

**Title of Session:** K-3+ Resources - Favourite Educational Games

**Moderator:** Susan Roseman

**Title of File:** 20070612k3games

**Date:** June 12, 2007

Room: Comfy Conference

**SusanR:** So tonight's topic is Playing Around: Favorite Educational Games Sites

**BJB2:** great topic!

**ErnieD:** Sounds like fun

**SusanR:** actually I subscribe to Techlearning and stole or borrowed the topic from here  
<http://techlearning.com/story/showArticle.php?articleID=196604471>

**SusanR:** . o O ( a good starting point )

**BJB2:** very cool, Sue!

**SusanR:** we could post it in the Playing to Learn group room

**BJB2:** I was talking with a teacher today about how school shouldn't be all fun and games, but I don't think that's the point of introducing games to the classroom

**BJB2:** good idea, Sue. Please do

**BJB2:** I was listening to a podcast with Alan November and he covered what I was trying to explain: <http://mediasnackers.com/report/2007/June/04/370/>

**SusanR:** and the text "Playing to Learn" is one of first practical resources that helps teachers integrate the study of video games into the classroom.

<http://www.playingtolearn.org/>

**SusanR:** I gather we are all engrossed

**BJB2:** nods

**ErnieD:** I just finished reading the article

**SusanR:** on the more educational side I had a lot of success with RainforestMaths

**ErnieD:** Is that anything like mountain math?

**SusanR**: it's interactive

**SusanR**: and has a game like feel

**SusanR**: <http://www.rainforestmaths.com/>

**SusanR**: from New Zealand

**ErnieD**: This looks like fun

**SusanR**: beautifully designed site

**SusanR**: There are no advertisements or other disturbing elements on this site.

**ErnieD**: So it is all web based?

**SusanR** nods

**SusanR**: and if you want this online application to run in full screen mode, just press the F11 button.

**ErnieD**: Very nice feature to keep away distraction

**SusanR**: tell us about "Mountain Math"

**ErnieD**: Mountain math is a system that some of the k-5 teachers use to make math more fun for the students

**ErnieD**: The students use a visual chart on the wall that looks like a mountain and the goal is to reach the top

**ErnieD**: You can check there site here: <http://www.mtmath.com/forum/mtmath.php>

**SusanR** checks the url

**SusanR**: I like the mountain metaphor

**ErnieD**: The students enjoy the challenge

**SusanR**: Do your schools have site licenses to all instructional materials?

**ErnieD**: Yes they do. My site admin made it clear that she wanted the program used in all classroom k-5

**ErnieD**: We are a k-8 school

**SusanR**: I like the idea of a blog and class web site

**SusanR**: are you familiar with soda play?

**ErnieD**: No I am not. What is it?

**SusanR**: It's a Java applet that animates two dimensional models made out of masses and springs.

**SusanR**: Students can build and play with things made out of masses, springs and muscles.

**ErnieD**: that sounds like a great lead into science lessons

**SusanR**: absolutely

**ErnieD**: Do you have any ideas to support global learning projects?

**SusanR**: Sodaplay offers students the opportunity to practice their creativity as well as learn a little physics by building animated models online.

**SusanR**: <http://www.sodaplay.com/>

**SusanR** . o O ( global based projects )

**ErnieD**: This soda play is so fun! My JR. highers would love this.

**ErnieD**: I like how you can change the gravity settings

**SusanR**: lots of room for creativity and exploration

**SusanR**: <http://dev.sodaplay.com/>

**ErnieD**: It really lets students learn through experience

**SusanR**: [http://dev.sodaplay.com/creators/soda/why\\_sodaplay](http://dev.sodaplay.com/creators/soda/why_sodaplay)

**SusanR** . o O ( well worth investigating and playing at great length )

**SusanR**: as for global based projects I recommend CIESE

**JeffC**: there's also IECC, Global SchoolHouse (Hilites, Newsday) and epals.

**SusanR**: what age and grade level are your students?

**JeffC**: oh... and I\*EARN

**ErnieD:** Thanks Susan and Jeff

**SusanR:** <http://www.k12science.org/currichome.html>

**ErnieD:** my students are 6th-8th graders from about 10 -13 years old

**SusanR:** Has your school year come to an end?

**JeffC:** ever think about bringing (next year's) students \*here\*, Ernie? set up a K-12 classroom for them?

**ErnieD:** Just about, but I am doing a tech camp during the summer

**ErnieD:** Can I do that Jeff?

**SusanR:** aha

**SusanR:** Sodaplay would be perfect

**JeffC:** yup

**SusanR:** two frivolous game like sites to end the session this evening

**JeffC:** stick around after this session is over and I'll help you do it.

**JeffC:** oooh... <http://www.i-am-bored.com> ?

**ErnieD:** How could I implement sodaplay into my curriculum?

**SusanR:** use it for a science fair

**ErnieD:** Like a virtual one?

**SusanR:** . o O ( makes lessons fun and engages students in creative arts, science and technology )

**SusanR:** as one part of a science fair

**ErnieD:** OK

**SusanR:** brings 2-D wire models to life, ... potential to increase the use of ICT in the classroom, making lessons fun and interactive

**ErnieD:** ICT?

**SusanR**: information and communications technology

**BJB2** looks at the clock on the wall

**SusanR**: <http://www.sr.se/P1/src/sing/index.htm#>

**SusanR**: and the last one

**SusanR**: <http://blueballfixed.ytmnd.com/>

**SusanR**: totally frivolous

**SusanR**: for you Jeff

**JeffC**: lol

**ErnieD**: Ha! It is playing the music from Pee Wee Herman

**SusanR**: Although not a game, this is just too much fun not to share. File this one under "art." Behold the magic of the Blue Ball Machine. Watch the tiny blue balls make their way around the huge machine. And the music that goes along with it is perfect.

**ErnieD**: This will be great on my LCD projector!

**JeffC**: yup

**JeffC**: Ernie... do you want to spend about 15 minutes or so setting up a K-12 classroom here, or do it some other time?

**SusanR** . o O ( hands the floor or stage over to Jeff )

**JeffC**: first... thanks Susan

**ErnieD**: I am ready to do it.

**JeffC**: I'll paste in the instructions for you Ernie.

**ErnieD**: Thank you Jeff

**BJB2** waves goodnight

**JeffC**: gnite Bj