Google sites   Internet Learning Tools for Elementary Teachers   Updated 8 minutes ago

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Barbara's Learning Tools

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I am a media specialist in an Intermediate (3rd-5th grade) school in Kennesaw, GA. Currently, I am a student in the EdS program at the University of West Georgia. There I am learning how to integrate technology into instruction. I think it is important to make the distinction between using technology in instruction and enhancing instruction with technology. Technology does not fix poor pedagogy. But, it can create unique opportunties for students to use higher order thinking skills through authentic learning experiences, where students publish and share with others.

Here I will share Internet tools and ways that they can, and have been used, to create these kinds of authentic experiences.

Classroom.net

This site has a multitude of on-line tools that any teacher could easily make use of. These tools can be used as is, or be embedded into the teachers' own web/blog (in addition, some can be printed). To describe a few of my favorites from this site:

- Random name picker - allows the teacher to enter students' names and then can use it to randomly select students...this is a great strategy to use when selecting students to call on rather than having students' raise their hands. This randomized method encourages students to stay focused and on task.

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- Countdown Timer - does exactly that. You can set a time and it will countdown to zero. You can also select music to accompany the countdown.
- Dustbin - allows teacher to create a "sorting" test. Teacher creates categories and things that "fit" in that category. Students, then have to correctly sort items into correct categories. At the end they receive a raw score.
- Venn Diagram - does exactly that, allows user to imput information into a Venn Diagram, then save, print, or embed into their own website.
- Priority Chart - Can type content into vertically aligned cells, then the user can sort cells in priority order.
- Source Analyser - Provides a template for scaffolding teaching students to analyze their sources of information. Of course, as a media specialist, this was a true favorite of mine.