

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

Taking students on a virtual field trip is a great way to spark their interests and motivate their learning in a specific content area. While field trips offer a great learning opportunity, they can be hard to organize and time consuming. So, what are virtual field trips?

Virtual field trips are interactive Web-based experiences that guide students through an exploration of content about themes, such as a specific place or time. Virtual field trips can offer students more opportunities because you can take them to places they wouldn't normally be able to go to otherwise - like inside a volcano or ocean floor! In addition, virtual field trips may even boost students' reading comprehension skills and will expose them to different cultures and environments.


Although virtual field trips may not offer the same sensory experience as being the physical location, they do have advantages over traditional on-site field trips. One advantage is the freedom students are given to move at their own pace, or that students have the time to explore the virtual environment with as much detail as they want - reading and interacting with the content at a pace that is appropriate for them. Additionally, by encouraging students to explore topics related to their own depth of interest, they are given the opportunity to take control of their own learning, making it a more meaningful experience. And guess what? Students and teachers can revisit these field trips over and over, providing many opportunities to review and explore.

10 Tips on how to get your teachers to use virtual field trips:

1. Distribute the [Guide for Teachers](#) accordingly and make sure your teachers take our "Conduct Virtual Field Trips" lesson.
 2. Encourage teachers to collaborate and share ideas and tips regarding virtual field trips. The best ideas come from collaboration and team work!
 3. Advertise virtual field trips around your school for your teachers, encouraging them! These could be e-mails, printed flyers, etc...
 4. Support your teachers in venturing to the Web for virtual field trips already created by other educators. This is a great place for your teachers to get an idea of how to create their own or just to experiment with existing ones to see if virtual field trips are a good fit for their students. Check out our list of over [100 free virtual field trips](#).
 5. Hold a school-wide contest, by grade, school building, etc. and give awards to classes. Set up different categories of awards: Best Design, Most Unique Location, Farthest Distance, Most Interactive, etc...
 6. If teachers are hesitant to use their own, create a virtual field trip of your school or local community - something that would be easy for you! Send it out to all of your teachers and show them how easy it was for you to make one!
 7. Encourage teachers to use virtual field trips as assignments. In groups, students can create virtual field trips, and then the teacher will have a repository of field trips made by previous classes.
 8. Hold a one hour workshop introducing field trips to your teachers. Start off by taking them on a wild, interactive adventure with a virtual field trip of your choice - or use one you made. Make sure you share our "Conduct Virtual Field Trips" lesson to help the teacher become more comfortable and confident.
 9. Designate a "Virtual Field Trip" week at your school to promote use in the classroom.
 10. Talk to your school Principals about virtual field trips. Having their support will help you on your mission!
- Brainstorm to come up with a plan tailored to your teachers.

Virtual field trips are a great way to engage and encourage interaction in the classroom - whatever the subject matter may be!

THE OREGON TRAIL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Discovers and Explorers • "Jumping Off" • The Route West • Power • Hardships • Camping • Buffalo • Native Americans • Conclusions 	<p>The Oregon Trail was one of the main overland migration routes on the North American continent, leading from locations on the Missouri River to the Oregon Country. The eastern half of the trail was also used by travelers on the California Trail, Bozeman Trail, and Mormon Trail which used much of the same trail before turning off to their separate destinations. To complete the journey in one traveling season most travelers left in April to May—as soon as grass was growing enough to support their teams and the trails dried out.</p> <p>To meet the constant needs for water, grass, and fuel for campfires the trail followed various rivers and streams across the continent. The network of trails required a minimum of road work to be made passable for wagons. People using the trail traveled in wagons, pack trains, on horseback, on foot, by raft, and by boat to establish new farms, lives, and businesses in the Oregon Country. Click here for more.</p> 
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