

ALTEC NEWSLETTER



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Exciting New Math Games at Arcademic Skill Builders

Building on the success of the multi-player games on Arcademic Skill Builders, the game creators at ALTEC have come up with a new type of game called "tug of war." Up to eight students can play at one time, four on each team. The games were created in an arcade-like format to build upon the ability of games to engage learners to improve their skills in a challenging game environment. The new games include: Tugboat Addition, Tug of War: Fractions, and Tug of War: Multiplication.

The games are designed so that the more quickly each team answers the math problem, the more "tug" there is to one side. The first team to pull its boat over the buoy wins. The game adds additional excitement because it's team against team, which makes the game both collaborative and competitive. Arcademic Skillbuilders has received excellent feedback from teachers regarding the use of these games to improve test scores in math. The games are designed to meet state standards in math and language arts. Teachers use the games for homework and practice, cooperative learning, and to reinforce learning through their instant corrective feedback.

Students can visit the Web site at any time and join an existing game in a completely safe environment. The site collects no personal information about the student. The player just chooses a randomly generated player name or types in a player name of his/her choice and clicks CREATE. The player then can host a game or join an existing game to get started. Visit <http://arcademicskillbuilders.com> to get started!

COLLABORATE

... CONNECT WITH CLASSROOMS AROUND THE WORLD

Technologies such as Skype and interactive video conferencing make it easy for students to work on projects with students in other classrooms anywhere in the world. Rather than assigning a student project and limiting participation to just the students in one classroom, teachers are using the Internet to connect with other classrooms within their own school building, across districts, and even classrooms in other countries. This month, we wanted to share some of the more popular Web sites that are designed to make it easy for teachers to find other teachers who are interested in participating in collaborative projects.

Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education

<http://ciese.org/currichome.html>

CIESE sponsors dozens of collaborative projects for K-12 classrooms in math and science. Participation is free and each project has a Fall and Spring session that classrooms can choose to participate in. Here are some sample topics that students will explore:

- How does our proximity to the equator affect hours of sunlight and daily temperature?
- Human genetics: do dominant traits occur more frequently than recessive traits?
- Are organisms found in pond water the same all over the world?
- What impact are humans having on oceans?
- Compare the water quality of your local lake, stream, or pond with fresh water sources around the world.

These are just a few of the projects and resources available to you at this Web site.

ePaLs

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

ePals is the largest global learning community on the Internet. It provides a place for students, educators, and districts around the world to connect and collaborate in a safe and secure environment. ePALS provides three **free**, user-friendly solutions for educators. SchoolMail, SchoolBlog, and Classroom Match are easy to set up and are closely monitored for kid-safe content. Using ePals' instant translation tool, students can communicate easily with students around the world in eight different languages. No additional hardware or software is needed to use ePals; a computer with an Internet connection is all you need to get started.

ePals' Projects Page has projects covering a wide variety of subjects including: global warming, habitats, water, weather, and focus areas such as the election, black history, human rights, and geography. You can join an existing project, or post a project of your own and ePals' Connect with Classrooms feature will help you find a classroom to collaborate with. Teacher guides, helpful tips, and easy-to-follow instructions are provided to help you get started on your project right away. Visit the Web site for complete details.



Global Schoolhouse

<http://www.gsn.org/gsh/pr/index.cfm>

Global Schoolhouse is a project registry that has an archive of more than 2,300

collaborative projects completed. There are 89 projects currently in progress with 54 still accepting registrations and 10 future projects already registered. This Internet projects registry is hosted by the Global SchoolNet Foundation. Here are some new projects that are starting this spring:

- A day in the life of students around the globe – Language Arts Project
- Learn about winter in Canada – Community Interest Project
- Carpooling Earth Day – Science/Math Project
- Midsummer Night's Dream across the sea – Literature Project
- The Great Chocolate Experience – Math Project
- Where have all the factories gone? – Economics Project

Visit Global Schoolhouse for complete details about each project.



Journey North

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>

Journey North is a free Internet-based project that allows students to track wildlife migration and seasonal change. Projects are divided into three categories: Sunlight and the Seasons, Plants and the Seasons, and Seasonal Migrations. Teachers can go to the Web site and choose a project, register for the project, and then access the guides, lesson activities, reading connections and interactive maps for each project.

This Spring the Sunlight and Seasons project is a "mystery class" project that runs from February through May 2009. Each week students will record their local sunrise and sunset times and calculate day length on their data sheets. At the same time, 10 mystery classes will record the same data, which will be posted on Friday of each week. On May 1 students will be asked to predict where the 10 mystery classes are hiding, using their knowledge of sunrise

and sunset times throughout the year for areas with proximity to the equator and the data posted by the 10 mystery classrooms each week.

The Plants and Seasons project will track the arrival of spring by keeping an eye on Red Emperor tulips planted by 400 classrooms this past fall. Students will record the progress on real-time maps. The Seasonal Migrations project has eight projects available this spring. The Spring projects available are: Whooping Cranes, Bald Eagles, Hummingbirds, Robins, Monarch Butterflies, Symbolic Migration, Gray Whales, and a general project called Other Favorite Signs of Spring. Visit Journey North for complete details.

Monster Exchange

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

Monster Exchange is an extremely popular K-8 English writing collaborative project that challenges students to draw a monster and write a detailed description of it to send to another student. The receiving student then draws a picture of the monster based on the description provided and sends it to the creator to compare to the original. The pictures are scanned and posted online at the Monster Gallery. Students then receive feedback through e-mail. The Monster Exchange project is designed to meet educational standards for Language Arts grammar and writing skills. There are currently more than 163,000 students participating in this project.



Flat Stanley

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

Flat Stanley is a pen pal project that originated in Ontario, Canada. Students create a paper Flat Stanley using a template available at the Web site. They keep a journal of Flat Stanley's adventures and then send him on to

another classroom as a guest. The host classroom keeps a journal of their adventures with their Flat Stanley guest and sends it back to the original classroom. Some classes have taken video journals, some participate through e-mail, and others create photo journals and Web sites of their adventures with Flat Stanley. He's been all over the world! Visit the Web site and read success stories, visit the photo gallery, register (it's free) and find a class to partner with. The site is also filled with great ideas for classroom projects with Flat Stanley, including research and creative writing topics, art, drama, modeling, and inventions. Each idea comes with a Hint of the Week to help teachers find creative ways to use Flat Stanley in the classroom.

Jenuine Tech

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

This site was created in 1999 to help teachers in Pre-K-6 classrooms integrate technology into the classroom in creative and effective ways. You will

find a list of projects, online seminars, a blog, and helpful resources. The creator of the site, Jennifer Wagner, has hosted more than 50 online collaborative projects. At the site you will find a wonderful archive of all of those projects that will certainly inspire some new ideas for your classroom. You will also find a list of current projects. Here are a few of the projects available now:

- Happy Birthday, Mr. Lincoln – a site is provided with four activities to choose from, expansion ideas, lesson plans, standards, and additional resources.
- St. Patrick's Day Project – a site is provided with project details, language arts, math, and computer skills activities, printable worksheets, standards, and additional resources.
- The Shape of Things – students create one-of-a-kind masterpieces using only circles, triangles, and squares.

Go to the Web site and register for free!

Need teacher training? We can help!

ALTEC Professional Development



Listed below are the online and onsite sessions we currently offer:

ONSITE SESSIONS

An LCD Projector in the Classroom
An Interactive Whiteboard in the Classroom
The Power of Video-based Learning
Math Illustrated: Using Geometer's Sketchpad
Advanced Microsoft Office
Creative Thinking Skills Using Handhelds
Strategic Technology Planning
Technology Integration Academy
Podcasting: Educational Applications
Custom Staff Inservice Days

ONLINE SESSIONS

Online Project Based Learning
Online Inspiration, Kidspiration, Kidpix
Online Interactive Whiteboard Intensive
Online Annenberg Math Resources
Online Microsoft Access

Please visit the ALTEC Professional Development Web site at <http://pd.altec.org> for complete details. An ALTEC representative will be happy to assist you with pricing, registration, and custom training options.



Conference Calendar

Meet ALTEC Staff at these Upcoming Conferences!

KSDE Annual Conference

Kansas State Department of Education

Date: April 30 & May 1, 2009

Location: Hyatt Regency and Century II Convention Complex, Wichita, KS

Web site:

<http://conferences.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2762>

TechNet

Date: March 12, 2009

Location: Raymore-Peculiar High School, Peculiar, MO

Web site:

<http://education.umkc.edu/kcrpdc/technetconf09.pdf>

MACE

Mid-America Association for Computers in Education

Date: March 5-6, 2009

Location: Kansas State University Alumni Center, Manhattan, KS

Web site:

<http://www.mace-ks.org/maceconference.htm>

RCET-SW

Southwest Education and Technology Conference 2009

Date: March 3-4, 2009

Location: Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

Web site:

<http://associations.missouristate.edu/RCET/conference.htm>

NECC 2009

National Educational Computing Conference

Date: June 28-July 1, 2009

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Web site:

<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/>

ALTEC PROVIDES SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOUR EXISTING PROJECTS

If you have an existing or proposed project, ALTEC can develop and host your Web site, support your online community with discussion boards, set up your video conference, or custom-design a software application to meet your needs. Propose stronger projects and programs using ALTEC's over 15 years of expertise in educational technology, special needs, professional development, and evaluation. Please call us at 785 864 0699 to set up a free consultation. We're happy to assist you with all your technology needs.

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