



Instructional Technology Newsletter

Developing 21st Century Skills One Byte at a Time

Designing and Delivering a Virtual Field Trip

With tight budgets and a demand for classroom instructional time it has become much more difficult to organize a class fieldtrip. We now have access to technologies that can bring the field trip to the classroom. All you need is a computer, projection device or smartboard and the internet.

There are many free web-based technologies that can be used to design a virtual fieldtrip. I will focus on a couple of my favorites in this article:

- [Google Earth](#)
- [Glogster](#)
- [United Streaming](#)

[Google Earth](#) is a resource that all educators can benefit from. This free software allows users to navigate the world. Through its various layers students can view borders, terrain, roads, historical imagery, places of interest, images, video and street level views.

Google Earth allows for the creation of [custom tours](#). A tour creator can insert place marks at various points of interest. Each place mark may contain text, hyperlinks to additional content, images and videos. The tours can be saved for future use. For more information about setting up a Google earth tour please visit [my wiki page](#) on the topic. I am also available for one on one trainings by appointment.

A Glog is a digital poster that can be used to house links to all of the content that will be used for the tour. A Glog may contain embedded video, hyperlinks to websites of interests, images, and audio. It is a portal for the interactives used for the field trip.

United streaming contains thousands of video segments and full movies all categorized by subject, grade level and CCCS. These videos can be attached to a Glog.

Here is an example from Traci Blozosky from Clarion Elementary School in North Western, PA. She created a virtual fieldtrip on Frogs. Using Google Earth she placed markers in each of the locations that the students will be visiting to learn about the local frogs. Each push pin marker is a link to a Glog.

[The Glog](#) contains all of the resources for they type of frog the students will be visiting in that area. This included united streaming clips, interactive activities, virtual museum or zoo exhibits, quizzes and images. The students will start in South America to take a look at the red-eyed tree frogs. From there it was on to North America and then Asia, Africa and finally Australia.

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Jefferson Township Public Schools



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Points of Interest

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- 🕒 Digital Posters Develop Higher Order Thinking
- 🕒 Electronic Bulletin Boards
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Digital Posters Develop Higher Order Thinking?

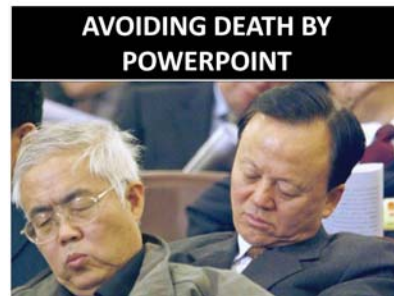
In a previous edition of the instructional technology newsletter I published an article about Glogster, <http://edu.glogster.com>. This is a free site that allows for the creation of digital posters. These posters may contain images, clip art, video clips, audio files, text, background and hyperlinks.

Since the release of that article and a number of workshops and presentations, there has been a widespread adoption of this new tool. Many of our classes grades 3-12 have been introduced to this tool. In some cases, Glogster is now being offered as an "Option" to students as an assessment.

By providing our students with a variety of assessment options we are committing to the Universal Design For Learning Model. The result has been very positive. We have witnessed a significant increase in student engagement overall. In many instances we have been able to reach

those students that are not typically engaged by traditional instructional practices or assessments. There are some cases in which the final product that these students have developed have become the model. Glogster has provided them with a differentiated approach to assessment. The impact on student learning appears to be promising.

The availability of digital posters has also helped to minimize a long-standing dependence on PowerPoint as the primary presentation vehicle. Historically, PowerPoint presentations have been in need of dramatic reform. In most cases, students are finding information online, hopefully transcribing it into their own words and adding endless bullets of text to their slides. The presentation consists a student facing a screen and reading all of the text off of the slides. This can be referred to as "Death by PowerPoint".



Glogster presents a new paradigm in presentations. Students are provided a one page palette to add content. The content consists primarily of multimedia with small snippets of text. The quotes, images, videos, audio and backgrounds must be strategically selected. Student presentations consist of narrated explanations and justifications of their selections.

Without the 'crutch' of bulleted text they must demonstrate understanding of their topic to explain the content of their posters.

The evidence has pointed to a more in-depth understanding of their topic, improved presentation skills, and the development of 21st century skills.

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Wall Wisher—Online Post-it Notes as an Instructional Tool?

Wall Wisher (<http://www.wallwisher.com>) is an interesting web 2.0 site. It serves as an electronic bulletin board. Anyone can create a board for free. You can invite others to add content to your board by sharing the link.

The board is basically a website that allows individuals to add post-it notes. The notes can be arranged on the board in any order. The notes added to a wall may contain up to 160 characters of text, images, video or audio links.

The owner of the wall may control

who can post to the wall. He or she may also adjust settings to approve all postings before they appear on the wall.

There are a number of classroom uses for Wallwisher. Here are a few:

1. Students may post what they already know about a topic or what they would like to know. (KWL)
2. Use one to post project links or resources.
3. Provide students with a question and allow them to answer it on a wall.

4. Create a wall to gather feedback regarding an event, reading, project, or trip.
5. Post student book reviews.
6. Add the names and details of veterans that students know for veterans day wall.
7. Create a wall to post "going green" pledges.
8. Use as a suggestion box

There are many more ways to use Wallwisher in the classroom. [Please visit my blog posting on the subject to view more ideas or add a comment.](#)

Virtual Field Trips Continued

Cecelia Hansen, Briggs School, has created a Glog on a similar topic "[toads and frogs](#)". She has used this Glog to engage students in the exploration of frogs.

There are a variety of resources available for finding, creating and organizing a virtual field trip at all levels. [The Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration](#) has put together a database of content providers. You can search by subject, provider and cost. Many are free!

[The center for Math and Science and Computer Education at Rutgers Univ.](#) has put together a catalogue of local content providers. You can search for content providers and colleagues to connect with. Content providers include: The Bronx Zoo, Liberty Science Center, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Ellis Island and Ocean of Know.

Through the [Chicago Museum of](#)

[Science and Industry](#), students can video conference into an actual open heart surgery.

Ellis Island offers free video conferencing. Students can learn about the history of immigration and the significance of the island.

Through the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Center at Brookdale Community College students can video conference with a Holocaust survivor.

How about a Narrated Tour of Afghanistan? CNBC has put together a [Google Earth tour](#) on the country.

There are endless opportunities for virtual field trips. Our district has access to all of the technologies necessary to make this a successful experience. The process of creating and delivering a virtual field trip can be engaging for the teacher as well as the students.

If you are interested in designing a virtual field-trip you do not have to go about it alone. Please schedule an appointment with Doug Walker to start the process. Field trips of this type can be created for individual class, grade levels or departments. These trips can be designed collaboratively and shared by all.

"Our trip started first thing in the morning. I told my kids to pack their bags and they all came to the front of the room and sat on little steps in front of the Smart Board. These were their seats on the safari buss. From the start their imaginations where totally engaged" (Blazosky)

Engaging Activities on the Web

Take a Virtual Field Trip

[Virtual Tour of the Louvre](#)—

Students can navigate their way through the hallways. By right clicking you can zoom in on a display. This is an amazing opportunity to visit one of the most well-known museums in the world.

Smartboard Math Manipulatives and Games from Glencoe

[-http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/mathematics/ebook_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html](http://www.glencoe.com/sites/common_assets/mathematics/ebook_assets/vmf/VMF-Interface.html)

Fuel the Brain

<http://www.fuelthebrain.com/>

This site contains a collection of Math interactives and Online Review Games that can be used on an Interactive Whiteboard, Classroom Center Activity or at home for review.

Forty Six Interesting Ways to Use Wordle in the Classroom

<http://docs.google.com/present/view?id=0AcIS3lrFKCIZGhuMnZidjVfMTU3ZHbic2c5YzU&hl=en>

Tag Galaxy

<http://taggalaxy.de>

Tag Galaxy uses a unique approach to searching images on Flickr. Images are arranged in the form of a planet. The tags are grouped around the planet to provide an interesting perspective.

Mr. Walker's Blog

<http://blogs.jefftwp.org/wordpress/walker>

Daily postings include new resources, instructional strategies and project ideas.