

Using Technology in the Elementary Classroom By Marilyn Western

Score Four for Math

As you are getting ready for your new school year, think about using non-Math tech tools for supporting Math learning in your classroom. Here are four ideas that could make you and your students Winners in math!

ONE You already know how students love to explore **Google Earth** <http://earth.google.com>. Use some of that excitement to pull in some interesting Math concepts. Use the ruler tool to measure things they find. For example, locate a park, playground, even a city block. Measure the sides and figure out the perimeter and area of that place. How long is the span between the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge? Compare that to the span between the towers of the Mackinac Bridge. Each student could also figure out the exact distance between their homes and school in feet, yards, miles, or Smoots (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smoot>). Studying fractions or ratios? Challenge students to locate a parking lot in any large city to count total parking spaces. Express the filled spaces out of total spaces as a fraction and then convert to a percentage. Assign particular shapes to groups of students and let them loose. Can they find a circle in Google Earth? A rhombus? To capture a picture of their shape, click on Edit > Copy Image, and then paste into PowerPoint or a Word doc. Use the Drawing Toolbar to outline the shape (AutoShapes > Basic Shapes). If you hold the Shift key as you drag an oval or rectangle, you create a perfect circle or square. Use the paint bucket tool for no-fill to make the shape empty, and make the line thicker by clicking on the line style icon (looks like 3 lines: skinny, medium, and fat). Print and you've got a class book.



TWO Glogster at <http://www.glogster.com/edu> is an attention-grabbing (and FREE) way to get all kinds of information to students. You can use it as a means to get them to web sites, to watch videos, and to listen to any audio. You can easily embed a glog in your classroom wiki, blog, or web site. Or students can build their own 'glog' to show what they know. I know you've got several Math mantras that you hear yourself repeating often. Why not say

it once and let Glogster repeat it for you? Record your oft-said Math tip/rule (I still remember my 5th Grade teacher repeating over and over: 'Of means times.') and upload to your Math glog. Make sure you chose a cool player to really enhance your audio!

If you register your class (up to 200 students FREE!), you can give each student their own login and password so they can create their own themed pages that might include a recording of themselves explaining how to solve a problem, links to their fav math web sites or math video (see below for some great suggestions), and lots of text buttons, bubbles, or stickers that include things they can teach others. I strongly suggest you set a timer and give frequent time warnings for students or they'll spend 30 minutes on the computer trying to decide what the best background image will be!

THREE Create a Math Glossary using **PowerPoint**. You can set up a template page for each student to use, or simply give them a list of what they need to include on their slide and let them design their own page. Assign a Math vocabulary word to each student. Their slide should include the word (WordArt is great for this), the definition (in a text box), and a picture of their word. A really easy way to draw in PowerPoint is to click on Insert > Object > Bitmap Image > OK. You now have Paint embedded in your slide. Just draw your picture (use lots of great colors!), click out of the Paint



window to exit (double click the image to return to Paint), resize your image, and move wherever you like on your slide. Add a few cliparts, and you've got a glossary page!

ninth	first	tenth
third	*FREE*	sixth
fourth	fifth	second

FOUR Another way to enhance Math vocabulary is to use **Personal Educational Press** at <http://www.educationalpress.org>. Click on the Math tab for listings of math vocabulary and math facts. Scroll down to find the Worksheet Types. This FREE site will allow you to create BINGO boards, flashcards and more. So if you need 30 BINGO cards, it will take your words and randomly put them on 30 pages. One nice thing about this tool is that you can edit any list to add your own words or take off any words you don't want.

Or let students create their own game board by using a blank slide in PowerPoint. Click on Insert > Table. Make the table as large as you want (3x3, 4x4, 5x5, etc.) and resize to fit the slide. List your Math vocabulary words in a Word document. If students will be using a 5x5 BINGO board, they will need 25 words or more. Make 3 columns and copy the words in each column, then print and cut the columns so you end up with a class set of vocabulary word strips. Tape one strip to each monitor. Students can now type the words in any spot on the BINGO board, giving each student a unique, random board. Cut one of the vocabulary strips into individual words that you can draw and announce. If students have that word, they can click on the word and use the paint bucket to color that table cell. Get five in a row and yell BINGO! For younger students, you can play a 3x3 card. For a greater challenge, have students put a variety of numbers on their BINGO boards, and then call out math facts for them to compute and mark.

Pick one project and give it a try. With a little creativity, your students won't even realize they are 'Math-ing'!

4 Great Math Video Web Sites for Kids:

Show Me http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/show_me/index.html *Tutorial videos for Grades 1-6*

MathATube <http://www.mathatube.com> *How many ways can you explain a Math concept? Videos and text tutorials for a wide variety of math topics.*

Math Playground Videos <http://www.mathplayground.com/mathvideos.html> *Best for upper el*

Mr. Nussbaum Math Videos <http://www.mrnussbaum.com/mathvideos.htm> *A nice collection – many from TeacherTube*

4 Great Math Game Web Sites for Kids:

MathFROG <http://cemc2.math.uwaterloo.ca/mathfrog/main.shtml> *Math games for Grades 4-6*

Woodlands Math Zones <http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/index.html> *Online interactive Math games for ages 7-11*

Mr. Nussbaum Math Games <http://www.mrnussbaum.com/mathgames.htm> *A wide variety of math games for Grades 1-5+*

TimezAttack <http://www.bigbrainz.com> *Free download – video game-like multiplication practice*

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