Newsletter

Exploring By The Seat Of Your Pants

What We Do

The primary goal of Exploring By The Seat Of Your Pants is to knockdown classroom walls and take students anywhere in the world, never having to leave their desks. We aim to accomplish this by connecting students with exciting guest speaker lessons and virtual field trips from around the world. Our focus is providing lessons related to science, adventure and conservation, but won't be limited to these areas!

Through our partnerships with individuals and organizations around the world, we strive to connect students with leading researchers, daring adventurers and innovative conservationists, and to give them the chance to ask big questions and meet meaningful role models.

What We Believe

We believe these kinds of experiences inspire students while exposing them to amazing wonders and challenging issues around the globe. Students won't remember every math or language lesson from school, but they will remember the time they were hanging out in a penguin colony in Antarctica or chatting with someone who just rowed across an ocean.

How Lessons Work

Lessons and hangouts take place with our partner groups, as well as with individuals and institutions from around the world. We use Google Hangouts as it's the ideal platform to reach the maximum number of classrooms with each lesson.

To sign up for lessons, simply become a member of the site by following the link to sign up and provide your email address and make a password. It will than be possible to access the monthly hangout listings and to secure a camera spot for your classroom. Be sure to sign up for the monthly newsletter as well to stay in the loop and never miss an exciting opportunity.

All Google Hangouts with guest speakers and virtual field trips are free!

Read more online at: www.exploringbytheseat.com

QR Codes Can Do That?

by Monica Burns

There are tons of quick and easy ways to integrate technology into your instruction -- with powerful results. I've been a fan of Quick Response (QR) codes in education for years and even wrote a book all about how they can be used to promote deeper learning in your classroom. When speaking to teachers about these black-and-white squares, it's so much fun to see the "aha" moments as we explore different ways to use scannable technology in the classroom.

This list of five things that you may not know about QR codes contains some simple ideas that definitely pack a punch. These tips include strategies for differentiating instruction, distributing materials, and keeping families up to date on classroom activities. If you've tried one of these QR tips or have another to add to the list, the comments section of this post is the perfect place to share!

1. Add Your Voice
QR codes can talk! Many teachers have used QR code generators like QRstuff.com to link an article or piece of informational text to a QR code. When students scan the code, they're taken to a website with something to read. Instead of linking to text, teachers can connect QR codes to audio messages. This might include an audio file saved on a cloud-based service like Dropbox, where a link connected to an audio file can be connected to a QR code.

Another quick option is using a web tool like Vocaroo, which lets users record their voice with the microphone on their device. A simple tap of the screen lets you automatically turn your voice recording into an audio recording. This tool can be used to give directions at centers or audio support for English-language learners -- great for differentiation!

2. Attach PDF Files
Since a QR code is connected to a web address, you can take a scanner to any location on the internet. This includes files hosted on cloud-based services like Dropbox. Instead of copy-and-pasting a shared link into an email, take the Dropbox link and add it to a QR code generator. When students, parents, or other teachers scan the link, they'll receive a prompt to download or view the document. Try this tip when sharing documents.

QR Codes Can Do That?

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3. Collect Information

There are lots of reasons why I love Google Forms, including how easy they are for collecting information. When you make a Google Form instead of sending the link to someone via email, copy the link into a QR code generator. At an open house night, families can scan the QR code with their mobile devices to access a Google Form. This is an easy way to collect information from parents at events.

In addition to trying out Google Forms with families, you can place QR codes linked to Google Forms in different locations for a scavenger hunt. When students scan the form, they can submit information. Once their submission is received, a note will pop up on their screen. You can customize this note to give instructions for the next part of the scavenger hunt.

4. Send a Tweet

I mentioned QRstuff.com as an option for creating free QR codes. If you take a look on the left-hand side of their screen, you'll see an option for Twitter. By creating a Twitter update, families can scan the QR code and automatically tweet a message that you've written. For example, clicking this link (which is the same as scanning the QR code) will take you to a page from which you can tweet the message, "I'm reading an article on @Edutopia by @ ClassTechTips on #QRCodes and #ScannableTech."

Creating a QR code connected to a tweet is a great way to have families connect to your school's social media platform or generate excitement about a special event at your school.

5. Change Locations

Most of the QR codes that you've probably created are called static QR codes. This means that it always takes you to one place on the internet. A few websites, such as Kaywa, let users switch from static to dynamic QR codes. This requires a login and lets users change the location of a QR code. If you have a daily Do Now activity connected to a QR code, or a code you'd like to update each week on a monthly newsletter, dynamic QR codes are worth exploring.

Read more online at: www.edutopia.org/blog/qr-codes-can-do-that-monica-burns

CSI in the Classroom
Forensic Science Workshop

When?   June 27 - June 30
Where?   Castle High School, Newburgh, IN
What?   Learn how to incorporate Forensic Science into your classroom. Topics cover biology, chemistry, physics and include crime scene investigation, detection of blood and blood typing, blood stain pattern analysis, drug and powder analysis, fingerprinting, forensic analysis of glass, forensic entomology, hair and fiber identification, time of death, autopsy, and more!

Cost? $250
Contact: Shelly Aull: saull@warrick.k12.in.us

Professional Development Opportunities

Summer of eLearning

The 2016 Summer of eLearning marks the fifth year of regional conferences sponsored by the Indiana Department of Education, Office of eLearning. This conference series continues our strong tradition of supporting high-quality professional learning in Indiana. Events cover 21 days in June and July, 2016! This year, 25 host locations will be supported by the work of 45 school districts!

There are a number of ways you can engage with these great learning opportunities:

Conference Map
Identify opportunities near you with marker detail.

Conference List
Browse the list of featured keynotes and link to websites.

Conference Calendar
See host districts by date and save them to a Google calendar.

Speakers Bureau
Join our list of featured presenters to connect with conference planners.

Session Presenter Form
New this year! Fill in your info if you have a session you are willing to present.

Partner Support
Vendors and partner groups can offer their support in this form.

Upcoming Events

Vernier Software & Technology

Summer Institutes
Full-day, hands-on training helps you integrate data-collection
technology into your science curriculum

School may be out for the summer, but the learning never stops at Vernier. Please join us this summer for a full-day exploration of the latest and greatest in probeware and data-collection technology.
You'll get hands-on experience with our award-winning line of computer and handheld data-acquisition technology.
One of our knowledgeable training specialists will work right alongside you, providing guidance and inspiration as you explore classroom-ready labs and activities.
You'll leave the workshop with the skills and knowledge you need to get your students excited about hands-on science.
For further information and institute locations across the U.S go online to:

www.vernier.com/training/summer-institutes/

What PRISM Can Do For You!

- Easily find the perfect teaching and learning resources from our library of over 4,000.

- Save a list of your favorite resources for quick retrieval.

- Create and share lesson plans that teach your subjects utilizing your favorite resources.

- Develop online classrooms with interactive assignments, lessons, quizzes and more!

- Store your classroom materials online so that they are available to you from any computer.

- Reach your students more effectively by using web media for the digital age.

- Earn PGP points by completing PRISM led online Moodle course – either Beginning Moodle or Intermediate Moodle courses are available to you at no cost several times throughout the year.

- Select from free learning resources that emphasize visualization, rich context, staged-problem solving, and electronically enabled collaboration / communication.

- Augment your own dynamic presence in the classroom with teaching tools that mirror the skills needed for success in higher education and the 21st Century workplace.

*Through our strong support from the **Lilly Endowment** and others, we are constantly growing and improving. Check our site regularly to see what new resources you can use in your classroom.*

www.rose-prism.org

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PRISM is a free website that provides collections of online resources for Indiana educators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The primary collection of digital teaching materials is indexed according to the Indiana Academic Standards for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and secondary education courses.