

More Killer Apps

VoiceThread

Go to www.voicethread.com to access this free and easy to use application. Educators get a free “Pro” account. An Ed.VoiceThread account allows you to create student VoiceThreads for only \$10 per year. Great application for student projects; the features in the program allow viewers to comment on the voicethread slide and these audio files are posted next to the voicethread.

Smile Box

This incredibly easy application allows you to create slide shows online that are not blocked by most servers. Think end of the year memory albums, field trip slide shows, beginning or end of unit wrap ups, etc. (remember, Power Point slides can be designed, saved as JPEGS, and inserted in a Smile Show). Digital rights free music is available on this site to upload to your photo show. Smile Box has some other fun features, too: ecards, scrapbooks, collages, and photo albums.

<http://www.smilebox.com/>

Author’s note: This was a free service at the time of print. Some sites (such as PhotoShow) begin as free services and progress to become paid subscription sites. These sites pop up if you do a search for “slide show programs” or something similar, so if this one is not available, try another.

Paint

A free application that many students use for web design in our building, Paint allows you to upload photos and draw on them, do many Photoshop style alterations, and save the results as a JPEG image that can be used in any other application in which you would place a photo. Have students doctor up photos of themselves, add cartoon balloons, etc. Effects include airbrushing, paint buckets, textboxes,

www.getpaint.com

Adobe Digital Kids Club and others

Here are several good websites for using digital photos in the classroom.

<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/lessons/index.html>

<http://wacona.com/digicam/digicam.html>

<http://www.wam.umd.edu/~toh/image/DigitalCameraUses.htm>

Picnik

This application is easy enough for lower elementary students to use, but interesting enough for adults to enjoy. Here is the summary direct from the website:

- Fix your photos in just one click
- Use advanced controls to fine-tune your results
- Crop, resize, and rotate in real-time
- Tons of special effects, from artsy to fun
- Astoundingly fast, right in your browser
- Awesome fonts and top-quality type tool
- Basketfuls of shapes from hand-picked designers
- Works on Mac, Windows, and Linux
- No download required, nothing to install