

Tech Tools Post #1

What: Arcade Game Generator

Web address: http://www.classtools.net/_mobileQuiz/index.php

Student's Name: Don Erickson

Grade level(s): Grades 3 and up

Content area(s): All content areas apply

Abstract: This "Tech Tool" is an online quiz generator using old arcade game formats. This visually appealing way to spread information to the students will most likely prove to be effective in any classroom with Internet capabilities. This free tool can be used in any content area for virtually any purpose. Teachers can use this arcade game generator to accomplish any of the following tasks: introduce upcoming material, gauge students' prior knowledge, review material before an actual test or quiz, evaluate student understanding as an end-of-unit test.

Personal Experience: This online arcade game generator came out of a necessity this year to satiate my students' desires to play games during every available moment. My school instituted a 1:1 laptop program 5 years ago designed for the 7th and 8th grade students. As my students (the 6th graders) are also in the middle school, I have been lobbying for the program to incorporate the entire middle school. Just this year, each of the 6th grade students within our school were issued a brand new laptop; therefore, I was presented with an entirely new set of classroom management issues I had never before considered. As the first quarter came to a close it was evident that something needed to be done about the students' habitual gaming. I found myself in a real predicament. How could I take the computers away that I had so fervently requested just a few months earlier?

Then something extraordinary happened. In looking for a tech tool for this very post, I stumbled upon this game generator. Due to the fact that I am still new to this tool, I know I have yet to use the program in all of its capabilities. I quickly created this review quiz on India, as my students are currently learning about this particular country.

http://www.classtools.net/mob/quiz_24/India_Review_L7Pv7.htm

Other examples (by more experienced users) can also be viewed at the web address listed at the top of the post. Go ahead and give it a try. You might just find yourself transported back to your childhood!