

Subject #1: Art/Graphics

Project #14: Sponge Activities for Drawing and Graphics. Have students try these drawing and graphics programs when they have a few minutes at the end of the lesson, before lunch, during sponge time.

Higher-order thinking skills	Technology-specific:	Subject Area/Learning-specific	Standard: NETS-S
<i>Apply (use methods in new situations)</i>	<i>Use technology to broaden understanding</i>	<i>Coordinate with classroom teacher on topics</i>	<i>1.b, 3.b</i>

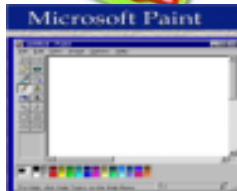
Grade level: K-8
 Prior knowledge: Project 90 (Wallpaper), 99 (internet Basx), 1 and 2 (KidPix Basx)
 Time required: 20 minutes
 Software required: Internet browser, KidPix, TuxPaint (www.tuxpaint.org), Windows
 Vocabulary: wallpaper, screen, download, icon, pin, GIF, Ctrl, zoom,

Lesson Description

- Art is a good way to engage students in their own learning. They'll enjoy the break from the cerebral activities of math and science.
- If you purchased this book digitally, ctrl+click the blue links or images to go to the sites

Computer Activity

- TuxPaint (free from www.tuxpaint.org), Microsoft Paint (free with Windows) and KidPix are easy-to-use painting software. Be sure the icons are on the desktop or pinned to the start menu so kindergarteners can find them.
- When students complete the class activity, they can go into these drawing programs for a few minutes of authentic inquiry-based learning
- Once I've shown students how to open and use these programs, I encourage their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by asking them to work without assistance—remember how they did it the last



time and do that again. Not surprisingly, if they want to use the program, they have excellent recall.

Extensions

- Have a list of wallpaper sites, like www.NationalGeographic.com. Allow students to find pictures to use as wallpaper for their screen (for how to do this, visit Project 90 in Volume II). Give them a theme, or pursue a topic they're covering in class.
- Need animated GIF's for PowerPoint slideshows or emails? There are lots of those sites available—another good way to soak up 5-10 minutes at the end of class

Troubleshooting Tips

- *I can't see the entire webpage (Use Ctrl+- to zoom out or Ctrl++ to zoom in)*
 - *Where'd the picture go I saved for wallpaper (check My Pictures on the Start menu)*

Thirty-two Ways to Use Spare Classroom Time

I keep a list of themed websites that are easy-in easy-out for students. They must be activities that can be accomplished enjoyably in less than ten minutes. In the parlance, these are called “sponges”.

You may have read my post with [nineteen sites my students love visiting](#) during sponge time (let me know if you liked them, have some to add, I'm always interested in learning from you). Here are thirty-two more. Hope you like them!



Language Arts

- [Make your own Story](#)—answer questions, and the story writes itself
- [Funny poetry](#) to read and enjoy
- [Jeff's Poetry for Kids](#)
- [Fill in the blank poetry](#)
- [Get Writing—write your own story](#)
- [Web version of Mad Libs](#)

Math

- [Math and Virtual Manipulatives](#)
- [Math website—popular, a standard](#)
- [Math—by Grade Level](#)
- [Math—game-oriented](#)
- [Mental Math](#)
- [Minute Math](#)

Research

- [All-around research site](#)
- [Research for kids](#)
- [School Tube](#)—learning videos organized by topics
- [World Book Online](#)
- [Research—chapters on subjects](#)
- [National Geographic for kids](#)
- [Nova video programs](#)

Science

- [Videos on science topics](#)
- [Visit a Virtual Farm](#)
- [Virtual weather, machines and surgery](#)
- [National Geographic Kids](#)
- [NOVA Videos—great topics Nova video programs](#)
- [Science Headlines—audio \(grades 3+\)](#)
- [Great site on yucky stuff](#)
- [Virtual tours](#)

Technology

- [Virtual tours](#)
- [Webcams around the World](#)
- [More Worldwide webcams for kids](#)
- [Nova video programs](#)
- [School Tube](#)—learning videos from YouTube. Organized by topics