



# TECH BYTES



Orange Board of Education

February 2016 2013



## Get Outta Class With Virtual Field Trips

As teachers, we know that field trips motivate and educate our kids. We also know they are time-consuming, difficult to organize, and often affected by the weather. In many cases, the places we would most like to visit aren't nearby or aren't open at the time we are covering them in the curriculum. In these cases, the next best thing to a real field trip is a virtual field trip. In fact, virtual field trips are often better because they take you places you couldn't otherwise go, for example, inside a volcano, under the ocean, or straddling a fault line.

Virtual field trips are interactive web-based experiences that guide students through an exploration of content about themes, such as a specific place or time. Virtual field trips boost students' reading comprehension skills, expose them to different cultures and environments and are a great way to engage and encourage technology integration in the classroom - whatever the subject matter may be!

You look outside the classroom window and see yet another in a long string of gloomy days. Inside the classroom, restless students seem mired in malaise. It must be time for a field trip! No money, you say, for buses or admission fees? No time for travel? Why not a virtual field trip? The Web provides the resources; you provide the fun. Every day is a beautiful day for a virtual field trip!

Virtual field trips tailored to every grade level are springing up all over the Internet. Trips range from the simple, such as a photo tour of a famous museum, to extremely detailed and high-tech field trips that offer video and audio segments to make the visit more interactive. However simple or complex, virtual field trips can take your students to a completely new world -- and the trips are as close as your computer.

Good planning must precede field trips, real or virtual. Before considering virtual field trips, read a discussion on the topic, " Why Take Field Trips"

<http://www.campsilos.org/excursions/hc/fieldtrip.htm>

## **Virtual Field Trips Resources**

Tramline

<http://www.tramline.com/vft/index.htm>

Education World

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_tech/tech/tech071.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech071.shtml)

Internet4Classroom

<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/vft.htm>

Innovative Teaching

<http://surfaquarium.com/IT/vft.htm>

The Teacher' Guide- Virtual Fieldtrips, Virtual Tours

<http://www.theteachersguide.com/virtualtours.html#Museums>

Teacher Tap

Digital and Virtual Field Trips

<http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic35.htm>

100 Incredible & Educational Virtual Tours You Don't Want to Miss

<http://www.onlineuniversities.com/blog/2010/01/100-incredible-educational-virtual-tours-you-dont-want-to-miss/>

Early Childhood Education Zone

<http://www.earlychildhoodeducationzone.com/virtual-field-trips>

Virtual Tour Evaluation for Students

<http://www.schrockguide.net/uploads/3/9/2/2/392267/evaltour.pdf>

# 6 Golden Rules for Engaging Students



**1** Make It Meaningful

**2** Foster a Sense of Competence



I can do it!



**3** Provide Autonomy Support

**4** Embrace Collaborative Learning



**5** Establish Positive Teacher-Student Relationships

**6** Promote Mastery Orientations



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By Nicolás Pino James [bit.ly/6GoldenRulesEdu](https://bit.ly/6GoldenRulesEdu)





As a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that truth could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming: Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort.

By the time of Woodson's death in 1950, Negro History Week had become a central part of African American life and substantial progress had been made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration. At mid-century, mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations noting Negro History Week.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first African American History Month. (Excerpt from an essay by Daryl Michael Scott, Howard University, for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History)

#### **African American History**

<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/about.html>

#### **Utah Education Network African American Resources**

General Materials

Lesson Plans

Videos

<http://www.uen.org/core/socialstudies/africanamerican/>

#### **African American History Month Primary Sources**

Library of Congress

National Archives

National Endowment for the Humanities

National Gallery of Art

<http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/teachers.html>

#### **Scholastic**

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/africanamericanheritage/>

## History

<http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

## Education World

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_special/black\\_history.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_special/black_history.shtml)  
[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson221.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson221.shtml)

## Smithsonian

[http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource\\_library/african\\_american\\_resources.html](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/african_american_resources.html)

## Read Works

<http://tinyurl.com/jyk8lgw>

# Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories



The history of African American unfolds across the canvass of America, beginning before the arrival of the Mayflower and continuing to the present. From port cities where Africans disembarked from slave ships to the battle fields where their descendants fought for freedom, from the colleges and universities where they have pursued education, to places where they created communities during centuries of migration, the imprint of Americans of African descent is deeply embedded in the narrative of the American past, and the sites prompt us to remember. Over time, many of these sites of African American memory became hallowed grounds.

One cannot tell the story of America without preserving and reflecting on the places where African Americans have made history. The Kingsley Plantation, DuSable's home site, the numerous stops along the Underground Railroad, Seneca Village, Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church and Frederick Douglass' home – to name just a few.

<http://thenewjournalandguide.com/2015/11/25/black-history-month-them-for-2016/>

## Resources:

### HALLOWED GROUNDS: SITES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MEMORIES

[http://v77n78.blackhistorybulletin.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2015/08/BHB-Vol78-No2\\_Foreward.pdf](http://v77n78.blackhistorybulletin.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2015/08/BHB-Vol78-No2_Foreward.pdf)

### BLACK HISTORY TEACHING RESOURCES:

[http://smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource\\_library/african\\_american\\_resources.html](http://smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/african_american_resources.html)



[https://listencurrent.com/how\\_it\\_works](https://listencurrent.com/how_it_works)

Teach your students to listen with the Power of Public Radio. Listen Current makes it easy to bring authentic voices and compelling non-fiction stories to the classroom. We curate the best of public radio to keep teaching connected to the real world and build student listening skills at the same time.

Listen Current makes it easy to bring current events, authentic voices and engaging non-fiction stories to the classroom, curating the best of public radio to keep teaching connected to the real world while simultaneously building student listening skills. Listen Current Premium provides teaching resources that connect the public radio stories to standards in ELA, social studies and science for middle and high school teachers. Premium also includes scaffolding for English language learners and struggling readers that includes interactive transcripts and slowed audio.



## Common Core Standards - Teacher Resources

### Simple K12

“We spent hours sifting through resources to provide you with top-notch practical advice that will make all the difference in your Common Core Standards.”

<http://www.simplek12.com/common-core/common-core-standards-teacher-resources/>

### Tech Tools Perfect for Teaching Common Core Math Standards

<http://www.simplek12.com/common-core/tech-tools-perfect-for-teaching-common-core-math-standards/>



<http://www.powtoon.com/>

PowToon enables anyone with just a little tech comfort to make powerful animated graphic presentations.

PowerPoint presentations are dull and passé. Wow your next audience with a PowToon presentation and have them eating out of your hand! Go from dull to WOW!

Powtoon is a presentation tool that supercharges your presentations and videos!



Vocaroo is a free, online audio recording creator. It allows you to record your voice and gives you several options for sharing. It will provide a URL or give you the option to download to an MP3. You can also email it or embed it. Vocaroo will also create audio QR codes for you to print and post. If the recording is something you want to keep forever, you would need to download it. It is a flash-based program so you cannot use it on an iPad.

Ideas for student use:

- Students can record a finished writing project and create a QR code to display with their writing
- Use to record facts about a famous person and then create QR code to post with the famous person's pic
- Record the student explaining the steps used to solve a math problem and post the QR code with the math problem as an exemplar
- Students can embed their recording into their blog.

Vocarooo How to Sheet: <http://tinyurl.com/hf5k7ba>

Vocaroo Youtube tutorial: <https://youtu.be/dBU5OrAXcLw>



<https://kids.usa.gov/teachers/calendar/february/index.shtml>



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

This toolkit will help you navigate your child's journey from pre-kindergarten through high school. It is designed to help you track and support progress at each stage. Parent Toolkit tips and guides will help you support your child's growth and development both in the classroom and beyond.

Academic tips for parents offer advice and suggestions for activities designed to help you help your child learn. They provide ideas for ways in which you can be a more active partner in your child's education.





<http://www.joanganzcooneycenter.org/>

The Joan Ganz Cooney Center is an independent research and innovation lab that focuses on the challenges of educating children in a rapidly changing media landscape. We conduct original research on emerging education technologies and collaborate with educators and media producers to put this research into action.

The Center also aims to inform the national conversation on media and education by working with policymakers and investors. Our programs address the literacies that all young students need to succeed in the 21st century, including reading, writing, science and math, and mastery of communications technologies.

We are particularly interested in how children - especially those who are struggling - learn across both formal and informal environments, whether they are interacting with media on their own or together with teachers, family members or their peers.

Introduction Video to the Joan Ganz Cooney Center

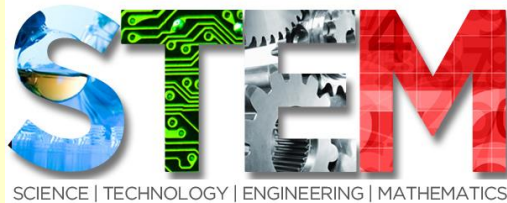
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGN547DpQ3k>

## 2016 Monthly Fun Facts Calendar



Click on the February link below to find fun activities on holidays, events, and celebrations. There's something worth celebrating every day!

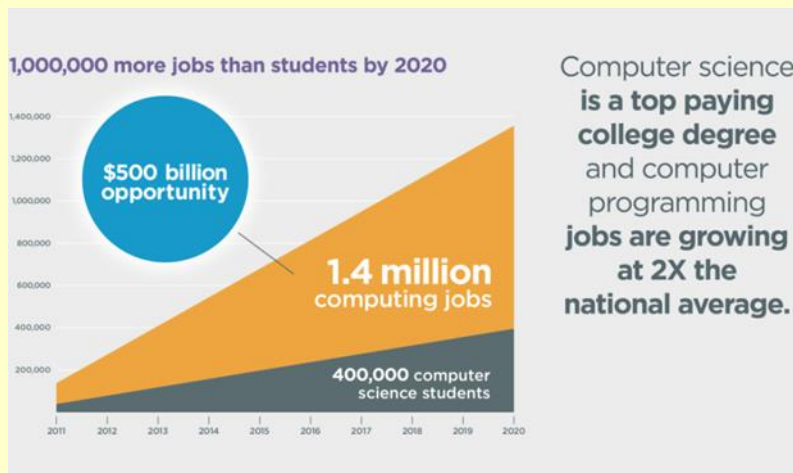
<http://life.familyeducation.com/calendar/printable/58376.html?month=2&year=2016&cc=us>



<http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=126258>

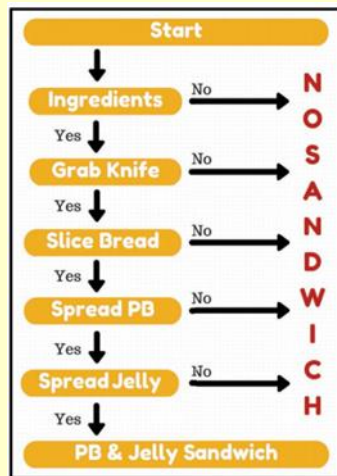
**100+ STEM WEBSITES & WEBTOOLS FOR TEACHERS**

Letia P. Cooper, Instructional Technology Specialist, M.Ed.  
Beaufort County School District.  
[www.techwithtia.com](http://www.techwithtia.com)



By the time our kids are adults, almost everything will run on code. Knowing how to code will be like knowing how to bake a cake or do your own laundry. It will be VERY important to your life!

Code is an ALGORITHM, which is a series of instructions on how to accomplish a task, like making a sandwich.



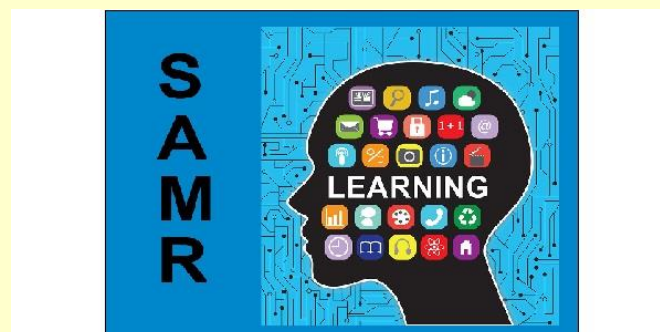
You don't need a computer to learn to code. Here are some UNPLUGGED activities to get you started:

Graph Paper Programming - <https://code.org/curriculum/course2/1/Teacher>

Cup Stacking - <https://csedweek.org/files/CSEDrobotics.pdf>

Grid Coloring - <https://code.org/curriculum/course2/1/Teacher>

Conditionals with Cards - <https://code.org/curriculum/course2/12/Teacher>



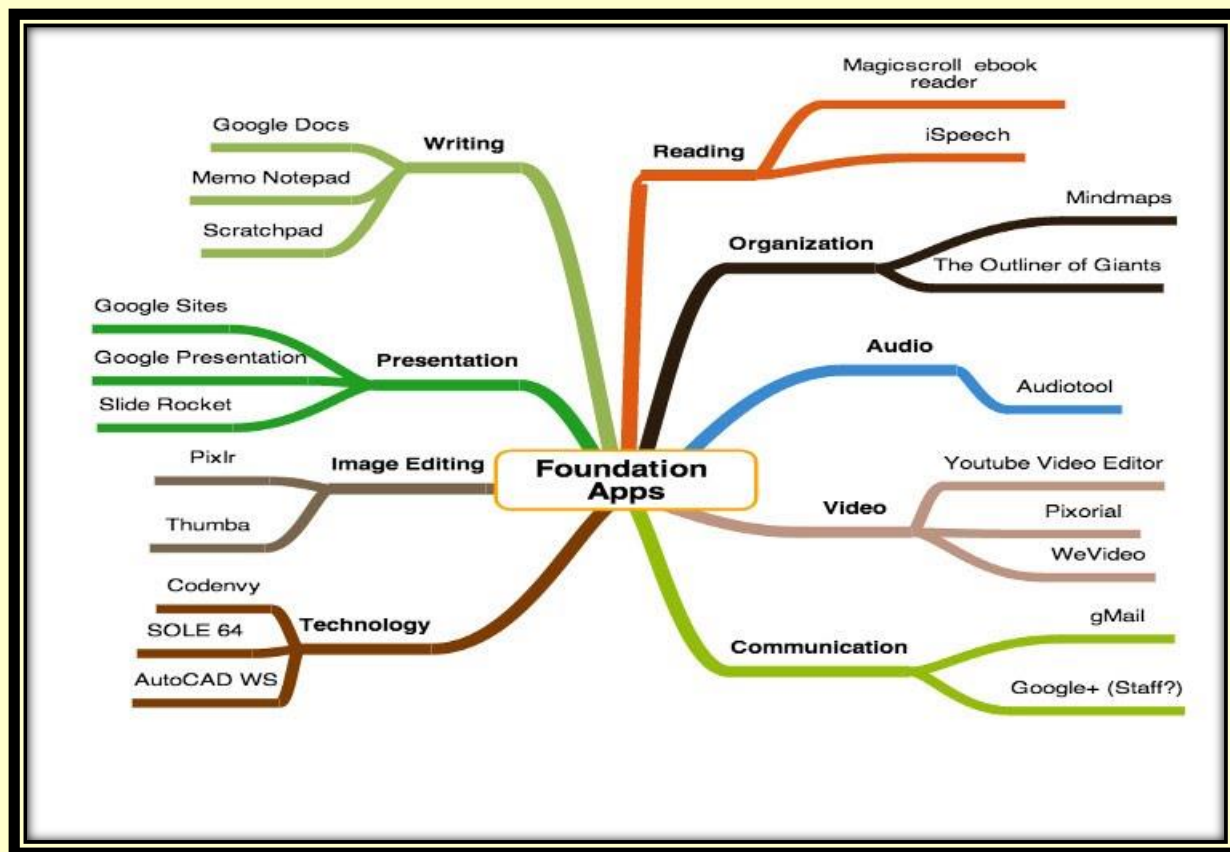
## Examples of Transforming Lessons Through the SAMR Cycle

<http://www.emergingedtech.com/2015/04/examples-of-transforming-lessons-through-samr/> Examples of Applying the SAMR Model can Help Teachers Understand and

Embrace it. The SAMR Model for integrating technology into teaching, developed by Dr. Ruben Puentedura, has gained a good deal of exposure in recent years. “SAMR” is an acronym that stands for Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, and Redefinition. The SAMR model provides a technique for moving through degrees of technology adoption to find more meaningful uses of technology in teaching and move away from simply using “tech for tech’s sake”.



## Chromebook Foundation Apps for Learning and Teaching.



<https://sites.google.com/a/msad60.org/technology-is-learning/resources>



# FREE ONLINE WEBINAR



## Flipping Your Classroom Using Free Resources

<http://home.edweb.net/webinar/flipping-your-classroom-using-free-resources/>

Wednesday, February 24, 2016 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm EST

The practice of flipping classrooms is becoming mainstream now - so much so that several online platforms have been constructed to help teachers with this process. Join educational tech enthusiast Shannon Holden as he reveals several free tools to help teachers (including teachers with no technological skills) deliver digital lessons to students. A CE certificate will be emailed to live attendees within 24 hours of the live event.



## Microsoft and SimpleK12 present:

Tips and Tricks for Using Microsoft Office and Sway!

## TWO FREE WEBINARS FOR TEACHERS

<https://simplek12.leadpages.co/microsoft-2-18/>



## Engaging Learners with Feedback and Collaborative Learning Environments

This event takes place on Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016, 2 to 3 p.m. ET.

Content provided by:

Responsive and creative use of technology is a powerful way to improve curriculum and assessment outcomes for students. But how do you successfully apply this technology to drive better learning and innovation in the classroom?

In this webinar, we will take a look at recent practices and research on the use of technology, including newer tools such as Skype in the classroom and Minecraft that will support teachers in effective integration of curricula and assessment in classrooms. We will discuss how you can leverage technology to engage your students and develop student-centered curriculum that will ensure they develop their innovation, creativity, and 21st century skills through deep learning. Specifically, we will review how you can use technology to do the following:

- Connect and engage learners,
- Personalize instruction,
- Support student collaboration, and
- Use problem-based learning to drive greater understanding.

<https://vts.inxpo.com/scripts/Server.nxp?LASCmd=AI:4;F:QS!10100&ShowKey=29914&partnerref=TOC>



## Google for Teachers: 100+ Tricks

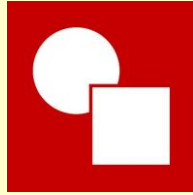
<https://www.thegooru.com/26-tips-for-teaching-with-google-apps/>

It's Google's world, we're just teaching in it.

Now, we can use it a little more easily. With classes, homework, and projects-not to mention your social life-time is truly at a premium for all teachers, so why not take advantage of the wide world that Google for teachers has to offer?

From super-effective search tricks, to Google tools for teachers, to tricks and tips for using Gmail, Google Docs, and Google Calendar, these Google tricks will surely save you some precious time when using technology in the classroom.

# GOOGLE DRAW



You can easily create, share, and edit drawings online by creating a drawing using Google Drawings. Whether you are trying to make a diagram or chart, or to paint an image, you can use the editing options in Google Drawings to create the drawing you want.

<https://support.google.com/docs/answer/179740?hl=en>

## Google Drawings CHEAT SHEET for Teachers and Students!

Google Drawings is very powerful, yet under-utilized tool! This Google Drawings Cheat Sheet will help new and experienced users learn how to use Google Drawings, including menu highlights and special, contextual menus.

<http://sumo.ly/cBK6>

## 15 FREE Google Drawings Graphic Organizers and How to Make Your Own

In Google Apps, there's a highly powerful yet highly overlooked app called Drawings. It gives users a blank canvas where they can add text, shapes, lines, etc. When done, they can save their work as image files or PDF files and can add those images to documents, slides and spreadsheets.

Drawings can be the virtual page where students can gather and process their ideas.

Creating graphic organizers can be done pretty easily. I've created 15 of them (see links below) that can be copied, saved, changed, tweaked or completely redone to fit your needs and your students' needs.

<http://tinyurl.com/kh9dmzj>



**TEACH**  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Grants for Teacher

<http://teach.com/what/grants-for-teachers>

Great teachers are always looking for new ways to expand their instruction and engage their students. Innovative teaching is important--but it can be expensive. Luckily, there are a wide variety of sources available for funding educational initiatives. Grants, fellowships and scholarships are available for teachers who want to help their students.

These funds come from all sorts of sources, from the federal government to private companies and charities, and they focus on a wide range of topics. Teaching grants can fund professional development, classroom enrichment, school supplies, field trips and almost anything else that goes into bettering the quality of education.

## Administrator's Resource Corner Discovery Admin Academy

<http://blog.discoveryeducation.com/blog/category/admin-academy/>

Greetings Discovery Principals! This week's update includes:

Trending Articles:

- 5 Innovations From The Past Decade That Aim To Change The American Classroom; Future Ready Summit Tackles How to Plan for Tomorrow's Ed Tech; New School Leaders' Standards Emphasize Instruction, Culture and Managing Talent; Teachers Without Mentors Leave the Profession Much Faster, Study Finds; and more.
- A FREE professional development about creating student projects where learning matters.
- A "One Idea" segment about magnet schools.
- Interactive learning modules for your teachers on literacy, assessment strategies, and FLIPping the classroom.
- A summer adventure for students that will have them traveling and learning about their world.
- A video to thank and inspire your teachers.



# TECHNOLOGY HUMOR

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"Laser printer needs adjusting."



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"Still nothing. You sure this is the best computer we have?"

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"They're OK, I guess. I just wish I could change the font."