Chromebook Essentials Lesson Plans and Resources

Note: Right click on the hyperlink to open resources in a new tab. When you are finished with a resource, close the tab to return to this page.

Grades K-3

Lesson Plan: My Online Community
The Internet isn’t a place, but it is made up of real people. As your students will find out, it is a way to connect people and ideas to build a larger and more global community. They’ll draw, discuss, and explore some basic vocabulary as they learn about the Internet and how they can connect with their community.

Video: Study Jams! + & - without Regrouping
Flipped classroom resources are a great way for your class members to utilize their Chromebooks. Here is a resource designed to build the essential skills of addition and subtraction. Explain the step-by-step process with respect to place value using these real-world examples. Focus is on numbers in the tens, hundreds, and thousands, making this appropriate for second and third grade.

Lesson Plan: Graphing with Google Docs and Forms
Get to know your class and teach about data analysis, all with the help of Google Docs. Using student-generated questions, create a class survey using Google Forms. Reserve time in the computer lab for learners to complete the form and, amazingly, Google will compile and graph the responses automatically! Display and discuss the results as a whole class. A great activity for the first week of school that uses technology to engage children in learning about math.

Video: The Arctic vs. the Antarctic
TED-Ed has a fantastic selection of educational videos that students can watch on their Chromebooks, either in class or as a homework assignment. Compare and contrast the two poles as you watch this film. Using attractive animation, characteristics of the Arctic and Antarctic regions are presented with straightforward narration by a young lady. Viewers find out about the physical features, resident animals, and the factors that contribute to the climate in both environments. Consider following the video by drawing a Venn diagram on the board and having your class contribute to filling it in.

Article: Four Tips for Effective Parent Communication
Do you feel confident in front of your class, but tongue-tied when it comes to talking to parents? Never fear, you aren’t alone. No matter how good a teacher you are, working with the adults in your students’ lives can be a scary proposition. Read this article for smart strategies to build positive relationships with parents, and for ways that your Chromebook can help in this process.
Course: Chromebook Essentials

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Grades 3-5

Assessment: End of Unit 2 Assessment: Working with Two Texts--Reading, Listening, Summarizing, and Synthesizing
Here is an example of an assessment that you can incorporate using Google Forms on your Chromebooks. As a summative assessment for a unit on colonial trade, fourth graders listen to and read informational texts in order to demonstrate their ability to take notes, write summaries, and draw connections. Young scholars first listen as the teacher reads aloud a text about a New York merchant. Next, they independently read a piece of writing about shipbuilders, once again taking notes using the provided graphic organizer. Finally, they use their notes to answer multiple-choice questions, and write a paragraph describing the interdependence of these two trades.

Article: Common Core Technology for K-5 Learners
Most of our class members already spend an undeniably large amount of time in front of screens playing video games, texting their friends, and watching television. However, to be college and career ready in the 21st century, they need to master the use of technology for academic and professional purposes. Check out this article for some ideas on the types of tech-oriented resources you can include with your Chromebooks.

Online Activity: Study Jams! Order of Operations
Please excuse my dear Aunt Sally! Sort of like an animated slide show, this lesson walks fifth graders through the order of operations. Also included are a sing-along karaoke video, key vocabulary with definitions, and a seven-question multiple-choice assessment.

Lesson Plan: Paperless Classroom with Google Docs
This is a fantastic resource for teachers to have in their tool belts upon entering into the world of using Google Docs in the classroom! It is a reference sheet with step-by-step instructions and graphics for everything from basic actions like sharing and using folders, to teacher-specific activities like using comments in the grading process.

Lesson Plan: Beginning Google Drive
Since technology skills are becoming vital to school and career success, the ability to navigate a computer and various programs is one of the most useful qualities you can teach your pupils. Lead your class through creating and sharing documents with Google Drive with a step-by-step activity. The document illustrates each step with screenshots and includes clear and effective instructions that prompt active engagement.
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Grades 5-8

App: Wunderlist—To-Do
Do you keep a to-do list? Are you looking for a streamlined way to keep track of your to-do's? If so, this task list productivity app could be just what you are looking for.

Lesson Plan: Using Truman Trivia as a Springboard
This is a great lesson that will allow your learners to utilize several features of your Chromebooks. Young scholars research the Truman Library website to gather ten trivia facts. They prepare a short, oral presentation on one of their questions, scoring each other on speaking and listening skills. Then they create a Truman campaign button.

Video: Four Ways to Understand the Earth's Age
Keep your Chromebooks stocked with great flipped classroom resources. This one is a keeper! Cartoon children compare the earth's age to timescales that we understand: a calendar year, the thickness of a book, the human lifespan. This film clip is definitely worth adding to your geologic timescale lesson.

Article: Building a Documentary Library
Use Google sites to design a teacher website for yourself, and have a page dedicated to your recommended documentaries. Other than the brief hubbub they receive during Oscar season, documentaries remain a little-seen genre that rarely make it into theatres or even into the local Redbox. This is a shame because documentaries offer viewers a wonderful chance to explore the world, its people, natural phenomena, and historical events. Having a few of these films on hand can help you fill the downtime between tests, occupy your class during an unexpected sick day, and start discussions on topics your students have learned. In this article, you will find a very short list of possible choices to help you build a documentary library.
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Grades 9-12

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Activity/Project: Infographic Project
This multi-faceted, progressive project includes an array of activities for analyzing and evaluating a theme of American history. Learners begin by constructing a timeline of events in United States history using Google docs, create a Pinterest page on a chosen historical theme, and then conclude by designing an infographic incorporating what they have researched.

App: Evernote
Here is an app version of a powerful tool that allows you and your students to have one place where you can capture, organize, and share items in multiple media formats. The different uses for this app are as varied as your ideas and your needs.

Lesson Plan: Create a Public Opinion Survey: The Middle East in the News
Google Sites is a great way to design surveys for your class. For example, this detailed plan for creating, conducting, and analyzing a survey based on related news stories could apply to any relevant nonfiction texts. The discrete content here is a pair of New York Times’ articles about a 1998 military strike on Iraq and the coincident impeachment by the House of Representatives of then-President Clinton. From these texts, readers might make thought-provoking connections to current events in the Middle East.

Article: Portfolios to Be Proud Of
What do your pupils do when you pass back papers? Throw them in the trash? Stash them in a folder, never to be seen again? Leave them on the desk for you to find and try to return later? I’d like to propose an idea to implement technology in your class, while providing a place where your students can store their work and look back on it with pride. Writing portfolios are fairly common, so why not try out online portfolios?