THE LEARNING LINK

Integrating Technology Into the Curriculum

SPRING, 2006

ANIMATE YOUR TEACHING WITH BRAINPOP

Site: www.brainpop.com Username: building initials (e.g. lnes, bes, ses, nams1, nahs) Password: nasd

BrainPOP is an educational program providing content spanning 6 main subjects including: Science, Math, English, Social Studies, Health, and Technology. Within each subject, teachers will find hundreds of short, animated movies that speak to kids in a language and voice that they understand. Developed according to national standards (NCTM, NSES, & NCTE), BrainPOP's topics present students with an engaging, enlightening, and entertaining view of a given subject.
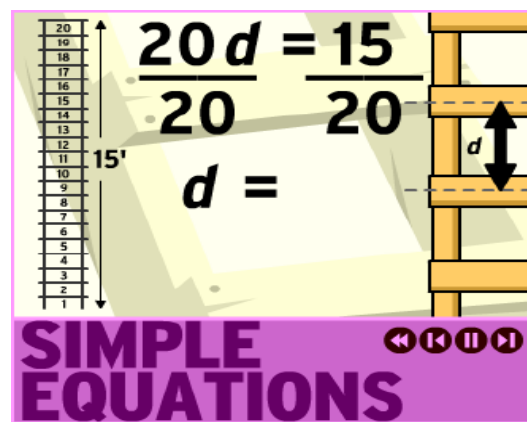
- BrainPop has over 500 animated movies aligned to state and national standards. Since the animations are web-based, students can access them from home or school.

- Each movie is accompanied by a 10-question interactive quiz, as well as printable activities and other corresponding resources.

- An interactive State Standards tool, lesson plans, and other resources for classroom integration are included.

- BrainPop has won several education and media awards and has partnerships with McGraw-Hill, National Geographic, and Discovery Education.

- To access, go to www.brainpop.com, enter building initials (**bes, lnes, ses, nams1, or nahs**) for username and **nasd** for password.
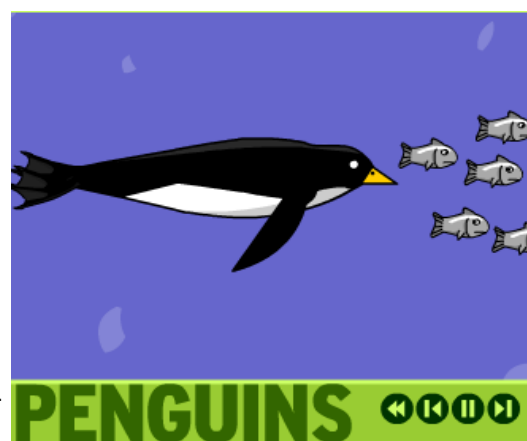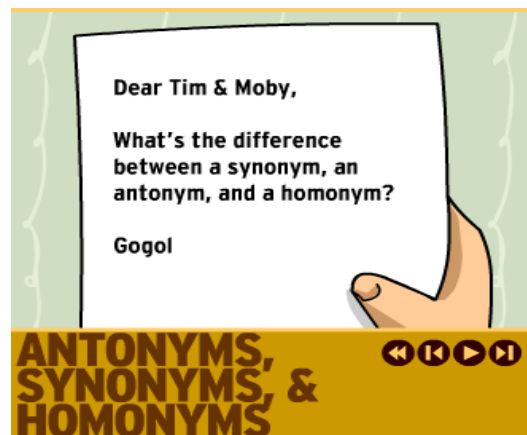
GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS: IMPACT ON STUDENT LEARNING

Graphic organizers are valuable instructional tools. Unlike many tools that just have one purpose, graphic organizers are flexible and endless in application. One common trait found among graphic organizers is that they show the order and completeness of a student's thought process - strengths and weaknesses of understanding become clearly evident. Many graphic organizers show different aspects of an issue/problem - in close and also the big picture. And since they work with a variety of learning styles—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic—they are well-suited for use in a differentiated classroom.

According to Robert Marzano's book, *Classroom Instruction That Works—Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement ,* there are several specific teaching strategies that help students organize and synthesize information, and graphic organizers can be a great tool for assisting with this process.

Instructional Practice—Identifying Similarities and Differences
Description: "Presenting students with explicit guidance in identifying similarities and differences enhances students' understanding of and ability to use knowledge." (p. 14)
Inspiration Template: Thinking Tree—Venn Diagram

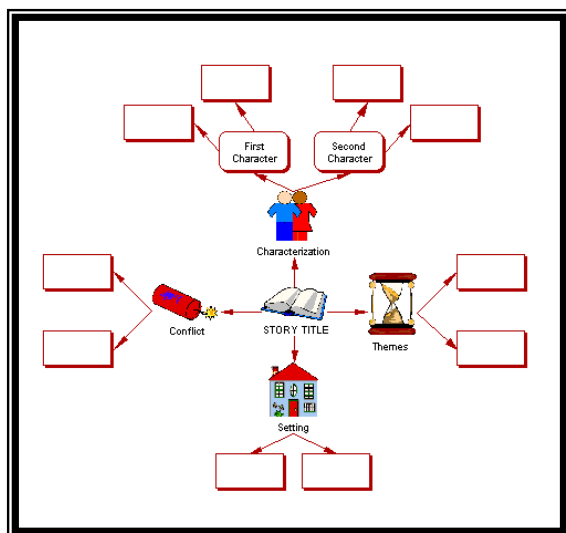**Instructional Practice—Student-Directed Classification Tasks**
Description: With student-directed classification tasks, students are given the items to classify but must form the categories themselves." (pps. 20-23)
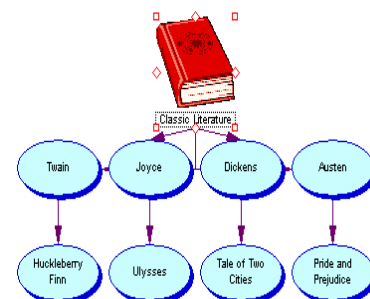Inspiration Template: Classification

I**nstructional Practice—Nonlinguistic Representations**
Description: "The more we use both systems of representation—linguistic and non-linguistic (i.e. pictures) -the better we are able to think about and recall knowledge." (pps. 72-87)
Inspiration Template: Literary Web (shown below)

Example of an Inspiration graphic organizer in Diagram View.

"The more we use both systems of representation—linguistic and nonlinguistic—the better we are able to think about and recall knowledge."
—Robert Marzano, *Classroom Instruction That Works*

The same graphic organizer information presented in Outline View.

Additional research, web sites, and information on graphic organizers can be found online at **http://www.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us/inspiration**.

ON THE WEB—GRAPHIC ORGANIZER RESOURCES

Graphic Organizers and Impact on Student Achievement
This document reviews the research collated in Robert Marzano's book, *Classroom Instruction That Works*, and how the best practices outlined in the book, such as use of classification and nonlinguistic representations, can be supported by the use of graphic organizer tools such as Inspiration and Kidspiration.
Graphic Organizers - Research and Examples

Inspiration - PA Standards Alignment Documents
Interested in how Inspiration and Kidspiration can help address the PA standards? These documents allow the user to click on a PA academic standard and see a listing of the Inspiration or Kidspiration templates currently available to address the standard.
PA Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening Standards and Inspiration/Kidspiration

PA Mathematic Standards and Inspiration/Kidspiration

World Of Inspired Resources
Inspiration's site has additional templates and lesson plans organized by grade levels (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12).
http://www.inspiration.com/resources/index.cfm

Graphic.org
One of the most popular sites for information regarding the use of graphic organizers. Includes a number of downloadable templates organized by thought process (describing, comparing, contrasting, classifying, sequencing, causal, and decision-making).
http://www.graphic.org/goindex.html

Write Design Online
Well-organized site with resources for using graphic organizers as part of the writing process.
http://www.inspiration.com/resources/index.cfm

Spartansburg School District Inspiration/Kidspiration Templates
Collated by teacher Tom Taylor, this site has a large number of downloadable templates organized by multiple subject areas.
http://www.spart5.k12.sc.us/TechTraining/InspirationMatrix.htm

Graphic Organizers for Reading
Focused on language arts, this site contains links to resources for creating story maps based on books students have read, and also includes PowerPoint and other training resources to help demonstrate how to use Inspiration with students.
http://richmond.k12.va.us/readamillion/graphicorganizers.htm

Region 15 Graphic Organizers
Region 15 is the Pomperaug Regional School District. The staff there have created and posted one of the best collections of graphic organizers available on the web. What makes this collection special is the ability to download the files as editable MS Word documents that can be modified and downloaded to a local computer or network folder.
http://www.region15.org/curriculum/graphicorg.html

All resources can be found on the district web site under Administration/Educational Technology/Graphic Organizers or through the direct link,
http://www.nazarethasd.k12.pa.us/inspiration.

PA language arts templates

"Presenting students with explicit guidance in identifying similarities and differences enhances students' understanding..."

—Robert Marzano, *Classroom Instruction That Works*

PA mathematics templates

TECH*KNOWLEDGE*-Y RESOURCES

THE WHY FILES (WHYFILES.ORG)

Each week, The Why Files publishes a new, illustrated article on the science behind the headlines. The stories have compelling graphics, are written in plain English, and cover their topics well—and with a certain sense of humor. Topics addressed include science, health, environment, and technology. Material is organized for students in grades 5-8 or 9-12.

LITERACYNET.ORG

Great resource for struggling readers. The content consists of current and past news stories on a wide range of topics. Students may choose to read the text, listen to the text, or view a video clip (courtesy of CNN) of the story. Each module includes online activities to test vocabulary and comprehension.

SHODOR INTERACTIVE (WWW.SHODOR.ORG/INTERACTIVATE)

Project Interactivate focuses on concepts in numbers and operations, geometry and measurement, functions and algebra, and probability and statistics, incorporating more then 100 activities and more than three-dozen interactive tools. All activities are keyed to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION GUIDE
WWW.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM/EDUCATION

This is the National Geographic's home base for teachers. It's organized to show National Geographic's collection of education sites, with tabs linking to Lesson Plans, Maps & Photos, Professional Development, and Current Events.

READ-WRITE-THINK - (WWW.READWRITETHINK.ORG)
ReadWriteThink, established in 2002, is a partnership between the International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers of English. The goal of the site is to provide educators and students with access to the highest quality practices and resources in reading and language arts through free, web-based resources.

DIGITAL HISTORY (WWW.DIGITALHISTORY.UH.EDU)
The Digital History Web Site exists to support the teaching of American History in K-12 schools and colleges. The site consists of an original multimedia textbook, classroom handouts, multimedia exhibitions, chronologies, maps, audio archives, and visual archives.

> "Digital History contains many notable features for both students and teachers."
> *101 Best Web Sites for Teachers*