

DIGITAL TOOLS IN THE CLASSROOM



Engagement

Google Tour Builder

<https://tourbuilder.withgoogle.com/>

What is it?

Google Tour Builder is a web-based Google Earth related tool that allows you to quickly create "tours" that include globe markers, images/videos, dates, and other information.

Highlights

- Great way to introduce a topic that has some geographical tie in, such as where a character in a book has gone, historical events, Earth's features, and much more.
- Work on PC and Mac and requires a Google Earth Plugin (Google Earth does not need to be installed).
- Requires a Google Account to create tours, but not to view them.
- Tours can be set to private

Padlet

www.padlet.com

What is it?

Fast, easy way to allow students to collaborate. Free.

Highlights:

- Teacher creates board, students create posts
- Can be used on multiple platforms
- Posts can include multimedia: text, video, images, and links
- Notes are limited to 150 characters
- Choose from several layouts (freeform or stream)
- Sign up is not required, but editing of board settings are unavailable after 24 hours without signing in. (Teachers only)

COMICS

Comics are a fun way for students to show their learning. Topics may include vocabulary practice, sequencing, retelling or changing the ending of a story, explaining a concept. Students should be encouraged to storyboard their comic before creating it.

ToonDoo

www.toondoo.com

Highlights:

- Free, but requires sign up. Recommend a shared teacher-created account for the class.
- Can purchase a "Class" license so each student has an account.
- Has multiple layouts, backgrounds, characters. Students can upload their own images.
- ToonDoos can be compiled (by teacher) into a ToonBook.

Make Beliefs Comix

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

Highlights:

- Free
- Multi-lingual options
- No registration option - work must be completed in one sitting. Can be printed or emailed (requires a send from and to address - recommend using teacher email for both)
- Fewer options than ToonDoo, so may be better for younger students.



Collaboration

Google Docs

drive.google.com

What is it?

A web-based suite of productivity tools to include word processing (Docs), presentations (Slides), spreadsheets (Sheets), surveys (Forms), and graphical representations (Drawings). All are available for free with a Google Account.

Highlights:

- Files can be created and edited on most web-based devices (viewed on all).
- Files can be shared to allow others to collaborate on the same document from anywhere. All changes are viewed in real-time.
- A revision history allows you to view past versions of the same documents.
- Documents can be shared with specific people who also have a Google Account or can be set with a larger visibility to allow those without accounts the chance to view or edit.
- Files can be organized into folders which can also be shared.
- When sharing publicly, direct links or shortened URLs are recommended for easier access.



Evaluation

Socrative

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

What is it?

Socrative is a web-based student response system that allows teachers to engage their classrooms through a series of educational exercises and games via smartphones, laptops, and tablets.

Highlights

- Free teacher account required - no separate student accounts needed. Students access via "classroom code"
- Up to 50 students in a class at once
- Uses include: polls, quizzes (which may be shared between teachers), entrance/exit slips, short answer response
- Share information online or through a portable device
- Save time grading through the automatic grading and report system
- There is a new version, "Socrative 2.0" that has a slightly easier to use interface. It is still in beta, but will eventually become the main version.

Quizlet

<http://quizlet.com/>

What is it?

Quizlet is a free website providing learning tools for students, including flashcards, study & game modes.

Highlights

- Requires sign-up, but you can use your Google Account for faster access.
- Free version allows you to create and copy sets that can include terms, definitions, images (from stock images), pronunciation (from stock audio)
- Subscription adds uploading your own images and voice recordings, ad-free viewing, and tracking of class progress.
- Flashcards
- Learn -Track correct/incorrect answers and retest
- Speller -Type what you hear
- Test - Randomly generated tests based on set.
- Scatter - Race against the clock to drag and match terms/definitions.
- Space Race - Type in the answer as terms/definitions scroll across the screen.



Evaluation

JeopardyLabs

<https://jeopardylabs.com>

What is it?

JeopardyLabs allows you to create a customized jeopardy template without PowerPoint. The games you make can be played online from anywhere in the world.

Highlights:

- Free, no sign-up option. (Make sure you record the URL and password for your game so you can return to it easily.)



Management

Edmodo

www.edmodo.com

What is it?

Free, secure social network for classroom use and teacher professional development.

Highlights:

- Teacher creates an account and a class (Group).
- Students join the group with a code (no email address required)
- Can be read-only or students can contribute
- Create posts, quizzes, polls, folders to organize resources, embed files

Classtools

www.classtools.net

What is it?

A free collection of virtual classroom management tools. It also has many templates that mimic other familiar tools.

Highlights:

- Random Name Picker (spinner or fruit picker)
- Timer/Stopwatch
- Fakebook
- SMS (fake texts between characters)
- Common graphic organizers

Symboloo

<http://edu.symboloo.com>

What is it?

Symboloo is a visual bookmarking and sharing tool. Teachers can create a webmix, which is a grid of resources that the teacher has collected (or copied from other existing webmixes). It is an easy way to collect and share a specific set of websites with students.

Highlights:

- Free, requires sign up.
- Create a webmix (board) for the whole year or for various units.
- Use one of the browser extensions to make adding items to a board even easier.
- SymbolooEDU accounts come with preset educational webmixes preinstalled that are continuously updated with the latest and greatest educational sites recommended by the Symboloo Certified educators.



Management

URL Shorteners

What are they?

Turn longer web addresses (URLs) into short, easy to type or remember ones. This makes it easy to share a web address in print, or to have younger students type in something shorter.

Tinyurl

<http://tinyurl.com>

Highlights:

- Random or customized URLs
- Free and available worldwide (so some custom URLs may already be taken)
- No login, so it does not keep track of the URLs you've created (make sure you record them somewhere)

Goo.gl

<http://goo.gl>

Highlights

- Free from Google - No login required
- If you login with your Google Account, you can keep track of the URLs you've created as well as usage data.
- Random shortened URLs only, no customization
- URLs are case sensitive
- Also creates a QR code



SMART-Friendly Resources

National Library of Virtual Manipulatives (MATH)

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/>

Scholastic Interactive Whiteboard Activities (Core Subjects)

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/whiteboards>

Flashlight Readers

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activity/flashlight-readers>

Interactive "tours" of popular books

NeoK12

<http://www.neok12.com/>

Free collection of educational online videos across many subjects. Subscribe for access to quizzes and games.