



# PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

More and more teachers are recognizing that technology can make a difference in the teaching/ learning situation. A great way to integrate technology into the classroom is to use project-based learning. The internet provides access to valuable information, and students can also visit libraries, museums, etc., via the web. Several tools such as word processors, PowerPoint, databases, and spreadsheets are also available for use.

## What is Project-Based Learning?

This is an approach wherein students are actively engaged in projects. A comprehensive approach to instruction is used as students strive to become experts in one or more aspects of a topic. Students interact in a structured way as they participate in discussions and activities. Several sources of information are used including technology. In this approach students work in groups to plan, research, create and present their final product.

## Benefits of PBL

Project-based learning enables students to become experts on a specific topic

PBL enhances social responsibility

It utilizes cooperative learning/groups

It helps students to become knowledgeable and comfortable with the tools of technology

It uses an interdisciplinary approach

It enhances problem-solving and research skills

It increases motivation and self-direction

All learners have access to this type of learning

The teacher acts as a facilitator to learning

It enhances self-directed learning

It promotes higher-level thinking skills

## Planning the project

In planning project-based learning, the teacher must first decide on the question to be answered or the topic to be researched, the performance standards that this project will meet, the skills that will be developed, the length of the project, what role the computer will play in this project, how cooperative grouping can be used, and the final presentation. It is important that the students be involved with the planning. This helps them to take ownership of their work and also to develop their decision-making skills.



Click on the link below for some tips on project-based learning.

[Project Based Learning.ppt](#)

## Guiding Questions

It is good to have guiding questions, especially for smaller kids. These questions guide the research and help students to focus on specific and meaningful information. For example: If students are researching severe weather, the guiding questions could include: What is a hurricane? How do hurricanes occur? Where do hurricanes occur? What damages do hurricanes do? How can we stay safe in a hurricane? Glossary.

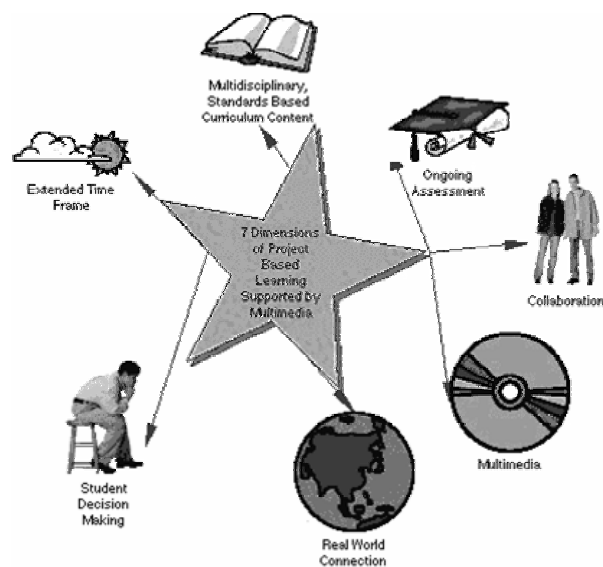
For more information on PBL, check out these sites

<https://media.pearson.com>

<http://pblmm.k12.ca.us/PBLGuide/WhyPBL.html>

<http://college.hmco.com/education/pbl/background.html>

<http://pbl-online.org>





# UNIT INFUSED WITH TECHNOLOGY

**Grade Level: Fourth**

**Subject: Social Studies**

## **Standard**

Understand that the United States is divided into different geographic regions

## **Objectives:**

1. Identify and name the regions of the United States
2. Describe each region in terms of cultural, climatic and physical features
3. Write a profile of their region using information they have learned
4. Create a travel poster for a state in each region

**Activities – Students will do, practice and try the following:**

**Lesson 1:** Students will read the appropriate chapter in their textbook, then use a data base of regional facts to answer questions on the accompanying worksheet. By sorting and querying the information, the students will be able to identify and name the U.S. regions.

## **Lesson 2:**

Students will create a banner for their region. They will use a graphics program to create their banner. Then they will use Microsoft Word to compose a profile (text) of their region.



**Lesson 3:**

The students will complete a table or a chart with information about cultural, climatic, and physical features of specific regions. The tables or charts will be printed and the results compared and discussed.

**Lesson 4:**

The students will work in groups of four to create a travel poster for a state in each region. Each group will be assigned to a region. They will perform research on the internet and use a desktop publishing program to begin designing a poster based on the information they have learned.

**Lesson 5:** The small groups complete the travel posters. Each group presents the poster for its region to the class. These posters will be compiled and displayed as the "Complete U.S. Regions Travel Guide". The class will also create a newsletter with students' posters. These will be distributed to parents and other classes. They can also be displayed on the school's website.

Click on the link below to see a PowerPoint sample of this unit.

[Ms Evans' Regions Unit with Technology.ppt](#)





# WEBQUEST

WebQuest is a great tool for teachers to use with students. WebQuest is an activity that is inquiry-oriented, and most of the information used by students is online. WebQuest promotes critical thinking and is cooperative group friendly.

## WebQuest: Science

<http://www.longwood.k12.ny.us/cew/wq/denapoli/index.html>

<http://webquest.mschien.com/>

<http://collier.k12.fl.us/weblessons/cookiewq/index.htm>

<http://www.coollessons.org/coolunits.htm>

<http://its.guilford.k12.nc.us/webquests/science.html>

[www.jdenuno.com](http://www.jdenuno.com)

## WebQuest: Social Studies

<http://its.guilford.k12.nc.us/webquests/native/native.html>

<http://coe.west.asu.edu/students/dschoettlin/webquest2/explorers.htm>

<http://score.rims.k12.ca.us/activity/plymouth/>

<http://coe.west.asu.edu/students/tbeckner/WebQuest/13colonies.html>

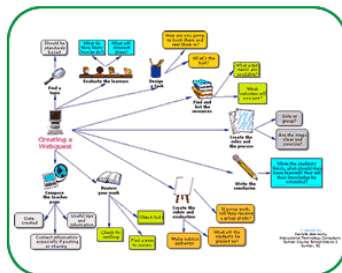
<http://www.hobart.k12.in.us/suzquest/main.html>

## WebQuest: Math

<http://questgarden.com/47/4/5/07030>

<http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/grant/metricquest/>

<http://besd61.k12.il.us/webquest4th%20Grade/measurement/msmn.htm>





# SMART BOARD

The Smart Board is also a great tool to have. It is an interactive whiteboard which is connected to a computer and a data projector. The whiteboard has a touch-sensitive surface. Your finger acts as the mouse; therefore, any computer application is controlled by touching the board with your finger. The teacher or students can write, draw, illustrate ideas and highlight information with the special pens provided. Teachers can work as naturally with this technology as they would at the chalkboard. In addition, this technology allows the teacher/ presenter to link to websites.

## Science Sites for Smart Board Use

- <http://library.thinkquest.org/11430/index2.html>
- [www.biology4kids.com](http://www.biology4kids.com)
- [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu)
- <http://www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/>

## Social Studies Sites for Smart Board Use

- <http://www.animatedatlas.com/movie.html>
- <http://www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/>
- <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>
- <http://www.animatedatlas.com/movie.html>
- [http://www.edhelper.com/social\\_studies.htm](http://www.edhelper.com/social_studies.htm)
- <http://www.smarttech.com>



## Math Sites for Smart Board Use

- <http://www.coolmath4kids.com>
- <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/creategraph/>
- <http://www.aplusmath.com/>
- <http://www.aplusmath.com>
- <http://www.edhelper.com/math.htm>

## Language Arts Sites for Smart Board Use

- <http://www.manythings.org/>
- [www.bookadventure.org](http://www.bookadventure.org)
- [www.kidsread.com](http://www.kidsread.com)
- <http://eduscapes.com/sessions/pilot/pilotread.htm>
- [www.readingmatrix.com/directory/pages](http://www.readingmatrix.com/directory/pages)



Check out [www.Tequipment.com](http://www.Tequipment.com)



# THE TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGE

*By Pauline Evans*

It used to be so simple  
But now everything has changed  
They say I must keep abreast  
Of what's happening today

I try to make myself aware  
But things change so fast  
Last week it was that new device  
Today it's three or four

The students come and they sure know  
The ins and outs of these gadgets  
So as their teacher for the year  
I should be one step ahead

But oh there are so many things  
To know and assimilate  
I wish there was an easy way  
To know and understand

I will press on, I must never give up  
Success is what I seek  
To be of value to this new generation  
I must be technologically adept

