IN THIS ISSUE

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the December issue of EDCompass™ newsletter!

When SMART products are combined with high-quality content, the result is lessons that deliver an impact. In this issue, we've outlined our extensive content and resources offering. We hope it will inspire you as you create new lessons and enrich your existing ones. In the feature article, you can read best practices from teachers who use a variety of SMART resources in math, language arts, science, social studies and music lessons. And then check out the product spotlight to find out more about the dynamic content available to you in the SMART Learning Marketplace.

As always, if you have any comments about the newsletter or any of the information featured in this issue, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your feedback to education@smarttech.com.

NANCY'S NOTES

Content with content

I attended an education event in Europe last week, and the topic on everyone's mind was interactive whiteboards. Many European ministries of education are considering when and how to adopt interactive whiteboards and other complementary products. They are asking important questions about how the interactive whiteboard should be introduced and supported in classrooms, including how to best provide continuous professional development for teachers.

Very quickly, the discussion moves beyond the actual boards to the types of content that teachers use with them. While an intriguing tool, an interactive whiteboard is an empty vessel that must be filled with the right content and resources to have a significant impact on learning.
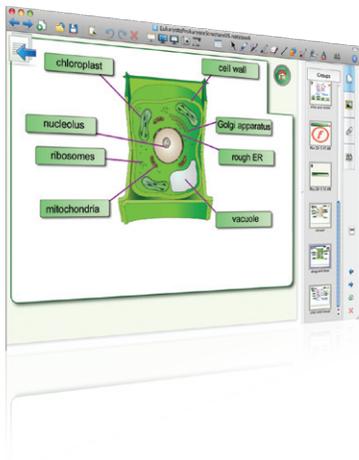
Every day, teachers the world over are developing a variety of resources to use in their classrooms. Too often, they end up having to remake materials that they created in a previous year. Just as often, teachers at the same school produce similar resources for individual classes, duplicating their efforts. For the interactive whiteboard to reach its true transformative potential, content and resources need to be systematically produced and made available to teachers, and teachers need easy ways to share what they have developed with others.

Content creation and sharing have been key priorities for SMART for some time. We have produced tools that enable both content-creation specialists and teachers to develop appealing, professional-looking resources that serve their pedagogical purposes. We are also active in helping teachers to share their lesson materials with each other.

2009 is going to be a great year. We are working hard on a number of initiatives to deliver significant new content and resources for schools, including a plan to collect and share tens of thousands of learning resources created by teachers all over the world. We trust that you'll find these lesson materials to be valuable ingredients for your classroom.

Nancy Knowlton **is the CEO of SMART Technologies.**

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SMART Notebook lesson activities

Incorporate high-quality lesson activities into your teaching – try one of the following SMART-created lesson activities during your next math or science class. Each lesson also links to a corresponding Senteo™ question set.

NOTE: You must have SMART Notebook software 10 to download these lesson activities. Upgrade your software.

Factors and Multiples
Math students in grades 4–6 are introduced to prime numbers, composite numbers, prime factorization, greatest common factor and least common multiple.

Prokaryote and Eukaryote Cell Structure
Science students in grades 10–12 can label diagrams of animal, plant and bacterial cells as they learn the differences between eukaryote and prokaryote cell structures.

SMART Notebook tip –
object fade-in and fade-out

See Joe Scrivens, one of SMART's curriculum resource developers, demonstrate how to make objects fade-in and fade-out in SMART Notebook software.

In this seven-minute video on SMART's YouTube channel, Joe provides step-by-step instructions to help you create dynamic lesson activities. Watch the video and use this feature in your next lesson!

SMART content at your fingertips

Finding enriching content to spice up your lessons is easy. SMART offers professionally developed digital content and resources to support all levels of experience, grades and subjects. We also give you the tools to create your own engaging, interactive lessons.

In the following pages, you can find out more about the numerous curriculum-relevant resources from SMART that are at your fingertips, including the following:

• More than 6,600 learning objects

• More than 5,000 customizable lesson activities in multiple languages, which can support differentiated or personalized instruction

• More than one million classroom-ready, professionally created digital resources (available with a SMART Learning Marketplace license)

• More than 300 SMART-accredited software and content titles

SMART-created lesson activities
Find professionally developed K–12 lesson activities on our education website. SMART-created lesson activities are designed by education experts at SMART to maximize all the interactive features of SMART products.

Developed in SMART Notebook software, the lesson activities are correlated to curriculum standards and can be customized to suit the needs of your classroom. Each one is created in a subject-specific template with an age-appropriate design and works for a range of grades. The majority of lesson activities are also available in French, Spanish, German, Swedish, Dutch, Danish, Finnish and Norwegian. Check out the lesson activities featured in the Classroom Content sidebar.

SMART Notebook Gallery
The extensive Gallery in SMART Notebook software is your one-stop shop for all the interactive tools and resources you need for your SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard. Located in SMART Notebook's sidebar, this handy resource enables you to do the following:

• Store and organize your digital resources and lessons in the My Content tab

• Log on to the SMART Learning Marketplace (if you have a license)

• Find learning objects for your lessons in the Gallery sampler. You can choose from themes, pictures and backgrounds, interactive and multimedia resources, and SMART Notebook files and pages.

Essentials for Educators
Thousands of lesson resources and learning objects are included in this section of the Gallery to help you quickly create engaging lesson activities. Through Essentials for Educators, you can search or browse collections of SMART's custom pages, clip art, Adobe® Flash® animations and video files.

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SMART content at your fingertips

Senteo question sets

You can find a database of Senteo question sets on our [education website](). They're standards-correlated for the United States, Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand, and each is compatible with a SMART-created lesson activity on the same topic.

Check out the question sets featured in the Classroom Content sidebar. You can also use the graphic-rich learning objects available in SMART Notebook software to build your own dynamic questions with images and other multimedia content.

SMART Ideas™ software activities

[SMART Ideas software activities]() enable your students to better analyze and understand complex ideas through multilevel, interactive lesson activities. These curriculum-based examples help you clarify concepts by taking your students through them, one level at a time.

Lesson Activity Toolkit

Have you used the [Lesson Activity Toolkit]() yet? It's loaded with customizable tools and templates to help you create professional and appealing lessons. You'll find templates for word games, quizzes and sorting tables, or use the provided Flash tools to add drag-and-drop or hide-and-reveal elements to your lessons.

SMART-accredited titles

Discover which third-party multimedia content and software titles are best suited for your SMART products. More than 300 [SMART-accredited titles]() have been recognized for their level of compatibility with the SMART Board interactive whiteboard and SMART Notebook software. Available for a variety of grades and subjects, the education titles are easy to use, intuitive and interactive.

Building better lessons

Ask a group of educators how they inject interactivity into their lessons – you'll likely hear that, no matter the subject area, one key strategy is to look to digital resources. These tools can take students on learning journeys across the original 13 colonies, into the orchestra pit, beside a melting icicle, through the alphabet and the number line, and everywhere in between. [Read the full article]().

Senteo question sets

Senteo question sets make it easy to add a new dimension to learning. Each includes 10 questions that can be used with a lesson activity on the same topic. Try one of the following Senteo question sets with your science, social studies and math students.

[Water – Evaporation]()
K–3 science students can test their knowledge of evaporation and discover how it works.

[Bird Habitats]()
Social studies students in grades 7–9 can test their knowledge of habitats and the birds that live in them.
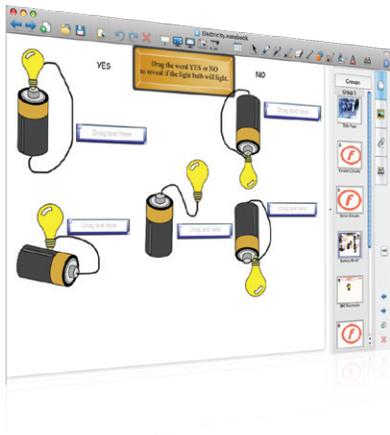
[Making Shapes from Nets]()
Math students in grades 10–12 can test their ability to identify various shapes from nets.

Senteo assessment software 2.0 now available!

In this latest version, we've made extensive improvements to the software's tracking, reporting and evaluation functions, including built-in access to a comprehensive new gradebook. And we've made it even easier for you to add questions to lesson activities in SMART Notebook software

Visit the [Senteo interactive response system]() product page to find out more about how version 2.0 can help enhance interactive teaching and learning in your classroom.

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Teacher-created lesson activities

You can create your own SMART Notebook lesson activities with the Lesson Activity Toolkit and share them on the SMART Exchange. That's what Nancy Dickson did.

Nancy is an educator from Fort Bend Independent School District in Texas. Her lesson activity, titled Electricity, enables science students in grade four to review parallel and series circuits. The students can decide if particular circuits will make a bulb light up, label the parts of a light bulb and practice electricity vocabulary. View the lesson activity on the Exchange and test it with your students.

Content creation seminar
Are you a teacher in North Carolina? If so, you could be selected to attend a three-day seminar hosted by SMART. You'll learn how to create highly engaging and interactive lesson activities that align with your state's curriculum standards. Participants will be eligible to receive technology credits and a certificate. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up quickly. Learn more and apply now!

Did you know?
SMART is about to celebrate the three millionth download of our SMART Notebook lesson activities and Senteo question sets in North America. Thanks for helping us to reach this milestone!

More SMART content and resources – coming soon!

SMART Notebook SE assignment templates
When the full version of SMART Notebook SE (Student Edition) software is released next month, your students will have access to a variety of assignment templates. These templates will help them complete tasks such as book reports, science labs and Venn diagrams using SMART Notebook SE. There are also themed templates, including ones for space, Egypt, the environment, underwater and the jungle, for students to apply to their work.
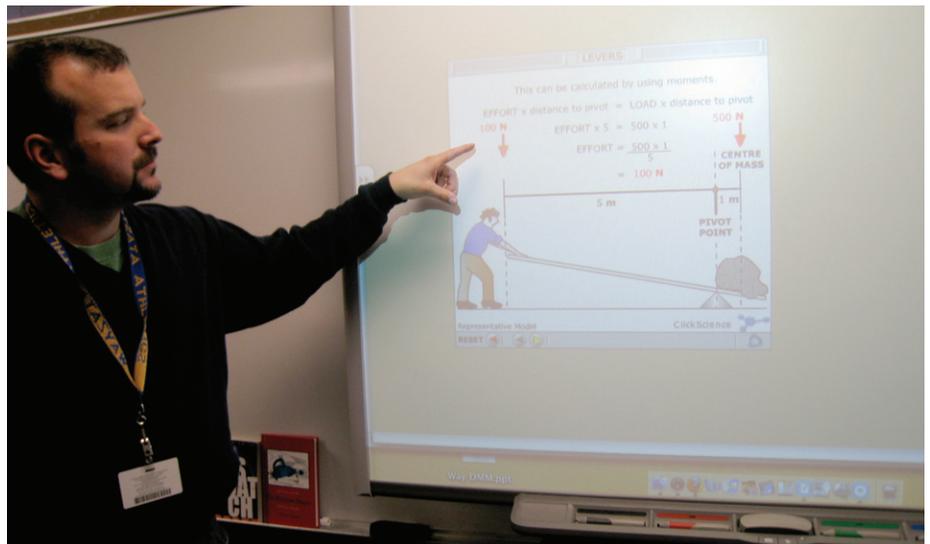
Additional math tools for SMART Notebook
Look for new math tools to be added to SMART Notebook software this spring. In upcoming issues of the newsletter, you'll find out how to access math-specific features like equation editing and graphing. Stay tuned!

SMART Table Toolkit
The SMART Table buzz is spreading quickly – this exciting new product will be available soon! Included with it is the SMART Table Toolkit. This complimentary resource will enable you to easily adapt the table's software applications for different activities, topics or elementary grade levels. You can use your Mac or PC to edit questions, modify content or add new images to activities. Then save them to a USB key and plug it into the table when you're ready.

Digital content helps Minnesota teachers create magic

SMART's digital content collections make it easy for teachers in the Wayzata Public Schools district in Minnesota to make a big impact on their students. Two of the most popular resources are the SMART Learning Marketplace content service and SMART Notebook software's Essentials for Educators collection. Read the full article.

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SMART Learning Marketplace – offering you a world of resources

Fast facts

The SMART Learning Marketplace is a searchable, online collection of digital content that brings together over a million high-quality, classroom-safe resources.

Why purchase a license? Ask Mark.

Mark Altosaar is the product manager for the SMART Learning Marketplace. We asked him why it's a key part of the SMART classroom.

EDCompass: How does the SMART Learning Marketplace help teachers bring more interactivity to their lessons?

Mark: The Marketplace is filled with interactive manipulatives, images, videos and other resources. You can pull them into any lesson – then all of a sudden you've got a multimedia activity that really suits today's students. Students expect this kind of lesson now, not just text on a blackboard.

EDCompass: Why is searching the Marketplace better than looking for images on the Internet?

Mark: It's faster, safer and it's made for teachers. You don't have to waste time searching through the incredible volume of stuff on the Internet that's really just there for everyone, for any number of purposes. Our content is just for the classroom, so you don't have to worry about doing a search right in front of your students. You're not going to come across anything inappropriate. You can search by subject area, keyword, grade or file type.

EDCompass: What's the advantage of having the Marketplace built into SMART Notebook software?
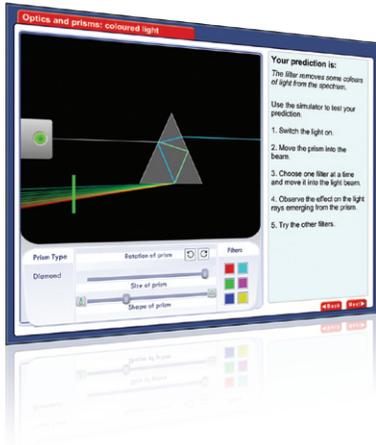
Mark: Let's say you're teaching an art lesson, and you want to point out something really specific about a painting. Once you're in your SMART Notebook file, all you have to do is click on the Marketplace, search for the painting and drag it into your SMART Notebook page. You can magnify the part of the painting that's most relevant and use the Magic Pen for emphasis. It's quick and easy – no extra manual steps like switching to the Internet are required. And you won't need extra training if you already know how to use SMART Notebook.

- The SMART Learning Marketplace is powered by the Global Grid for Learning, a Cambridge University Press company

- Its contributors include leading museums, education publishers and digital content creators from around the world

- Over a million high-quality images, videos, audio files and other resources are available, including more than 5,000 interactive manipulatives

- Teachers can find hundreds of reading and problem-solving exercises that are ready for classroom use

- Searches can be made by keyword, subject, grade or file type

- The Marketplace is accessible directly from SMART Notebook software

- Teachers can quickly integrate Marketplace resources into their SMART Notebook files or learning platform lessons

- Lessons can be easily personalized for students of all learning styles by using the variety of resources the Marketplace offers

- Purchase a license to this collection of professionally developed learning resources by visiting www.smartlearningmarketplace.com

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Variations on a theme

When you log on to the SMART Learning Marketplace, the first materials you'll see are the images, media and lesson resources of the week, which all center on a theme. If it's June, that theme might be summer. In this Marketplace section, you'll have easy access to manipulatives, multimedia resources and lesson plans for special classes related to the theme. For the summer theme, for example, you might find the following resources:
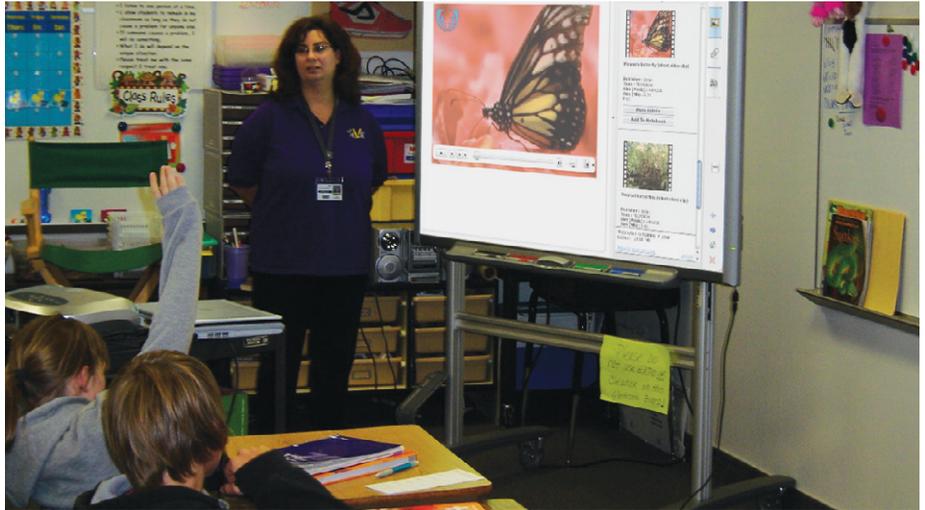
• Adobe Flash videos on surfing

• Images of flowers and beaches

• Interactive presentations on light and color

• A lesson plan to use with a novel that focuses on summer vacation

The featured theme section helps you imagine how you can use images, videos and other resources to create vibrant and interactive multimedia lessons. Try it out!

Up next

Watch for the next issue of EDCompass newsletter, which will be our annual FETC edition. Find out what we have planned at this year's education technology conference, and be introduced to some of our newest product and software offerings.

The SMART Learning Marketplace delivers "spectacular" results

Teachers all over North America are discovering the benefits of having the SMART Learning Marketplace embedded in SMART Notebook software. Corryann Thompson, a fifth-grade teacher at Highland Village Elementary School in Flower Mound, Texas, finds it a real time-saver. "I was already building SMART Notebook lessons, and I'd have everything in one place – website links, images – but I was bringing in videos from another site. Now it's one-stop shopping. I can find videos quickly to enhance the topic we're dealing with."

Corryann finds that the Marketplace helps her respond to the twists and turns of student discussion. "If someone brings up an idea for something we could search online, I can just type that in without leaving SMART Notebook, and the Marketplace will look for it. About 80 percent of the time, I'll find something really close to what the student has asked for, and that's a good percentage." This spontaneity, which the Marketplace makes possible, brings more flexibility to the classroom and enables both teacher and students to explore ideas in greater depth.

Students also benefit from the hands-on manipulatives found in the Marketplace. Heather Blanton's story is a case in point. This instructional technology resource teacher at Powell Valley Primary School in Virginia had great success with a lesson on telling time that incorporated a SMART Learning Marketplace resource. "I have taught this concept many times," she says, "but I could see for the first time that the lights were going on with these students. They were scrambling to participate and enthusiastically giving correct answers."

When Heather worked through the concept with her class, she found that "the clock activity was easy to use, with the click and drag function, and it gave immediate feedback for students." But learning to tell time was not the only outcome of Heather's teaching. "Each student showed a tremendous willingness to share and participate," she says. "They quickly joined in to help each other and to answer my questions."

Heather found her experience with the SMART Learning Marketplace fruitful and fulfilling. "To incorporate the 'wow' items from the Marketplace," she says, "I was forced to think creatively, and I ended up with spectacular results."

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