

Digital Cameras in the Classroom



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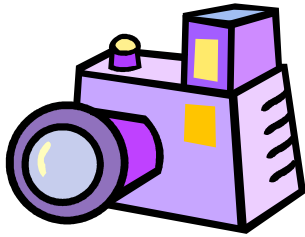
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Digital Camera Classroom Ideas

GENERAL USE:

- *Take a picture of each student-save on your computer for an easy screensaver
- *Take pictures of special rewards for students-FUN FRIDAY, 100% Club, etc.
- *Make a PowerPoint presentation to introduce a new lesson-take actual pictures instead of clipart.
- *Use pictures to keep in touch with moved students
- *Go on a picture scavenger hunt of a given topic in class, then have students explain why they fit into the lesson
- *Make WELCOME cards for Parent Night with their child's picture at their favorite place at school
- *Use pictures to document tasks for conferences, use them in a PowerPoint presentation with the parent
- *Take pictures while on your own vacation-use them to discuss curriculum areas (don't have a digital camera-develop film to a disk and use the same way)
- *Make digital postcards to send to family members or make Holiday cards

MATH

- *Use the student pictures for math-use them for addition, subtraction, etc. It's much more fun than fruit.
- *Make a pictograph with student pictures.
- *Group students by sorting and take pictures-use as a 1:1 oral assessment

FIELD TRIPS

- *Ask students to take pictures of field trips-these make EXCELLENT writing prompts the next day!
- *Assign student "reporters" for the trip

LANGUAGE ARTS

- *Take pictures of any class project-use these for classroom books
- *Ask students to take pictures of each other and write an interview

SCIENCE

- *Record science experiments
- *Print on cardstock and cut apart to make class puzzles
- *Record season changes on your campus and use to make a class book or discuss science topics

What the experts are saying about using digital cameras in the classroom.

"School Web Master" by Tim Burnett

Tim Burnett says there are three advantages to using digital cameras in the classroom.

- 1 You get to see your pictures instantly and can retake them right away if you need to.
- 2 You can print your pictures from your computer instead of taking them to a photo developer.
- 3 The ability to upload the pictures to an online photo service to share them with parents.

"Digitizing the Primary Classroom" by VaReane Hesse

VaReane Hesse says that something as simple as a digital camera is a way for teachers to prepare children to use technology so they will have an advantage in "the real world". Hesse also states that digital images will raise the enthusiasm level in your students' attitudes toward learning.

"Integrating Digital Cameras into the Language Classroom: A Sample Project" by John Rucynski, Jr.

John Rucynski is in favor of using digital cameras in the classroom because they provide the ability to be spontaneous with the class. Rucynski says that student taken pictures have a greater value than the textbook picture examples. He goes on to say that students using the digital cameras become more responsible for their own learning, and they even think learning is fun. Another thing Rucynski says is digital cameras are a convenient way to enhance classroom practices.

"Multimedia Schools" by Catherine and Terrence Cavanaugh
The Cavanaughs are in favor of adding digital cameras to the classroom as a curriculum tool because they add a "multimedia dimension to learning." They also believe that concept learning is related to visual cues. The visual cues (images) that are being used in the classroom should be as realistic as possible, and digital cameras make that possible. The Cavanaughs believe that digital cameras may be the most used technology tool used in schools today. One last thing they had to say was "placing a digital camera in the hand of student or teacher unleashes their creativity."

Digital Camera Websites

<http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/sbeck/digital/goingdigital.htm>

http://leader.education.louisville.edu/edtl/thompson/edem629/sum01/digital_camera_lessons.htm

<http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~ucfcasio/qvuses.htm>

<http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/jcheek3/digitalcameras.htm>

For more ideas, type in "digital cameras + classroom" using any search engine. You will find hundreds of sites with ideas!

Sources Used

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