

## 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? You and your students can revisit these field trips over and over, providing many opportunities to review and explore!

### Tips for Virtual Field Trips:

- Take our “[Conduct Virtual Field Trips](#)” Lesson! Learn how you can create your own virtual field trips.
- Stay safe! Make sure all of the sites are appropriate for students.
- Plan ahead! Setting up your first virtual field trip will take time. Or you could use one that is already available for you online.
- Have a goal! Make sure the purpose is clearly defined.
- Continue the lesson offline! Supplement the trip by bringing in hands-on props - food, music, artifacts, etc.
- Give it a dry run! Make sure all links and web pages are working prior to the day of the field trip.
- Leave the work to them! As an assignment, have groups of students create their own virtual field trips and share them with the class. Then YOU can use those field trips in the years to come.

### Use Virtual Field Trips as:

- The basis of collaborative assignments.
- An individual assignment to foster an existing interest in a content area.
- An avenue to further explore a content area.
- An entire class where you walk through the field trip on a projector or interactive white board.

### Virtual Field Trips Online Lesson:

- “[Conduct Virtual Field Trips](#)”

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

\*These notes are for guidance only.

## THE OREGON TRAIL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Discoveries and Explorers</li> <li>• “Jumping Off”</li> <li>• The Route West</li> <li>• Power</li> <li>• Hardships</li> <li>• Camping</li> <li>• Buffalo</li> <li>• Native Americans</li> <li>• Conclusions</li> </ul>	<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. <a href="#">Click here for more.</a></p> 
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