



TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

September 2015 3



Let's Get to Know You! 20+ Icebreakers for Kids

“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.” by Plato

The beginning of the school year is a great time to lay the foundations for transforming your young learner classes into peer communities. As part of their development, children need to learn how to play and disagree with each other respectfully. Many of your young learners are still developing their social skills and for them to be successful in your class, it is important to show them how to build relationships with their peers. Getting to know you activities are fun and ensure we have a semester full of lasting memories. These relationship building activities help prevent bullying, provide opportunities for children to make new friends, and promote a culture of trust and scaffolding. Beyond these benefits, these activities get children to move, laugh, and step out of their comfort zones. Icebreakers and getting to know you activities personalize the learning. <http://www.techlearning.com/blogentry/9654>

Digital Activities & Icebreakers for Gen Y

Our students' digital behavior influences our learning, language, rituals, values, routines, customs, and communication. What we share, post, like, and comment on impacts us, our peers, and people around the world. Just think, a person took a picture and posted it online with the word, “Selfie!” Many took their own selfies and selfies with others, including the Pope. Selfie was the word of the year for 2013 (Brumfield, 2013). This example illustrates the power of our digital acts and choices. It is important we help our students create meaningful messages and learn to effectively collaborate and respect their peers. <http://www.techlearning.com/blogentry/9614>

[Popular Back-to-School Lesson Plans](#)

These lesson plans on all things related to back-to-school will help you start the year off right. Whether you're looking for icebreakers for your elementary classroom or an activity to create a class constitution with your middle school students, we have what you need.

[Back to School Resources](#)
[Back to School Planning Guide](#)
[Back to School Free Printables](#)
[Back to School Resource Guide](#)
[Busy Teacher](#)



GLOBAL COLLABORATION DAY September 17, 2015

The primary goals of this whole day event are to demonstrate the power of global connectivity in classrooms, schools, institutions of informal learning and universities around the world, and to introduce others to the tools, resources and projects that are available to educators today. We welcome all students, educators, non-profit and for-profit institutions to participate in this all-day global celebration.

Global connections and collaborations can happen throughout the calendar year, and this is just one day designed to bring heightened awareness of the possibilities. You do not need to be experienced with collaborating globally; this event is intended to introduce new people to the potential of connecting classrooms to the world in order to benefit student learning.

<http://www.globalcollaborationday.org/home.html>



Preparing For a Successful Back-To-School Night

Have a successful Back-To-School Night for parents with the tips and hints found at the sites below. Whether you are a brand new teacher or a veteran, Back-to-School Night can be difficult. Careful and thorough preparation can help you succeed with confidence and clarity. This night sets the tone for the entire year; it's the event that can open the door to trust and cooperation.

[50 Really Good Ideas for Back to School Night](#)

[Bright Ideas for Back-to-School Night](#)

[Tips for Open House/Back to School](#)

[A Checklist for Back to School Night](#)

[Planning Your Back to School](#)



2015 THEME

“Honoring our Heritage. Building our Future.”

During National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15) we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Hispanic Heritage Month, whose roots go back to 1968, begins each year on September 15, the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is October 12

Resources

Hispanic Resource Packet
<http://tinyurl.com/nacdqzb>

Hispanic History
<http://www.hispanicheritagemonth.org/>

Sholastic
<http://tinyurl.com/oxjfxn>

TeacherVision
<http://tinyurl.com/op2jtgu>

Lesson Plan Page
<http://tinyurl.com/p9pvxl2>



[Back-to-School Resources for Parents](#)

Find resources to help children begin school with a positive mindset, support their transition into a new school year, and prepare them for fall learning.

Resources by Topic:

- Back-to-School Advice and Checklists
- Easing the Back-to-School Transition
 - Tech Tips for a New School Year
 - Gearing Up for Fall Learning
- The Power of Parental Involvement
- Additional Resources on the Web

[Top 10 Resources on Back to School for Parents](#)
[Back to School: Start Smart](#)



<https://kids.usa.gov/teachers/calendar/september/index.shtml>



<http://www.centerforlearning.org/t-free-resources.aspx>

Free webcasts, articles, and resources for 21st-century educators

The Center for Learning is pleased to present its new series of complimentary Online Workshops, conducted by today's leading authors and researchers. During these thought-provoking, 60-minute live webcasts, you'll hear first-hand from the most influential thought leaders as they share insights into their acclaimed classroom methodologies and instructional strategies



<https://padlet.com>

[Teacher's Guide to Padlet](#)
[32 Interesting Ways to Use Padlet in the Classroom](#)
[Padlet Video Tutorial](#)

[Random Name Picker](#)

This web tool that selects a random word from a list that you provide. When used with a projector, it is a great way to review vocabulary words, important dates, or concepts – or use it to randomly pick a name from your student list.



[ASCD Common Core Webinar Series](#)



[BEST APPS FOR STUDENTS](#)

[38 BEST LEARNING APPS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS](#)



Education Grants and 2015 Deadlines

Reading a list of grant opportunities is just the beginning. What to do next and how to write a proposal so that you get the funds are the hard parts. Advice is all over the web - from planning to writing to editing to budgeting to so check out these resources and get started:

DonorsChoose.org

www.donorschoose.org

ERIC

www.eric.ed.gov/?q=technology

Foundation Center

www.foundationcenter.org/

General Tips on Writing a Competitive
Grant Proposal & Preparing a Budget

www.epa.gov/ogd/recipient/tips.html

Grant Writing For Dummies Cheat Sheet

www.dummies.com/how-to/content/grant-writing-for-dummies-cheat-sheet.html

Grant Watch

www.grantwatch.com/cat/42/teachers-grants.html

Grant Wrangler

[www.grantwrangler.com/Grants Alert](http://www.grantwrangler.com/Grants%20Alert)

www.grantsalert.com/

Grants for Teachers

www.grantsforteachers.net/

Grants.gov

www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html

Pearson Grant Help Center

www.pearsonhighered.com/granthelp/

Teachers Count

www.teacherscount.org/grants/

The Big List of Educational Grants and Resources

www.edutopia.org/grants-and-resources

Travel Grants for Educators

www.travelbeyondexcuse.com/grants/

Writing a Successful Grant Proposal

www.mcf.org/nonprofits/successful-grant-proposal

TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

