



TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

May 2019

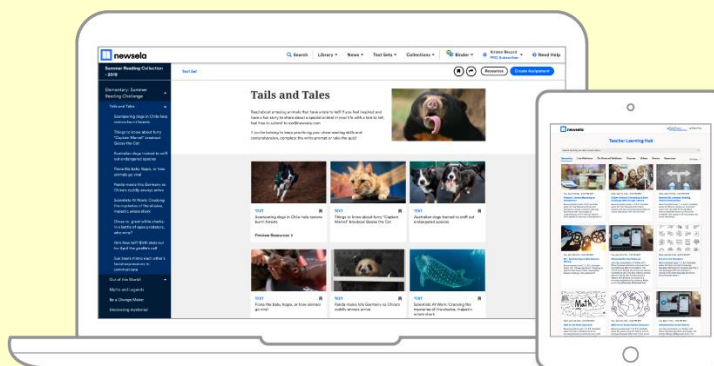


School is almost out for summer, but the learning doesn't have to end there! This summer, Newsela has designed a Summer Challenge that drives engagement and learning for both students and teachers.

By enrolling in the Summer Challenge, you'll receive access to a complimentary Summer Reading Collection designed around this year's top performing topics for elementary, middle, and high school students. In addition, participating teachers will have access to online professional learning through Newsela's Teacher Learning Hub.

This year, we're making a big splash: all participating classrooms, schools, and districts will be eligible to win technology grants and Newsela swag.

[Sign up for the Summer Challenge](#)





Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday that is held on the last Monday of May every year. originated as Decoration Day after the American Civil War in 1868, when the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois, established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. By the 20th century,

competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions, celebrated on different days, had merged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service.

This holiday is a day of remembrance of those Americans who serve in the military and a way of honoring all the men, women and their families who were in the military and died while serving their country. The military includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, National Guard, Coast Guard and some civilian groups who work for the military. Soldiers who have retired from the military use this holiday to remember their fellow servicemen and women who died during wars, or while working to protect others.

Teaching Resources

Edutopia

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/memorial-day-teaching-resources-matt-davis>

Teach-nology

http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/holidays/memorialday/

Teachervision

<https://www.teachervision.com/holidays/memorial-day>

Hot Chalk

<https://lessonplanspage.com/memorialday-hm/>



Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War. Cinco de Mayo 2018 occurs on Saturday, May 5. A relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

Resources

Teach-nology

http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/holidays/cinodemayo/

A to Z Teacher Stuff

<http://themes.atozteacherstuff.com/826/cinco-de-mayo-activities-printables-lessons-and-teaching-ideas/>



<https://www.boclips.com/>

Boclips for Teachers, is a video platform that offers an extensive library of safe and engaging content for students and time-saving solutions for educators.

The platform gathers video clips from more than 120 partners, including Visual Learning Systems, Intelcom Learning, and Crash Course. It offers archived content going back 100 years, providing real-world examples of classroom topics. To find relevant material, educators type a topic into the search bar and then create collections of videos, each of which comes with a list of specific learning outcomes.

A smarter, safer way to use video in the classroom

We believe using video to hook students into your lessons should be seamless, easy, and above all safe. Skip the inappropriate content and unlock the world's largest library of educational videos on Boclips for Teachers. **Sign up by June 30, 2019 and get a full year free.**

The day you're willing to
veer off the lesson plan,
follow a kid's lead, and learn
with your students
is the day you really become

A TEACHER



<https://826digital.com/>

BY SIGNING UP YOU WILL HAVE ACCESS TO...

All content areas and supporting material on 826 Digital. With a free account, you'll be able to browse, enjoy, and apply a wide variety of teaching tools and student writing examples. You can access these materials directly on the site, and to save it via Pinterest, Google Drive, and direct download.

All Social-Emotional Learning resources were inspired by the Inclusion Storytelling Project, collaboration between Cartoon Network and 826 National, which encouraged youth across the country to share their stories about kindness and empathy in an effort to stop bullying before it starts.

Sparks are innovative, adaptable mini-lessons and activities. They help hone a specific skill or inspire big ideas.

Lessons are highly engaging and ready to use. They're built around a topic and genre and focused on an educational outcome.

Projects are multi-session units on a topic or theme. They help teach process and revision while producing a polished piece.



<https://www.controlaltachieve.com/2019/04/audio-recording-tools.html>

The ability to add audio to Google Slides has been one of the most requested features for many years. Being creative, we have worked around this limitation in the past by embedding YouTube videos in Slides, or using a tool like Screencastify to record a video of the Slides while speaking. Although those workarounds still have their place, it is wonderful that we finally have the option to add audio directly to a slide!

You see, even though we can now add audio to a Google slideshow, there isn't a simple built-in recording button. Instead you need to record the audio separately with another program, then save it to Drive, and then add it to a slide.

... What are some easy ways to record audio? When using my Windows PC, I can use a free program such as Audacity, but many times our students will be using Chromebooks, so we need some web-based options. In this post we are going to take a look at four excellent, free options for recording audio right in your web browser, and how to add that audio to Google Slides.



https://googleteachertribe.com/whats-going-on-at-google-gtt084?ck_subscriber_id=31961198

**What's Going On At Google?
We're hitting the relevant updates announced from Next 2019!**



<https://www.khanacademy.org/kids>



Khan Academy Kids, targeting two- to five-year-old children, was developed in partnership with leading educators at Stanford University and the National Head Start Association, and created by Caroline Hu Flexer and her team . What's more is Khan Academy Kids is distributed to children, families, and educators for free.



<https://rossieronline.usc.edu/pinterest-for-educators/>

The Guide to Pinterest for Educators

Over 500,000 education-related pins are saved to Pinterest every day. That number is expected to grow with the launch of Teachers on Pinterest External link — a collaborative effort between Pinterest, education experts such as Edutopia External link , and a collection of teacher bloggers. The platform's creation of their own education-focused Pinterest community demonstrates the value and power of using this tool in the classroom.

Recognizing that power, we've teamed up with noted author and education expert Leah Anne Levy External link to create The Guide to Pinterest for Educators — a handbook designed with today's digitally literate educators in mind. This handbook provides teachers and administrators with the tools needed to not only navigate Pinterest, but also to use the social platform as a powerful learning tool for both teachers and students.



PictureSTEM

...integrating STEM and literacy in meaningful ways

<http://picturestem.org/>

The PictureSTEM Project includes instructional units for K-2 classrooms that use an engineering challenge and picture books as supports for learning science, mathematics, engineering, computational thinking, and reading. These transformative new models for STEM provide students with authentic, contextual activities that engage learners in specific content while integrating across traditional disciplinary boundaries. Currently, there are limited curricula

that address this need for integration. The goal of PictureSTEM is getting these high-quality, research-based materials into practice in a form that fits with teachers' current implementation structures. Therefore, the units are modular with the ability for teachers to implement different lessons during different parts of their school day. Integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Computational Thinking (STEM+C) with reading provides children opportunities to see the connections between the subjects we see in school and also see how these content areas are used together to solve problems for people.



DIGITAL LITERACY LIBRARY

<https://www.facebook.com/safety/educators>

Find lesson plans designed by experts to help young people develop skills needed to navigate the digital world, critically consume information and responsibly produce and share content. Designed to be interactive and engaging, these lessons involve group discussions, activities, quizzes, and games that have been built in consultation with teens. Use them either collectively or individually in the classroom, as part of after-school programs, or even at home. This library is hosted by Facebook and currently includes learning resources made available by Youth and Media at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University.



Quick Rubric

<https://www.quickrubric.com/>

Quick Rubric is a new tool from the folks in Photos for Class. This is a new web based application that allows you to easily set up criterion-referenced rubrics to score your students performances and assignments. You can use Quick Rubric to create rubrics to help you assess things such as oral presentations, writing projects, reading comprehension, storytelling and many more. Rubrics are also proved to be of great help when grading students works especially essay and long narrative writing.

The way Quick Rubric works is simple and easy. Click on the 'Create a Rubric' button and start customizing the rubric form as you want. Add a rubric title and description, identify your maximum and minimum scores, and fill in the criteria section. You can add more columns and rows as needs be. When done, click on 'Save Rubric' to save a copy of your work. You will need to be registered to be able to save your rubric. Registration is free.



PARENT TOOLKIT

<https://www.parenttoolkit.com/>

Parent Toolkit is a one-stop resource developed with parents in mind. It's produced by NBC News Learn and supported by Pearson and includes information about almost every aspect of your child's development, because they're all connected. Healthy, successful children can excel in many areas - in the classroom, on the court, and in their relationships with peers and adults. Our advice also covers important topics for navigating life after high school.



<https://www.nbclearn.com/portal/site/learn>

NBC News Learn is the education division of NBC News - distributing the journalism and story telling of NBC News to students in the classroom, at home, and in the community. Our award-winning content, innovative live broadcasts, and extensive, exclusive news archives have made NBC News Learn an

invaluable education tool for K-12 and Higher Ed students and teachers across the country.



Coding for kids: Reasons kids should get started, and how they can find success

Learning to code seems like an impossible endeavor, right? It's a lot like—quite literally—learning an entirely new language!

Thus, asking kids to envision themselves with the ability to, say, build an app, is a difficult enough task in itself.

We've all been there...a blank slate can be a very scary, overwhelming roadblock. "How am I ever going to get to a point where coding comes easy? When will I be able to use this new skill to complete a finished project?"

Statements like these have stopped many...before they even give themselves the chance to begin.

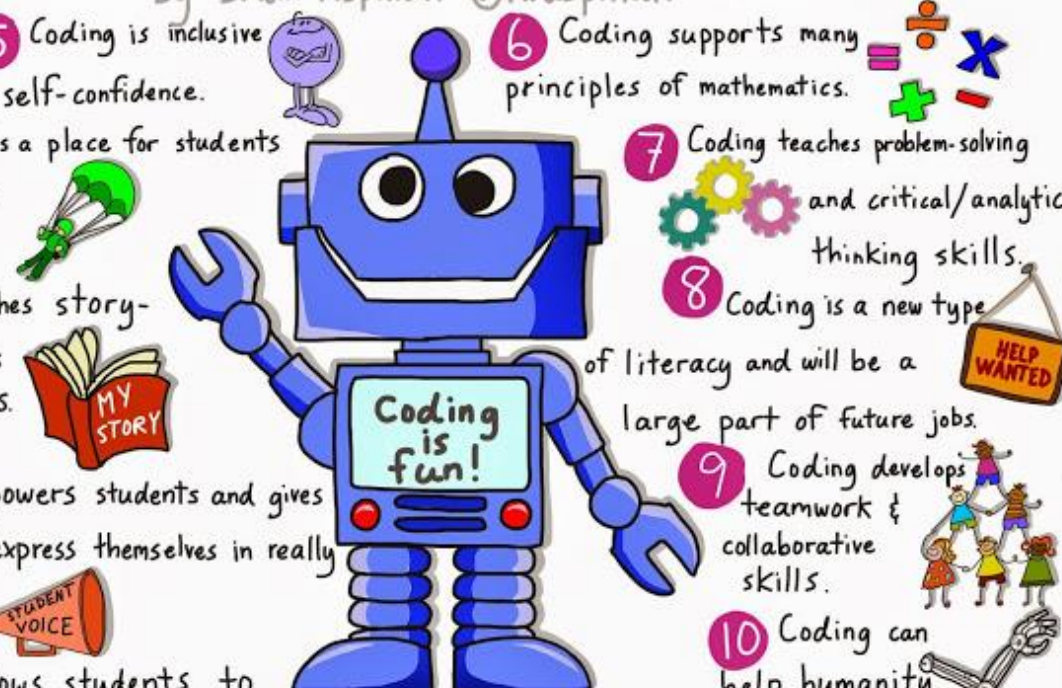
Think about it—first you have to plan, then you have to learn, then you have to be good enough to create. But before you learn, you have to decide what it is you're going to learn, and you need to have a great understanding that the thing you're learning is going to pay some sort of dividend when all is said and done.

There is no way around it. It's quite the challenge.

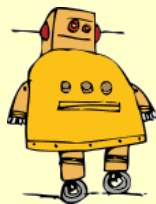
But please, keep reading. <https://www.idtech.com/blog/5-reasons-your-child-should-learn-to-code>

10 Reasons to Teach Coding

By Brian Aspinall @mrspinal

- 
- 1 Coding allows students to create content, not just consume it.
 - 2 Coding empowers students and gives them tools to express themselves in really cool ways.
 - 3 Coding teaches storytelling with games and animations.
 - 4 Coding is a place for students to take risks & fail safely.
 - 5 Coding is inclusive & builds self-confidence.
 - 6 Coding supports many principles of mathematics.
 - 7 Coding teaches problem-solving and critical/analytical thinking skills.
 - 8 Coding is a new type of literacy and will be a large part of future jobs.
 - 9 Coding develops teamwork & collaborative skills.
 - 10 Coding can help humanity.
- BONUS:** Coding gives you SUPERPOWERS!

@sylvia duckworth



instructables

<https://www.instructables.com/>

Instructables- A Good Website to Promote Project-based Learning

Instructables is an educational website and mobile app where you can have access to a treasure trove of instructional videos and how-to guides covering a wide variety of topics from science experiments to amazing inventions. If you need some new ideas for your next

classroom maker project, Instructables offers a library of over 100k of do-it-yourself projects created and shared by members of the community which amount to 2 million members. Additionally, you and your students can create your own projects and upload them to the site and share your ideas with other teachers.

Instructables has a special section for teachers where you can browse for projects created by other teachers and which you can use with your students in class. 'Instructables supports teachers by providing free pro memberships and awesome project ideas for your classroom. It provides plug and play hands-on projects to let you supplement your curriculum with the best projects that other teachers have to offer.



<http://westosoela.pbworks.com/f/50GreatIdeasForUseAfterStateTesting.pdf>

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<https://tinyurl.com/yynhg6qo>

Cool Chrome Extension: Insert Learning

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 7:00:00 PM

Learn to use this cool Chrome extension to create engaging lessons for your students.

3 Cool Tools for the Primary Classroom (K-2)

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 7:00:00 PM

Explore, compare, and contrast 3 free online tools supporting engagement and learning in the primary classroom.

Authentic Assessment with Flipgrid, Sway, and more!

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 7:00:00 PM EDT

Use Microsoft tools to design effective and authentic formative and summative assessments.

Fostering Accountability: Media Literacy in the Classroom

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 7:00:00 PM

Learn strategies for planning engaging media literacy lessons.



<https://dp.la/>

Digital Public Library of America
Organized digital library features piles of useful primary resources

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is a free, web-based library of primary resources specific to United States history. As of this review, DPLA boasts a staggering 33 million resources collected from a wide range of research institutions and museums. Thankfully, the layers of rich documents, images, and videos are carefully organized and curated, and can be accessed through topical browsing, searching and filtering, or in pre-made exhibition collections and primary source sets. While the site isn't intended solely for students or teachers, the exhibitions and primary source sets are particularly well-suited to classrooms since they feature more written context. The primary source sets also have discussion questions, activities, and a "share to Google Classroom" button. Of course, the massive, searchable database itself can fuel inquiry-driven learning within the framework of a well-scaffolded lesson or project.



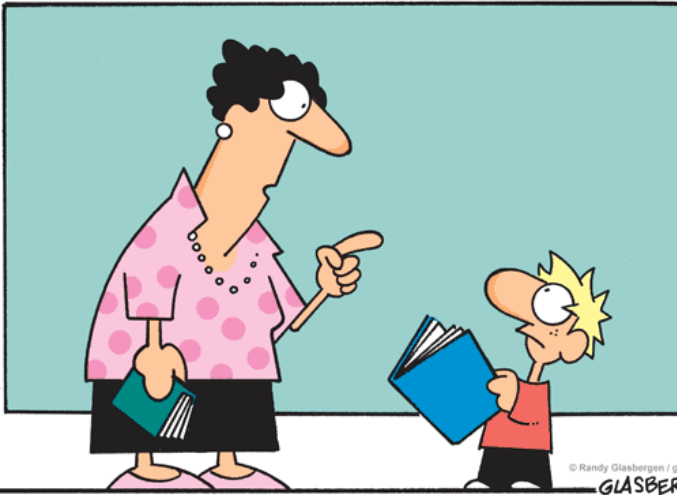
When Will K-12 Classrooms Scrap Those Age-Old, Rigid Desk-Chairs?

Remember that little desk/chair combo used by millions of students—and maybe even you—in school? They're still a mainstay in K-12, but there are rumblings that they're on their way out. And good riddance, say some school leaders, educational furniture providers, and industry observers.

What's replacing them is school furniture that may be on wheels, adjustable for height, more versatile and more comfortable. These desks, tables, and chairs give educators more flexibility about how they arrange a learning environment, or rearrange it, for collaboration or teaching with computers.

“Those ‘old school’ combo desks don’t offer that flexibility,” said Kyle Boudreau, the educational product marketing manager for KI, a Green Bay, Wis.-based company that is discontinuing that model of desks, which it called Intellect Wave. Sales of that style combo desk have been down. School customers want furniture that promotes student engagement and peer-to-peer connections, he said. [Read More.](#)

TECHNOLOGY HUMOR



“It’s called ‘reading’. It’s how people install new software into their brains”

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www.glasbergen.com

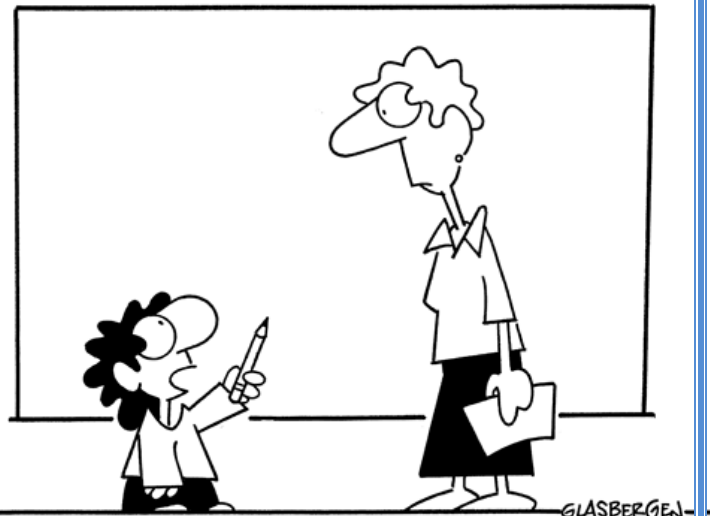


“I’m supposed to write an essay on what is meant by ‘The pen is mightier than the sword’. First, I need to go to Google and find out what a pen is.”



“My term paper is almost finished. I updated my software, defragmented my hard drive, bookmarked an online dictionary, and installed new ink cartridges. Now all I need are some words and a topic!”

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“How do you expect me to write with this? It doesn’t even have a USB port for a keyboard!”