

Black History Month



Technology Training Center Newsletter
Issue 2, February 9, 2015

Theme: Black History Month & Technology

Technology Timelines

Written By: Leslie Phillips

TimeToast (www.timetoast.com) is a web-based tool that allows you to develop timelines and share them on the web. Students can be creative and have time to work on a project for a special event such as The Civil Rights Movement, Bio of Martin Luther King, Jr., Famous African American inventions, etc.

To get started, you must create an account and provide an e-mail address and a password. Select the free option and choose **Create a new timeline** to get started. You can then type a title and add graphics.

Click the **Add Events** button at the bottom of the screen. Here, you will add a description, picture, and/or hyperlinks. The **Add Timespan** option allows you to insert the range of events. Timelines can also be viewed as a list. There are many options available to create technology timelines, so find one that works best for you and your students. **Be creative, and have fun!**



Scavenger Hunt & QR Codes

Written By: Anecia Scott

QR Codes can be found everywhere. We see them so frequently that often we look right at them without even noticing. So what is a QR code? It's short for "Quick Response" and it is (usually) in the shape of a square. It looks like a barcode with black splotches instead of lines.



What do you do with a QR code? When you see one, you can use your smartphone or any mobile device with a camera, QR code reader app, and Internet access to scan the square. Once you scan it, the code will point your device to the web-based location set up by the code creator.

QR Codes can be very fun and entertaining way for teachers to incorporate technology into classroom lessons. The most important factor to remember when using QR Codes is to test your codes before use to ensure that each code functions as designed. Happy Scanning and Learning!

QR Code Resources:

<http://scotttechtidbits.weebly.com/technology-resources.html>

Online Newsletters

Written By: Emily Spann

Using newsletters in your classroom is a great way to combine research, writing, and creativity. It is also a great way to give students a break from the traditional research paper.

Black History Month is the perfect time for students to celebrate the countless contributions made by African-Americans. Have students work cooperatively to create newsletters that focus on events, individuals, or movements that occurred during the Civil Rights Era.

Flashissue with Google

is a downloadable application that allows



you to create email newsletters in Gmail with a drag and drop editor and send to people in your Google address book.

Smilebox is a photo sharing and social expression

application used to create newsletters, digital collages, and slideshows. It's quick and easy to use.



Letter Pop allows you to drag

and drop a template of your choice then add your own content or pictures. You may publish your creation for everyone to see or email a link to keep it private.



Black History Excel Project

Written By: Fatima Ferguson



The Black History Excel Project allows students to conduct research as well as integrate technology.

Students write down on a provided research sheet some of their vital statistics including their eye color, hair color, ethnic background, and birthplace. Afterwards, students will share their research sheets with each other to record on their Excel spreadsheet until all students have all of their classmate's information.

Once the spreadsheets are done, students will learn how to manipulate the information to make it into a more user-friendly format. Some of the features students will learn while utilizing Microsoft Excel include:

- Cell addresses
- Rows & columns
- Sorting & filtering
- Merge and center
- Borders

Helpful Resources

Written By: Terro Ford



Black History Month provides a great opportunity for students to explore and learn.

The following are great resources to help educate students about important historical events and people of African descent.

- ✚ Explore a dozen of the Smithsonian's most thought-provoking objects using these online tools and activities.

<http://heritagetours.si.edu/bhm.html>

- ✚ PBS has curated a valuable collection of teaching resources, covering everything from discrimination to the recently released film Selma.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/2015/01/black-history-month-resources-for-the-classroom/?repeat=w3tc>

- ✚ Interactive Treasure Hunt & Quiz. Test your students' knowledge of African-American history and develop an essay on the topic.

http://www.tommarch.com/webquests/BHM/bh_hunt_quiz.html

- ✚ The Underground Railroad: Escape from Slavery: Students follow the path of a slave in 1860 as he courageously travels the Underground Railroad to freedom.

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/activity/underground-railroad-escape-slavery>

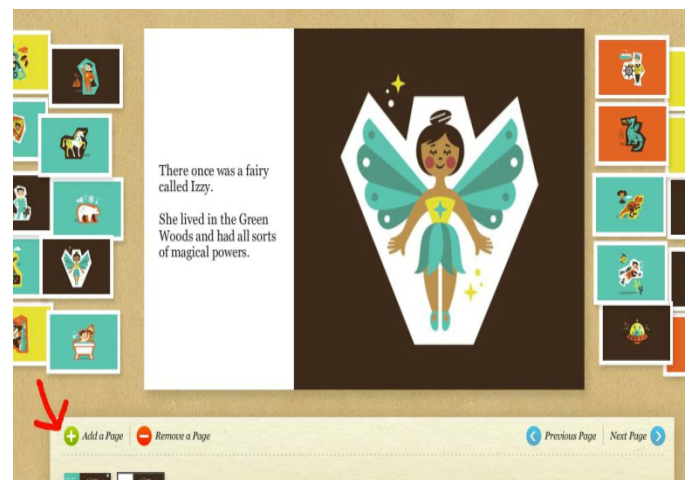
Creating Short Stories Using Storybird

Written By: Justin Doss



Storybird is a free website where you can create, navigate and read other people's short stories. With this program, you have the ability to:

- ✚ Re-write events in history in short story form.
- ✚ Create a brand new story relating to your subject.
- ✚ Illustrate the story with free pictures from the website or pictures saved on a computer.
- ✚ Save the story and share it with others. You can also print it off for your own personal use.






fakebook

Create a fake profile for a fictional / historical character

TIP: Like any pictures in this page, just click to change it!
e.g. Search Google for "Facebook cover images"

Famous Black History Figures Using Fakebook

Written By: Kimberly Scott

<http://www.classtools.net/FB/home-page>

Every year hundreds of teachers assign their students a Black History Month Project. Instructions are usually confined to "write a paper about..." or "make a poster board about the life of..." While informative, these projects do not invoke innovation or rigor from students. A great way to get the same information, while tapping into student interest, is Fakebook.

Fakebook is a free website that allows teachers and students to create imaginary profile pages for study purposes. Students can take the role as an important person in Black History (i.e. Fredrick Douglass). They research this person to learn important facts about his/her life.

Then they can create a Fakebook page in the role of that person. They are able to upload pictures, add friends, like pages, and update their status. They are even able to have other historical figures "comment" on their page.

Another great feature of Fakebook is the gallery. The gallery allows the teacher to search through completed Fakebook pages to show their student an exemplar example.

Take Fakebook for a spin! Your students will love it!



*For more information,
Contact Your [Technology
Training Specialist.](#)*

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