Learning with Wikis and Blogs

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For Teachers

Introduction

Wikis and blogs are increasingly available on the internet for anyone to read or create their own. This means they are increasingly used as a teaching tool in the classroom. This program explains what a wiki is, gives detailed examples of how wikis can be used in the classroom for educational purposes and demonstrates how to create one. Blogs are kept by many people around the world. Blogs are often created by experts in their field, teachers who use them for teaching a particular topic, and students. This program explains how blogs can be used for educational purposes as well as how you can create a blog.

Timeline

00:00:00  Introduction
00:01:08  An Introduction to Wikis and Blogs
00:04:05  What is a Wiki?
00:07:38  Using Wikis for Education Purposes
00:12:32  What is a Blog?
00:16:15  Using Blogs for Education Purposes
00:20:16  Conclusion
00:20:45  Credits
00:21:20  End program

Related Titles

Introducing Microsoft OneNote
Internet Ethics and Young People
Keeping Safe Online

Recommended Resources

- [http://www.edubogs.org/](http://www.edubogs.org/)
- [http://wikisineducation.wetpaint.com/](http://wikisineducation.wetpaint.com/)
- [http://wikisineducation.wetpaint.com/?wpcmp=educp1&t=anon](http://wikisineducation.wetpaint.com/?wpcmp=educp1&t=anon)
- [http://www.scienceofspectroscopy.info/](http://www.scienceofspectroscopy.info/)
Student Worksheet

Initiate Prior Learning

1. Create a concept map of what a wiki is?
2. Discuss with your class, how might a wiki be able to be used?
3. Create a concept map of what a blog might be?
Active Viewing Guide

1. Do wikis encourage participation and collaboration? (True or False) _________________

2. Do blogs encourage participation and collaboration? (True or False) _________________

3. Where does the term wiki come from?
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is a wiki?
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

5. Why aren’t all websites wikis?
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_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

6. What is the most successful wiki in the world? Why is it so popular?
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________

7. Is Wikipedia as accurate as other online encyclopedias? (Yes or No) _________________

8. Why use wikis in education?
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
9. List some ways you can use wikis in the classroom?
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_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
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_________________________________________________________________________________

10. What is a blog?
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_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
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_________________________________________________________________________________

11. How are blogs and wikis different?
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_________________________________________________________________________________
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_________________________________________________________________________________

12. Why do people create blogs?
_________________________________________________________________________________
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13. In what ways can blogs be used in the classroom?
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Extension Activities

1. Brainstorm different types of blogs that may be useful to you then:
   a) Search for some of these types of blogs.
   b) Share your findings with the class.

2. Brainstorm different types of wikis that might be useful to you then:
   a) Search for some of these wikis.
   b) Share your findings with the class.

3. Create your own blog (remember there are instructions in the program for doing this).

4. Create your own wiki (there are also instructions for this in the program).

5. Find the blog of a class similar to the one you are in and follow it on a regular basis for the school term or year. Remember, you can comment on the blog posts as often or as little as you want.
**Suggested Student Responses**

**Active Viewing Guide**

1. Do wikis encourage participation and collaboration? (True or False) **True**

2. Do blogs encourage participation and collaboration? (True or False) **True**

3. Where does the term wiki come from?  
   *It comes from the Hawaiian term meaning ‘quickly, quickly’.*

4. What is a wiki?  
   *A wiki is a website which anyone can edit. For example, one person writes something on the website and another can edit it and change it in different ways. It allows users to create, edit and share content collaboratively.*

5. Why aren’t all websites wikis?  
   *Other websites are locked so that no one except the authors of the website can change them.*

6. What is the most successful wiki in the world? Why is it so popular?  
   *Wikipedia is the most successful wiki in the world and is an online encyclopedia. It was established in 2001. Thousands of people have contributed to Wikipedia.*

7. Is Wikipedia as accurate as other online encyclopedias? (Yes or No) **Yes**

8. Why use wikis in education?  
   *Wikis allow for the classroom to be less teacher-centered and makes the classroom more student focused. The teacher becomes the facilitator. They promote group work.*

9. List some ways you can use wikis in the classroom?  
   *Answers will vary but include creating recipe books, collaborating with other classes across the world, assignments etc.*

10. How are blogs and wikis different?  
    *They are very different. A wiki is an environment that people can put material together and build resources. A blog is more of a communication tool where teachers and students are able to ‘talk’ to each other and comment on each other’s posts. Also, a wiki is a collaborative tool, whereas a blog is similar but it is initiated by one person and that one person is the blogger.*

11. Why do people create blogs?  
    *They are created when someone has something to say. Previously people would keep diaries.*

12. In what ways can blogs be used in the classroom?  
    *Answers will vary as they can be used in education for a variety of ways. These include hosting class discussions, and as school or class newsletters. Parents and other members of the community can comment on the posts.*