of the students in the class for Open House in the fall.

Teacher Created Materials <http://www.teachercreated.com/> or 1-888-343-4335 now offers 12 KidPix Activity Kits that are only \$19.95 each. They cover topics such as Weather, Seasons, Creepy Crawlies, My Country, Native Americans, Plants, Animals, and more. The KidPix Software is included in the kits.

Neighborhood Map Machine and its companion **Community Construction Kit** from Tom Snyder Productions at <http://www.teachtsp.com> or (800) 342-0236 and other such software can also be used with teams. This software allows students to explore map skills and create maps of communities. You can also print buildings and place them on large maps (6x6).

National Inspirer is another great title for Social Studies from Tom Snyder Productions at <http://www.teachtsp.com> or (800) 342-0236. Students plan trips around the US and practice map skills while collecting natural resources.

Office Projects

- L Use Word drawing tools to create a Venn diagram and compare.
- L When researching on the Internet, use Word tables to keep track of information from the Internet (URL, date downloaded, author, date published, title, etc.)
- L Make a greeting card in Word to or from a historical person.
- L Create a poster or sign advertising something or a happening at school; supporting or opposing a historical issue or current event issue; giving weather information; about an issue, etc.
- L Use Word to create a newsletter featuring the current topic of study.
- L Create an acrostic as a review on unit of study.
- L In Excel, students create a grade sheet to keep track of their grades. Teach averages.
- L In Excel, students create a word search, using a cell for each letter. Change font to answer.

Thematic unit stations

Here's a brief sample lesson using ideas from the Chocolate theme book from Teacher Created Materials <http://www.teachercreated.com/> or 1-888-343-4335. This lesson structure was adapted from an idea from Kathleen Johnson and TIES of Minnesota. Teacher Created Materials makes other Technology theme books that are excellent resources.

Divide students into 5 groups based on the goals of the topic and create at least 5 stations or tasks. These could be projects, worksheets, hands-on activities, reading, and more. If you have one computer, one of the activities will be on the computer. If you have more, change the activities to match your situation.

- L Group 1 reads books on Chocolate such as *Chocolate by Hershey* by Betty Burford, or *Chocolate Dreams* by Arnold Adoff and writes chocolate poetry (cinquains, similies, equations, 5 senses poems, and other kinds) and the ultimate edible paragraph (a wonderful paragraph writing activity from TCM's book listed above. (These could be wordprocessed on the computer.)

- L Group 2 tests various hot chocolate drinks for dissolving ability and taste. Data should graphed and the results written up in a lab report.
- L Group 3 reads about the science of chocolate and uses the information to do a chocolate crossword puzzle.
- L Group 4 takes class survey information (the survey would have to be done as a class before breaking into groups) and creates bar graphs on favorite chocolate bars and other questions answered by the class. This could be done with **Graph Club** from Tom Snyder Productions at <http://www.teachtsp.com> or (800) 342-0236 or any spreadsheet software. The class would need previous instruction on how to use the software.
- L Group 5 researches a country where cacao trees grow and prepare a travel brochure advertising the country. (This could be done on the computer too).
- L Another group could look at previously bookmarked Internet sites to find information about chocolate. Another group could read print-based info and create a graphic organizer that has a focusing question.

The teacher floats from group to group as facilitator. Groups can remain stationary for a set amount of time, or could move to the next group each day until all tasks are completed. Not all groups would do all 5 tasks but all groups would have had technology use as least one day.

Units I have that could work with this format:

“Smart Chalkboard”

Inspiration from Inspiration at <http://www.inspiration.com> or (800) 877-4292 can be used to brainstorm a story, essay, or topic with students. You can then easily make it into an outline, or print the web/graphic organizer for students to write from or to guide their study.

Slide shows can be created in **ClarisWorks**, **KidPix Studio**, **Microsoft PowerPoint**, **Adobe Persuasion**, or **Corel Presentations**. These can be student created to supplement reports, or lecture supplements for you as teacher. Slide shows with student work or important information can also be automated and running at parent teacher conferences or open house.

Wacky Web Tales is another software package/Internet site that can be used from the front of the classroom to give practice with parts of speech. Created by Houghton Mifflin at <http://www.eduplace.com/> or 1-800-733-2828 and available for \$15 for one computer or \$35 for your whole building.

Daily/Weekly Routine Internet Activities: Visit a site a day or each week - build time into schedule for one short activity like the following suggestions. Make it a whole class activity. You could even have this routine be one of the weekly chores in your classroom.

- L In K-2 morning calendar time visit About Today's Date at <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/education/number/>
- L For all grades, visit one of these sites and pick one or more facts to share with the class.
 - Any Day in History at <http://www.scopesys.com/anyday/>
 - or Those Were the Days at <http://www.440int.com/twtd/today.html>

- or The History Channel at <http://www.historychannel.com/tdih/index.html>
- L On special holidays - build in special activities about the holiday. My season page has several links. <http://www.remc11.k12.mi.us/bcisd/classres/season.htm>
 - L Have Monday Morning News time - visit CNN. <http://www.cnn.com>
 - L If you study weather, pick one or two weather cams to view each day/week. <http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu:80/wxnet/wxcam.html>
 - L Find and listen to a selected NPR program once a week <http://www.npr.org/programs/> Choose from programs such as *Sounds Like Science* and *All Things Considered*.
 - L Learn about a different great person each day/week at Biography.com
 - L Visit A Word A Day to learn a new word. <http://www.wordsmith.org/awad/index.html>
 - L The Internet Math Challenge, <http://www.uidaho.edu/LS/Math/imc/index.html> has a new problem each week. Better for the higher grades. The Math Forum also has Problems of the Week divided up by levels. <http://forum.swarthmore.edu/pow/>
 - L Or learn a Cool Fact of the Day. <http://features.LearningKingdom.com/fact/today/>

Technology Curriculum Integration Ideas

<http://www.remc11.k12.mi.us/bcisd/classres/intideas.htm>

Quality Instructional Sites Listed by Content Area

<http://www.remc11.k12.mi.us/bcisd/classres/>

Lesson Plans

You can find some excellent technology integration lesson plans at this site:

<http://www.remc11.k12.mi.us/bstpract/>