

## Websites, Wikis, and Webcasts Oh My: Web 2.0 Tools

### Reasons to Use Web 2.0 Tools:

- Communicate with my students at home
- Create interactive lessons quickly
- Give students creative ways to express themselves
- Allow my students real world experiences without leaving the classroom
- Collaborate with other teachers to find resources and not have to reinvent the wheel

#### 1) Communicating with Students at Home:

- a. **Weebly** → An online website-maker free to educators. You can have two of these sites up and running (one for your resources and one for your kids). Go to [education.weebly.com](http://education.weebly.com). There is a great tutorial and it's easy to get started. Post assignments, announcements, links to webpages, and projects your students have made that they want to share.
- b. **Webcasts** → Grab an iPhone or any other device that lets you record yourself and record a demonstration on a math concept that can be put online and viewed by your students when they "forget" a concept.
- c. **Vimeo** → Take that **webcast** and upload it on **Vimeo**, a free online database for teachers to upload videos and webcasts for their students to view. "Go Basic" to get this tool for free and store up to 500MB of data.

#### 2) Create Interactive Lessons Quickly

- a. **Studyjams** → A math and science website filled with songs, virtual lessons taught by cartoon characters, and interactive practice.
- b. **Quizlet** → An online flashcard maker. You can find a set of vocabulary words in the database or make your own. Students can play games, practice, and test themselves on the vocabulary.
- c. **Testmoz** → A website that allows you to create online tests students can take. No registration required, you simply copy the URL into your **weebly**, have kids go to the link, and let them take the quiz.
- d. **Gliffy** → Makes graphic organizers. Great for fill-in-the-blank notes.
- e. **Savevid** → You can finally put those YouTube videos that are blocked by your school's firewall into an mp3 format to play for your students. The video quality varies.
- f. **Teacherplanet** → A site similar to **Teachertube** that includes educational videos both teacher and student-made. You can store your own videos and webcasts here.
- g. **Prezi** → It's similar to a PowerPoint presentation that can be accessed anywhere there's Internet access. You can drop in videos, links, text, and pictures.

- h. **Screenr, screen-o-matic, or Quicktime** → All sites that will literally record what is on your computer screen (like a lesson to put into your **Vimeo** account). Be careful though, these recordings are “silent movies”. If you want sound, you need to add it in using another program like **animoto** (see Student Expression).

### 3) Student Expression

- a. **Make Belief Comix** → A site where your students can create their own comic strip using a set of characters and their own word bubbles.
- b. **Storyjumper and Storybird** → In both sites, students can write, illustrate, and download their own stories. **Storybird** uses pre-made picture sets to illustrate the stories. **Storyjumper** allows students to choose their own scenes, characters, and props. The illustration portion of this site can be time consuming, but it allows for a lot of creativity.
- c. **Kerpoof** → A site that has an educator option to create individual student accounts. Students can create storybooks with illustrations and animated movies with written dialogue and music.
- d. **Animoto** → Students can create videos on this website using movie clips, pictures, sound clips, text, and music. The videos on this site can be saved on the site or downloaded.

### 4) Real World Experiences

- a. **The Futures Channel** → This site contains short videos on how math is used in different jobs. Each video comes with a small project/lesson that goes with it.
- b. **SurveyMonkey or Zoomerang** → These sites let students create surveys that can be taken by anyone with Internet access and a computer. A nice digital twist on the paper survey.
- c. **Create-a-graph** → A very user-friendly online graph maker. This site can create bar, line, and pie graphs and more.
- d. **Scribd** → One of the largest collections of fiction and non-fiction writing online. It has anything from stories to study guides to manuals.
- e. **Skype** → Allows anybody to virtually come into your classroom through video-chat.
- f. **Google “Virtual Field Trips”** → Many places offer free virtual field trips. Tour a museum or historical location from your own classroom.

### 5) Teacher Collaboration

- a. **Wiki** → A website that can be edited by anyone you ask to join you. This is a great place to store and share websites you find.
- b. **Livebinder** → This website allows you to save URL’s and categorize them so you can go back to them later.
- c. **Googledocs** → This is a living document that is great for a discussion board or anything where more than one person in separate locations needs to work on. All you need is a Gmail account.