RESOURCES

Top 10 apps that teachers (and their students) can use

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We surveyed 30 Humanities-based teachers from a variety of different schools to discover what are the 10 most commonly used applications that teachers are utilising in their classrooms at the moment. Some of these applications are used extensively as integrated learning tools whereas others are simple but handy tools that can be utilised in many different classroom subjects.

1 Twitter
When something happens in the world, it happens on Twitter first. From breaking news and entertainment to sports, politics and everyday interests, Twitter shows us all sides of the story and invites us to join the conversation. Twitter is what’s happening in the world and what people are talking about. Really useful as a resource gathering tool for any contemporary news (particularly, Civics, Global Politics, Australian Politics or Sociology). Sign up at https://twitter.com/

2 Google Docs
Google Docs is still the most simple-to-use tool for storing and sharing resources between teachers and students. Google Docs provides many handy templates and editing tools, and you will never need to hit ‘save’ again because all your changes are saved automatically to the cloud in real time. Excellent application for group research tasks. Find out more: https://www.google.com.au/docs/about/

3 Adobe Connect
Adobe Connect is the Victorian Department of Education’s tool for web conferencing and online classes. Teachers can upload PowerPoint presentations, talk, edit, scribble on the screen, have chat groups with the whole class and/or have separate break-out rooms for different groups of students – all without too much fuss. Classes can be recorded and replayed whenever you like, which is useful for when students miss class or if the teacher is going to be away and needs to pre-record lessons. Find out more: http://www.adobe.com/products/adobeconnect.html

4 Bubbl.us
Mind maps are a simple graphic representation of ideas and concepts. They are a visual thinking tool for structuring information, which helps us to better understand, remember and generate new ideas. Bubbl is a mind map building program that is easy for anyone to use. This application is a fantastic formative tool at the beginning of any unit or area of study to see what students might already know about any given topic. Quite interesting to get students to do a mind map at the beginning of a unit of work and then again at the end to see how much they have learned and connected concepts together: https://bubbl.us/
Welcome to Country
This application is fantastic for Civics & Citizenship and Australian History teachers. The app uses smartphone GPS function to deliver a Welcome to Country video based on the traditional native Australian tribal lands that the user is standing on. Where available within a tribal boundary, the video will be of an Indigenous Australian traditional owner (or elder) welcoming the user/visitor to their native land when the user enters that tribal geo-boundary. The app seeks to educate the user on the traditional owners’ culture and heritage protocols right across Australia. It offers simple, relevant information about Indigenous culture and the customs of the tribe within that tribal geo-boundary. Find out more: http://welcometocountry.mobi/

Google Expeditions
Not enough time or resources to go on multiple field trips? Google Expeditions has an extensive collection of virtual geopolitical maps, galleries, landmarks and environments from around the world that are accessible using an iPhone. Students can look inside NASA’s International Space Station, view the Northern Lights, swim around in the Great Barrier Reef or walk around a myriad international galleries. Galleries include the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, National Gallery of Korea and the National Gallery of Iraq, the Merchant’s House Museum and the American Museum of Natural History, to name just a few. Find out more: https://edu.google.com/intl/en-au/expeditions/

Memrise
Traditionally used in language classrooms as vocabulary memorising flashcards, Memrise is incredibly useful as a key terminology tool for lower order knowledge-based skills. Terms, images, colour, links and basic videos can be added as trigger reminders. Find out more: https://www.memrise.com/

Grade Proof
This app is an intelligent proofreading tool that corrects spelling, grammar and offers rephrasing suggestions as well as checking for plagiarism in students’ work. Find out more: https://gradeproof.com/

Wheel Decide
With Wheel Decide, teachers can load in topics, students’ names, questions, activities, anything they like, and the app generates a spinning wheel which randomly selects a result. It’s a great tool for student engagement and ensures a system of fairness within a classroom. Find out more: http://wheeldecide.com/

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VIC Curriculum Learning Areas – Civics & Citizenship
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