



Picture Yourself Teaching Digitally!

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WHY A TECHTORIAL?

What will I learn today?

You will learn some simple ways you can use digital cameras in your K-8 classroom.

What hardware and/or software does the techtorial apply to?

You'll need a digital camera, a paint program, and a word processing program -- for either a Mac or a PC.

Which National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers does the techtorial address?

The techtorial will help teachers accomplish standard IIIc in particular.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE CLASSROOM

Students love taking pictures with a digital camera. Being able to use pictures they've taken in class projects helps motivate students by personalizing their work.

Many teachers are reluctant to use digital-camera technology in elementary and middle school classrooms, however, believing its applications at those levels are too limited to justify the time and effort involved.

Those teachers are wrong! You don't need to be a photographer or a techie to successfully use digital technology in your classroom -- even with younger students. Although many digital cameras do come with a variety of bells and whistles, you don't have to use them all. All you really need to know is how to

- turn on the camera.
- take a picture.
- download the picture to your computer.

Because those tasks differ greatly, depending on the camera and your computer's operating system, this techtorial won't provide instructions for using specific cameras.

You can easily acquire those skills yourself by reading the manual, asking a peer or student for help, or playing with the camera until you are familiar with it. You also can go to [Digital Cameras Enhance Education](#) for more digital camera basics.

Hint: iPhoto for Macs and the Windows XP Camera Wizard make downloading and saving pictures a snap, so use them if you have them!

Now you know how to use the camera; but what do you do with it?

DIGITAL CAMERAS IN GRADES K-2

With primary students, classroom activities should focus on creativity and narration, rather than on text or camera use. It's probably best if an adult or older child takes the pictures, which might include photographs of

- an activity (such as a field trip). Put the photos into a PowerPoint presentation and ask students to narrate what is happening in each photo.
- each student spelling his or her name. For each letter of the name, take a picture of the student holding a large letter next to a picture of something that starts with that letter. For example, Ben might hold a "B" next to a bus, an "E" next to an easel, and an "N" next to a notebook. Print the photographs for each child and display them around the room, or create a name alphabet book for each child.
- students posing in still scenes to create a storyboard. Put the pictures in a PowerPoint presentation, and then have students type the story as bulleted text or narrate it.

One computer club sponsor I know has middle school students take pictures of locations around the school. She then opens each picture in Microsoft Paint, and has the club's youngest students paint themselves into the pictures.

DIGITAL CAMERAS IN GRADES 3-5

At this age, students can begin taking their own pictures -- after learning how to use -- and take proper care of -- the camera.

One teacher lets her students take photos during free time. She then inserts the pictures into a PowerPoint presentation and displays the slide show when she has spare time.

An art teacher has students draw butterfly pictures with markers. She then takes photographs of the drawings and has students use Microsoft Paint to add background details.

At a fundraiser for one school's computer club, kids pay \$1 to take pictures of teachers and then give them "makeovers" in Microsoft Paint.

Invite your students to take photographs of one another, then use the fun and free tools at [PhotoIsland](#) to create special effects.

Students also might take multiple photographs over time to record the growth cycle of classroom or school pets or plants and then add narration or a text supplement.

DIGITAL CAMERAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

At this age, students should be able to use digital cameras with minimal supervision in

- Language Arts. Photos can be used to enhance poetry portfolios, as story starters, or to stage still scenes from a book or story as an alternative book report format.
- Science [Notable Pics](#) will allow students to add comments to a photo to illustrate scientific elements, experiments, or reports. (Microsoft Word also can be used to insert comments into a photograph. See the techorial [Editing With Microsoft Word](#) for more information).
- Math. Take pictures of patterns, series, geometric shapes, and so on, and then use Word to describe the picture from a mathematical perspective.
- Social Studies. Document field trips, put the photos into a PowerPoint presentation, and add narration, text boxes, and so on.

TELL ME MORE!

Want more ideas?

Try the following links:

- Wacona Elementary School's [Ideas for Using a Digital Camera](#).
- Kodak's [Digital Learning Center for Teachers/Leaders](#).
- FugiFilm's [PhotoPals for Teachers](#).