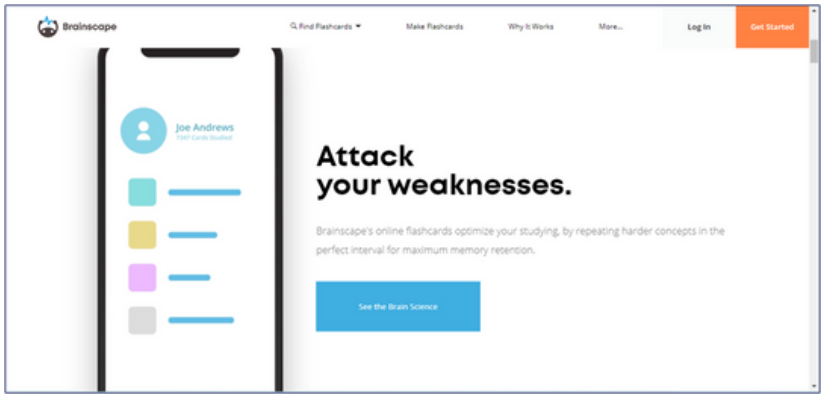
Brainscape

BRAINSCAPE

https://www.brainscape.com/



CATEGORY: Action

GRADE AND SUBJECT: There are flashcards for any subjects from 5th Grade (first year of middle school) to 12th Grade (last year of high school).

SHORT DESCRIPTION: Brainscape is an adaptive web and mobile education platform that helps students learn faster with 'adaptive flashcards'. Anyone can easily create, find and share flashcards and study them using the latest cognitive science techniques.

READING TIME: 3 minutes

LEARNING GOALS: Brainscape allows teachers and students to review a huge list of subjects on any topic. Teachers can then use these flashcards to reinforce lessons, prepare for tests, or introduce students to new concepts. Of course, as a tool for learning new concepts, Brainscape isn't ideal (as it would simply teach by revealing answers repeatedly). Still, reviewing previously known concepts is excellent and can be easily implemented into the class via the app or web browser.

MOMENTS OF NEED OF THE TOOL: Expanding on what they have learned; plan & act upon what they have learned.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY (RATING) AND AGE LEVEL: Easy; 9-18

WHY USE THIS TOOL: The possibility for teachers to create their flashcards for any teaching subject means that Brainscape may be used for an almost unlimited number of subjects, topics, lessons and more. A well-organised set of flashcards will help you learn faster (as proven by cognitive science research), but also help you keep information in mind for longer. Furthermore, using flashcards as a study method is much more convenient and makes it easy to fall into study sessions, which you will find yourself learning wherever you go.

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TOOL DESCRIPTION: Brainscape - Smart Flashcards work like a paper flashcard deck. Students read a question and then click to reveal the answer on another side. They rank the degree to which they know the answer; a higher score means that the card is displayed later. An interactive graph shows students' overall mastery of the subject and progress. The level of mastery is self-reported by the student, and there are no controls to check whether students know the content. Furthermore, a card marked with a 5 (for perfect understanding) still enters the deck and can be seen several times before the deck is considered mastered. Brainscape is available on the web and as an iOS or Android app, making it highly versatile and accessible to various students and devices. Furthermore, the app and website are well integrated, so that progress made in one is reflected in the other. In addition, because the app and website are designed to work together seamlessly, switching from one to the other is simple, immediate and encouraged by the tool itself. Students can access materials from different sources, making the discrepancy in digital access between students less problematic.

PREPARATION AND HOW TO USE THE TOOL: The app offers premade flashcards in a wide range of subjects or the user can create new ones in Brainscape. The flashcards created by the user can be organised by category and decks. Brainscape offers tips on how to create great flashcards with information on how much information to put on it, the preferred format and so on. For more information consult: https://www.brainscape.com/academy/how-study-with-online-flashcards/.

RESOURCES NEEDED: Computer/Notebook – Tablet – Mobile phone

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES:

- Brainscape, *Getting Started with Brainscape* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyCSv2d8spk

PROS AND CONS OF USING THE TOOL:

PROS It can help you study any subject; Uses a unique study method; the app is customisable and easy to use; purchase study content through the app or create your flashcards; share flashcards with classmates.

CONS Pre-packaged content can be expensive; creating your flashcards can be time-consuming.

TEACHERS' RECOMMENDATION RATE (SCORE): 4.4/5

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