



“Free for the Clicking”: Cool Free Online Resources

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The internet provides a wealth of engaging resources for teachers **absolutely free**. See 30+ websites and programs such as Prezi, Picasa, Wolfram Alpha, Google Docs, PB Works wikis, and Thinkfinity in action then put them to work for yourself, your students, and your chapters.

 The logo for Assign-A-Day features a red checkmark on the left and the text "Assign-A-Day" in a red, serif font on the right, with a thin red underline beneath the text.	<p>http://assignaday.4teachers.org/</p>	<p>Assign-A-Day is a free tool designed to enhance teacher and student communication through an online teacher-managed calendar. Teachers create a calendar for each of their classes and add assignments for the students to view. Students view their teachers' calendars in order to see assignments for classes they might have missed, or to get an overview of the class.</p> <p>http://assignaday.4teachers.org/</p>
 The Audacity logo consists of a pair of blue headphones on the left, with a yellow and red audio waveform inside the earcups. To the right of the headphones, the word "Audacity" is written in a blue, serif font with a registered trademark symbol.	<p>http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/</p>	<p>Audacity is a free, easy-to-use and multilingual audio editor and recorder for Windows, Mac OS X, GNU/Linux and other operating systems. You can use Audacity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Record live audio.Convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs.Edit Ogg Vorbis, MP3, WAV or AIFF sound files.Cut, copy, splice or mix sounds together.Change the speed or pitch of a recording. <p>http://audacity.sourceforge.net/about/</p>



The Big Picture

News stories in photographs

<http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/>

The Boston Globe's Big Picture series is one of the finest example of photojournalism on the Internet. Updated every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, The Big Picture summarizes major world events in 30 or so large format, high quality pictures with brief captions accompanying each photo. What makes The Big Picture so effective and so innovative is that it shifts from the typical tiny-sized, slide show or click-through format favored by many news sites. Instead the photos are presented vertically down the screen with minimalist design. <http://www.instantfundas.com/2010/05/boston-globe-big-picture-gallery.html>



CamStudio™

OPEN SOURCE






<http://camstudio.org/>




CamStudio is a screencasting program for Microsoft Windows released as free software. The software renders videos in an AVI format. It can also convert these AVIs into Flash Video format, embedded in SWF files. CamStudio is written in Microsoft Visual C++.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CamStudio>








<http://www.flubaroo.com/flubaroo-user-guide>





Flubaroo is a free tool that helps you quickly grade multiple-Choice or fill-in-blank assignments. Besides grading, Flubaroo also calculates average assignment score, computes average score per question, and flags low-scoring questions, shows you a grade distribution graph, and gives you the option to email each student their grade, and an answer key. In order to use Flubaroo, you must have a Google Docs or Gmail Account.
<http://scyuen.wordpress.com/2011/04/01/flubaroo/>

	http://www.google.com > “more” drop-down menu > “Calendar”	<p>Google Calendar is a free time-management web application offered by Google. It became available on April 13, 2006, and exited the beta stage in July 2009. Users are required to have a Google Account in order to use the software.</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Calendar</p>
	http://www.google.com > “more” drop-down menu > “Documents”	<p>Google Docs is an easy-to-use online word processor, spreadsheet and presentation editor that enables you and your students to create, store and share instantly and securely, and collaborate online in real time. You can create new documents from scratch or upload existing documents, spreadsheets and presentations. There's no software to download, and all your work is stored safely online and can be accessed from any computer. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Docs</p>
	http://www.google.com/earth/index.html	<p>Google Earth is a virtual globe, map and geographic information program that was originally called EarthViewer 3D, and was created by Keyhole, Inc, a company acquired by Google in 2004.</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Earth</p>
 	http://www.google.com > “more” drop-down menu > “Documents”	<p>You can create a form from the Docs list or from any spreadsheet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Click Create new > Form. + In the form template that opens, you can add any questions and options you'd like. + Click Email this form once you've finished adding your questions. + Add the email addresses of the people to whom you want to send this form.

		<p>✚ Click Send. http://docs.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=87809</p>
	<p>http://maps.google.com</p>	<p>Google Maps (formerly Google Local) is a web mapping service application and technology provided by Google, free (for non-commercial use), that powers many map-based services, including the Google Maps website, Google Ride Finder, Google Transit, and maps embedded on third-party websites via the Google Maps API. It offers street maps, a route planner for traveling by foot, car, or public transport and an urban business locator for numerous countries around the world. Google Maps satellite images are not in real time; they are several months or years old. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Googlemaps</p>
	<p>http://sktechup.google.com</p>	<p>SketchUp is a 3D modeling program designed for architects, civil engineers, filmmakers, game developers, and related professions. It also includes features to facilitate the placement of models in Google Earth. It is designed to be easier to use than other 3D CAD programs. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Sketchup</p>
	<p>http://www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/</p>	<p>iTunes U — a powerful distribution system for everything from lectures to language lessons, films to labs, audiobooks to tours — is an innovative way to get educational content into the hands of students. iTunes U brings the power of the iTunes Store to education, making it simple to distribute information to your students and faculty — or to lifelong learners all over the world. With an iTunes U site, your institution has a single home for all the digital content created or curated by educators, which can then be easily downloaded and viewed on any Mac, PC, iPod, or iPhone. http://www.apple.com/education/itunes-u/what-is.html</p>

	http://librivox.org/	<p>LibriVox volunteers record chapters of books in the public domain and release the audio files back onto the net. Our goal is to make all public domain books available as free audio books.</p> <p>http://librivox.org/</p>
	http://www.newseum.org/index.html	<p>Newseum's Today's Front Pages features the front pages of 894 newspapers from 92 countries.</p> <p>http://www.newseum.org/index.html</p>
	http://www.openoffice.org/	<p>OpenOffice.org 3 is the leading open-source office software suite for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and more. It is available in many languages and works on all common computers. It stores all your data in an international open standard format and can also read and write files from other common office software packages. It can be downloaded and used completely free of charge for any purpose.</p> <p>http://why.openoffice.org/</p>
	http://picasa.google.com/	<p>Picasa is a software application for organizing and editing digital photos, originally created by Idealab and owned by Google since 2004. "Picasa" is a blend of the name of Spanish painter Pablo Picasso, the phrase mi casa for "my house" and "pic" for pictures (personalized art).</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picasa</p>

 <p>Agile Gallery</p>	<p>http://www.agilegallery.com/flash-photo-gallery.html</p>	<p>AgileGallery is an AJAX photo gallery that rips through the XML output from Picasa (a free download from Google) and generates the paging and thumbnails and displays the full sized photos along with any description entered in Picasa. http://code.downseeker.com/free-agile-gallery-1/</p>
 <p>PDFCreator</p>	<p>http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/</p>	<p>PDFCreator is an adware application for converting documents into Portable Document Format (PDF) format on Microsoft Windows operating systems. It works by creating a virtual printer that prints to PDF files, and thereby allows practically any application to create PDF files by choosing to print from within the application and then printing to the PDFCreator printer. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PDFCreator</p>
	<p>http://download.cnet.com/Photo-Story-3-for-Windows/3000-12511_4-10339154.html</p>	<p>Microsoft Photo Story is a free application that allows users to create a show and tell presentation from their digital photos. The software uses the Ken Burns Effect on digital photos and allows adding narration, effects, transitions and background music to create a Windows Media Video movie file with pan and zoom effects. Once a photo story has been made it can be played on a PC using Windows Media Player. The final free download version (3.0) includes the ability to randomly generate background music which is composed on the fly from a combination of themes and also includes basic photo editing and touchup features. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photo_Story</p>
	<p>http://www.portaportal.com/</p>	<p>Portaportal is a web based bookmarking utility that lets you store links to your favorite websites online. Now your bookmarks are no longer limited to any one machine. You may also directly link to your portal on your website to give “Guest” access to your students.</p>

	http://www.polleverywhere.com	<p>Poll Everywhere replaces expensive proprietary audience response hardware with standard web technology. It's the easiest way to gather live responses in any venue: conferences, presentations, classrooms, radio, tv, print — anywhere. It can help you to raise money by letting people pledge via text messaging. And because it works internationally with texting, web, or Twitter, its simplicity and flexibility are earning rave reviews.</p> <p>http://www.polleverywhere.com</p>
	http://www.prezi.com	<p>Prezi is a web-based presentation tool using a map layout and zooming to show contextual relationships which addresses some of the shortcomings of Microsoft PowerPoint.</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prezi</p>
 <p><i>Create Rubrics for your Project-Based Learning Activities</i></p>	http://rubistar.4teachers.org/	<p>RubiStar is a free tool to help teachers create quality rubrics.</p> <p>http://rubistar.4teachers.org/</p>
	http://www1.teachertube.com/	<p>TeacherTube is a video sharing website similar to, and based on, YouTube. It is designed to allow those in the educational industry, particularly teachers, to share educational resources such as video, audio, documents, photos, groups and blogs. The site contains a mixture of classroom teaching resources and others designed to aid teacher training. A number of students have also uploaded videos that they have made as part of K-12 and college courses.</p> <p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TeacherTube</p>



<http://thinkfinity.org/>

Verizon Thinkfinity contains thousands of free lesson plans and student materials for every core subject, designed by the leading educational organizations in the United States. Tens of thousands of FREE educational resources. Access and use resources from school or home! A partnership between the Verizon Foundation and the nation's leading educational organizations FREE professional development.

<http://www.slideshare.net/bekcikelly/what-is-thinkfinity1>



<http://tizmos.com/>

Tizmos is a personalized homepage that allows you to see thumbnails of your favorite sites (tizmos) all in one place. You can add, edit, and delete Tizmos on your page. A Tizmo is a website added to your Tizmos personalized homepage. Tizmos can be dragged and dropped, edited, and deleted. Tizmos is 100% free.



<http://www.tizmos.com/about>



<http://visual.merriam-webster.com/>

A **visual dictionary** is a dictionary that primarily uses pictures to illustrate the meaning of words. Visual dictionaries are often organized by themes, instead of being an alphabetical list of words. For each theme, an image is labeled with the correct word to identify each component of the item in question. Visual dictionaries can be monolingual or multilingual, providing the names of items in several languages. An index of all defined words is usually included to assist finding the correct illustration that defines the word.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visual_dictionary

	http://www.wolframalpha.com/	<p>Wolfram Alpha introduces a fundamentally new way to get knowledge and answers — not by searching the web, but by doing dynamic computations based on a vast collection of built-in data, algorithms, and methods.</p> <p>http://www.wolframalpha.com/about.html</p>
	http://www.wordle.net/	<p>Wordle is a toy for generating “word clouds” from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. The images you create with Wordle are yours to use however you like. You can print them out, or save them to the Wordle gallery to share with your friends.</p> <p>http://www.wordle.net/</p>