



TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

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Have You Heard of Digital Learning Video

http://youtu.be/L_LWqgtAiFk

Digital learning is any instructional practice that effectively uses technology to strengthen a student's learning experience. It emphasizes high-quality instruction and provides access to challenging content, feedback through formative assessment, opportunities for learning anytime and anywhere, and individualized instruction to ensure all students reach their full potential to succeed in college and a career.

Digital learning encompasses many different facets, tools, and applications to support and empower teachers and students, including online courses, blended or hybrid learning, or digital content and resources. Additionally, digital learning can be used for professional learning opportunities for teachers and to provide personalized learning experiences for students.

With so many new types of digital devices, educational software and mobile apps continuously developed, it's hard to keep up with the latest and greatest advancements in educational technology. In some classrooms and out-of-school programs across the country, educators are doing some pretty amazing things with technology. Yet, these pockets of innovation are confined to a small number of schools and communities. Digital Learning Day was started as a way to actively spread innovative practices and ensure that all youth have access to high-quality digital learning opportunities no matter where they live.

Started in 2012, **Digital Learning Day** has provided a powerful venue for education leaders to highlight great teaching practice and showcase innovative teachers, leaders, and instructional technology programs that are improving student outcomes. This grassroots effort blossomed into a massive nationwide celebration as teachers realized that **Digital Learning Day** is not about technology, it's about learning. It's not about laying off teachers for laptops, it's about enhancing the role of the teacher in America's classrooms. **Digital Learning Day** promotes the effective use of modern day tools afforded to every other industry to improve the learning experience in K-12 public schools.

Your technology coordinator will be sharing district wide activities for Digital Day of Learning.



Women's history tells the story of our nation's past from an expanded perspective. It does not rewrite history, but it does make very different judgments about what is important.

Traditionally history has focused on political, military, and economic leaders and events. This approach has virtually excluded women, people of color, and the mass of America's ordinary citizens. What the children of those ignored groups learn from such history is that they, and people like themselves, are unimportant, and have contributed little to our society. By expanding the focus of history to include the activities and contributions of women from all walks of life, we give all children an opportunity to see themselves as active participants in the life of the nation, capable of making important contributions to the future.

Women's history approaches the past with a wide-angle lens, taking in a much wider vision of what was going on in any given time period. In addition to the activities of the government and military in the public sphere, we also look at the private sphere, at the everyday life experiences of people from all walks of life, people just like ourselves and our own families. Women's history also provides a wealth of new role models for today's young people and for adults as well. The courageous women of the past who have dared to forge new roads join women living quietly at their families 'center to create a world where future possibilities are limitless. Their stories are an inspiration for us all.

TeacherVision

<https://www.teachervision.com/womens-history/teacher-resources/6678.html>

Scholastic

<http://tinyurl.com/nrjsu9e>

Kids. USA.Gov.

<http://kids.usa.gov/teachers/lesson-plans/history/womens-history/>

The Teacher's Guide

<http://www.theteachersguide.com/womenshistorymonth.htm>

Lesson Plan Page

<http://lessonplanspage.com/womenshistorymonth-htm/>



<http://kids.usa.gov/teachers/calendar/march/index.shtml>



<http://www.edheads.org/>

GRADES 3-12

Edheads is realistic, appealing simulations that deliver superb science content. Edheads offers online simulations containing content from middle school to advanced levels. Users begin by choosing from 17 activities in a drop-down menu. There's a significant audio component, though captions are provided. It's recommended that kids have access to headphones. All simulations have coordinating worksheets and assessments; some are optional, while others are more necessary. There are also teacher guides with helpful information.

Activities vary in design and length, but each starts with an introduction and is chunked into segments. The scenarios place kids in content-related professional roles, such as surgeons or engineers. A few topics are geared toward younger students (machines and weather), but most are for advanced high school students, especially in the life and medical sciences. Teachers should know that some of the content here (surgeries, car crashes, etc.) could make kids squeamish or upset.



Edu Core

Are you searching for resources to implement the Common Core State Standards? Here you will find current, relevant, evidence-based tools and professional development to smooth your transition into a new era of teaching and learning.

<http://educore.ascd.org/>



Test Taking Tips for Parents

<http://www.testtakingtips.com/parents/>

- ✓ If you are anxious about your child's test, it's ok but try to keep cool around your child. You don't want them to get anxious about their tests too.
- ✓ Encourage your child to do well but don't pressure him/her. You may stress him/her out. It is important for your child to stay relaxed for the test.
- ✓ Keep a positive attitude about tests.
- ✓ Mark down test days on your calendar so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.
- ✓ Make sure that your child gets enough sleep on the night before the test.
- ✓ Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and avoid heavy foods that may make him/her groggy. Avoid high sugar foods that may make him/her hyper.
- ✓ Make sure that your child gets up early enough so that he/she will be on time to school.

A complete list of tips can be found at the link above.



News-O-Matic is the daily newspaper for kids on iOs and Android, an exciting and engaging nonfiction experience, and a fantastic modern educational tool. It gives young readers a window into the world – and a reason to love reading news for kids. Whether the stories are about India’s election, the World Cup, or the moons of Saturn, they provide students opportunities to make connections in meaningful ways and inspire children every day.

Teachers using this app can choose between different reading levels for students. Each article is adapted by News-O-Matic’s editorial team to fit three reading levels (400L-600L, 600L-750L and 750-1050L). These categories are connected to ranges of Lexile levels - a readability measure that helps measure text complexity. Teachers can assign different reading levels to each student in their class so they automatically receive news articles on their tablet that are the right level for them.

The Free Official SAT Question of the Day



The free Official SAT Question of the Day is an app that gives you a new official SAT question every day. You can also view the questions from the past 7 days.



To Catch a Plagiarist

So you're reading a student's essay and you're shocked! It's outstanding, exactly what you wanted to see. Unfortunately some things are just too good to be true. Your student might have just become one of the millions of kids each year who choose to copy a paper (or parts of a paper) off the internet rather than do their own work. You may have just caught a plagiarist. But how do you prove it?

Consider the definition for plagiarism that I have listed below:

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is a breach of professional or academic trust, in which a person takes credit for someone else's work. It comes from a Latin word meaning 'kidnapper,' because a plagiarist is one who makes off with another person's ideas.

Let's say a student just turned this definition in to you and you were concerned that this wasn't their work. Let's say you suspect they just copied and pasted this definition from the internet. Here's the easy way to catch a plagiarist. Go to <http://www.google.com> and type a phrase or sentence from the suspected work into Google in quotes, like this:

Click "Google Search" and if you're right, you'll find the exact webpage from which the suspected plagiarist pilfered their work.

And your students thought you'd never figure out how to catch them.

Additional Information: If you're looking for a more sophisticated way to check a student's work against the internet, try this website: <http://www.doccop.com/>. DOC Cop claims to compare the submitted work to the internet and it provides a report that details the correlations and matches between the submitted document and the web. There are some fees involved, but you can do a paragraph check for free: http://www.doccop.com/paragraph_check.html

Technology Innovations: SMARTPens



A smartpen is a high-tech writing tool that records spoken words and synchronizes them with notes users write on special paper. A student can thus record everything a teacher says and later replay any part of a lecture by tapping the pen's tip on words written throughout the class.

Smartpens require special paper. Each sheet contains a grid of thousands of microdots that make the page interactive. The smartpen's high-speed, infrared camera reads the dot patterns and can digitize handwritten notes and sync them with corresponding audio.

Smartpens make note-taking less stressful by eliminating the fear of missing anything said during a class or meeting. They also remove the time-consuming task of transcribing a complete lecture by enabling students to access any part of a recorded lecturer by merely tapping on words. Digitized notes are also easier to store, organize, search, and share.

EDUCATION WEEK

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/webinars/webinars.html>

Free Webinars

Upcoming Topics

- ✓ 2015: Next Generation Assessment—Implementation and Results
 - ✓ Mastering the Most Challenging Math Standards With Rigorous Instruction
 - ✓ The Evolving Role of the School Leader
 - ✓ A Premium Skill for Teachers: Intercultural Competency
 - ✓ How Teachers Can Build Social-Emotional Learning Skills
 - ✓ Going Google 101 in New York
 - ✓ Closing the Achievement Gap for ELLs Through Technology & Proven Language Pedagogy
 - ✓ Deepening and Widening the Way We Teach Writing in K-5

TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

