BLENDSPACE

https://www.blendspace.com

CATEGORY: Action

GRADE AND SUBJECT: For all educational levels and all subjects.

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Blendspace is an online platform with which it is possible to create digital and interactive lessons, projects, presentations and more.

READING TIME: 5 minutes

LEARNING GOALS: Keeping students involved and interested during lessons and holding them accountable for learning may be a bit tricky for teachers. And even searching for and producing appealing and attractive materials could be perceived by teachers as a lot of time and energy-consuming work. Blendspace can be a helpful addition for teachers to use in the classroom to create differentiated and more engaging lessons, presentations, quizzes, etc., allowing students' progress to be tracked.

MOMENTS OF NEED OF THE TOOL: Blendspace is a useful tool for teachers, especially for the flipped classroom, to introduce new topics and create linear lessons to guide students through basic content. Students can use this tool to rework and present what they have learnt in an organized way.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY (RATING) AND AGE LEVEL: Easy, 6+

WHY USE THIS TOOL: Blendspace is a very useful tool for teachers who wish to integrate blended learning into their classrooms, allowing them to create digital lessons. Lessons are simple to create, customize, edit and share and can be easily adapted to the needs of students according to their learning objectives. With this tool, students can achieve their learning goals through attractive and interactive lessons that engage them more and keep their attention levels high. Blendspace allows repetition and reinforcement of learning subjects, encouraging critical thinking practices through the wide range of resources that can be used in creating a digital lesson.

TOOL DESCRIPTION: Blendspace allows teachers, who are not proficient in the use of new technologies in their work, to easily prepare teaching materials for students for various purposes, e.g., to conduct an inverted lesson, prepare for tests, examinations or carry out a teaching project, and therefore a set of materials to be made available to students on the Internet. All content for each lesson is collected in one place, in easy-to-follow blocks. The platform also offers tools to monitor students' progress and understanding. Educators can create classrooms, add students and track their learning progress and use Blenspace as a gamification tool.

PREPARATION AND HOW TO USE THE TOOL: To start using Blendspace, it is necessary to create an account and log in. It is an intuitive and very easy-to-use platform with a drag-and-drop grid interface. Teachers can choose to use lessons and activities created by other educators or create customized lessons from scratch. The tool allows teachers to combine different digital content from anywhere (YouTube, Google, etc.) and personal files to create a lesson. Teachers can search for and add videos, text, images, PDFs, and other resources, and organize them to create lessons that students can also complete independently. In addition, teachers can monitor students' knowledge and understanding with quizzes and discussions. Students can access lessons through a join code, or teachers can embed links into their learning management system (LMS).

THE EXAMPLE: This is an example of a science lesson created with Blendspace:
https://www.blendspace.com/lessons/tA3OxS5Y65-oSw/meiosis-1-0

RESOURCES NEEDED: Computer/Notebook/Mobile phone – Email address – Interactive whiteboard – Internet connection

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:
- Blendspace video tour https://youtu.be/vo1a86L_ykk
- Blendspace Digital Lessons Library https://www.blendspace.com/lessons/gallery
- Create Digital Lessons in 5 Minutes – Quick Start Guide https://www.blendspace.com/lessons and https://it.scribd.com/doc/183181600/About-Blendspace-Handout#fullscreen&from_embed
- Flipping the Classroom using Blendspace https://youtu.be/D_5x3MW3p7A

PROS AND CONS OF USING THE TOOL:
PROS Interactivity; customization; very easy-to-use platform; vast library of resources; possibility to monitor students' responses and progress.
CONS Internet connection required.

TEACHERS' RECOMMENDATION RATE (SCORE): 4/5