

# EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

### Welcome

The start of a new year brings new opportunities – it's a time to take stock of what your students have achieved so far and envision an even brighter future for them. Digital resources that are relevant, engaging and interactive are essential in creating an environment in which your students will thrive. But the search for content can be overwhelming. To help you find what you need, this issue outlines our extensive collections of subject-specific, curriculum-correlated resources. You can also read about how teachers are using SMART content to improve outcomes for students of varying learning abilities in the [feature article](#). And in this month's [product spotlight](#), we highlight the SMART Notebook Express™ web application, which enables you to quickly open and interact with lesson activities online without having to install any software or log in.

Have you already subscribed to this free, monthly e-newsletter from SMART? If not, it's easy to sign up on our website at [smarttech.com/EDCsubscribe](http://smarttech.com/EDCsubscribe). And 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 [newsletters@smarttech.com](mailto:newsletters@smarttech.com).

### THIS MONTH'S POLL

How have you used the SMART Exchange™ online community in the last three months?

## NANCY'S NOTES

### No Frills



Does anyone still think that computers and other technology products don't belong in today's classroom? For me, the following comment from Nicholas Negroponte says it all to skeptics, "Computing is not about computers any more. It is about living."

What some people think of as a nice-to-have or a frill is actually critically essential in educating students for the world they confront today and tomorrow. Integrating technology products into everyday activities puts the emphasis in the right place – on learning through technology rather than learning about technology.

The perspective that it is enough to buy a few computers and install a network is myopic. Just as textbooks are refreshed, so too must technology products be refreshed over time. The investment is never enough, and it doesn't stop.

But acquiring the hardware and software is just part of the equation. It's just as important to consider the content and resources that will bring lessons to life for all types of learners, more so than just words on a book's page.

Technology products in today's classrooms a frill? Say it ain't so.

[Nancy Knowlton](#) is the CEO of SMART Technologies.

## SMART Notebook™ Lesson Activities



Find a comprehensive database of [K–12 lesson activities](#) on the SMART Exchange online community. The activities, many of which are standards correlated, are created by classroom teachers or SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

Try one of the following SMART Notebook lesson activities during your next math, English or science class.

### Using a Ruler

Math students in grades 1–3 can use the ruler in SMART Notebook software to measure length to the nearest half inch.

### Singular and Plural Nouns

Fourth-grade language arts students can learn and review ways to pluralize nouns.

### Symbiosis

Science students in grades 7–12 are introduced to the three types of symbiosis.

### Lesson Activity Toolkit

Have you tried the [Lesson Activity Toolkit](#)? It's filled with customizable tools and templates that help you create professional-looking lesson activities that take full advantage of the appeal and interactive power of SMART Notebook collaborative learning software.

Read this [SMART Notebook file](#) to learn more about the tools available to you in the Lesson Activity Toolkit and find examples of how to use them in your curriculum. Then [download](#) the Toolkit to try it for yourself.

## Digital Content for Your SMART Products

To further enhance the interactivity of your SMART products, we have an extensive content and resource offering to inspire you as you create new lessons and enrich your existing ones. Here are a few resources to get you started:

### Gallery Essentials and Collections

The Gallery in SMART Notebook software gives you access to a vast number of complimentary resources. Using the [Gallery Essentials](#), you can enhance your lesson activities with thousands of learning objects, including maps, images of historical figures and science diagrams. You'll also find Adobe® Flash® animations and audio and video files. And if you are looking for themed compilations of copyright-cleared images and multimedia learning objects, check out our [Gallery Collections](#).



### SMART Ideas™ software activities

SMART Ideas concept-mapping software is a favorite planning, teaching and learning tool of many educators. On our website, you can find SMART Ideas software activities that help you easily create and organize multilevel, interactive concept maps that are ideal for inquiry- and project-based learning and lesson planning. [Learn more.](#)

### Dual-touch lesson activities

If you have a [SMART Board™ SBD600 series interactive whiteboard](#), you can encourage collaboration by creating lesson activities designed for two students to use at once. To find out how, take a look at the [example activities](#) we've included on our website.

## What's New on the SMART Exchange

Have you been using the SMART Exchange to find content for your classroom and connect with teachers? We're continually updating and improving the site to make it even more useful.

In the September issue, we told you about all the features of the new SMART Exchange, including its enhanced search function, the ability to share files and web pages, and the full visual preview you receive of each piece of content before you download. Now, you can also do the following:

- From the home page, find resources that have been recently shared and that are the most recommended and downloaded
- Find out how many times a file has been downloaded and recommended
- Recommend content you think will be useful for your peers
- Share files in a PDF format – check out these [two examples](#)

Watch a [guided tour](#) of the new SMART Exchange to learn how it can save you time when planning your lessons.

## Visit Us at FETC

January 12–15, 2010  
Orange County Convention Center  
SMART booth 401

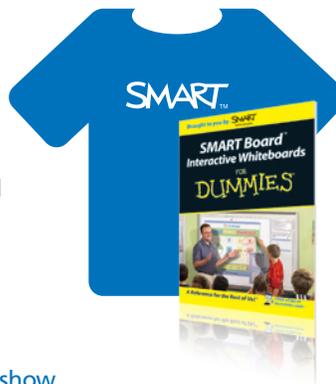
SMART is thrilled to be at the Florida Educational Technology Conference (FETC) again this year, and we hope you can stop by our booth to say hello. If you can't make it to the event, you can visit our booth virtually, right from the comfort of your computer.



Whether you're attending FETC in person or from a distance, you'll learn about some of SMART's latest education products. You can also win prizes and hear presentations – on professional development, differentiated instruction, assessment and subject-specific topics. Presentations will be held at the main stage in our booth and at the SMART Interactive Classroom in room W202A.

### Dress SMART. Win prizes.

If you're at the show and watch a product demonstration at our booth, you'll receive a free SMART T-shirt. Then come back to the SMART booth wearing your T-shirt at the end of each day – you could win a new SMART product for your classroom. Be sure to also attend a presentation in the SMART Interactive Classroom to receive a free *SMART Board™ Interactive Whiteboards for Dummies®* book.



We hope to see you next week – at FETC or at our [virtual show](#).

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### Content for Every Class



An interactive whiteboard at the front of a classroom can be a canvass where learning is transformed – but without quality content, it's hard for teachers to take advantage of its benefits. Increased student engagement and improved learning outcomes can remain elusive goals if an interactive whiteboard is only used to write, save and e-mail notes.

[Read the full article.](#)

## SMART Response Question Sets



Find a database of **SMART Response™ question sets** on the SMART Exchange. Each set includes questions that are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards.

Try one of the following SMART Response question sets in your next science, math, language arts or social studies class.

#### Beside the Seaside

Social studies students in grades 1–2 can test their knowledge of the seaside and the things found around it.

#### Tense in a Sentence

Language arts students in grades 4–6 can test their knowledge of tenses in a variety of sentences.

#### Seven Wonders of the World

Geography students in grades 4–6 can test their knowledge of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

#### The Origin of Earth's Atmosphere

Chemistry students in grades 7–9 can test their knowledge of how the Earth's atmosphere was formed.

#### Water Current Problems

Math students in grades 10–12 can test their ability to use linear systems to solve upstream and downstream problems.

## SMART Sync™ Collaboration Activities



Take advantage of SMART Sync classroom management software's collaboration feature in your next lesson. To see how SMART Sync can enhance small-group learning, check out this collection of [SMART Notebook lesson activities](#) on our education website. Each activity begins with an introduction of a topic to the whole class and then follows with a break-out exercise for groups of two or three students.

We've included a few here for you to try during your next social studies, English, math or science class.

### Benjamin Franklin

Social studies students can discuss which one of Benjamin Franklin's inventions was the most important.

### Comparing Poetry

English students can define a variety of poetic devices and then review four poems.

### Pythagorean Theorem

Math students can use the Pythagorean theorem to calculate the length of the sides in a number of triangles.

### Acid Rain

Science students can discuss acid rain and rank three causes based on how large an effect they have.

## Attend a Webinar on Technology in Education

We hope you've attended and enjoyed some of the SMART webinars we've hosted in our fall and winter series. There are two more in the works you can still attend:

- Create. Teach. Learn. Assess. Enhancing Teaching and Accelerating Learning with Technology in 1:1 Environments – Wednesday, February 24, at 3:00 p.m. EST
- Building a Professional Development Strategy to Effectively Support your Technology Implementation – Tuesday, March 2, at 3:00 p.m. EST



Though these webinars are designed for administrators and technology directors, teachers will find much that is relevant to their practice. If you take part in any webinar in this series, you'll receive front-of-the-line access to our virtual shows and the chance to register early for SMART's popular Learning Matters seminar at the [ISTE 2010 conference](#) (formerly known as NECC) in June.

[Visit our website](#) for more information on either webinar and to register. You can also watch SMART's previous webinars with our complimentary [on-demand viewing](#).

## SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

### Learning to Learn with Technology at the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division



There's a big difference between knowing how to surf the Internet and knowing how to use technology to learn. Students in the [Saskatchewan Rivers School Division](#) are growing up with a real-world aptitude for technology, thanks to coaches and teachers who use SMART Notebook collaborative learning software. [Read the full article.](#)

## Calling All SMART Podium™ Users

Are you using a **SMART Podium interactive pen display** (formerly the Sympodium™) in your classroom? If so, we want to hear from you! Tell us how you're using your SMART Podium and what you think the ideal widescreen size would be – you could win one for your school. Your feedback will be incorporated into the further development of this product.

Complete a short survey before midnight MST on January 24, 2010, and you will be automatically entered to win a SMART Podium ID350. The winner will be announced in the February issue.

To find out more about this product, read this **SMART Profile**. You'll learn how a teacher in New York State improved student learning outcomes using the Sympodium interactive pen display in his ninth-grade global history and geography class. **Fill out** the survey now!



## SMART-Accredited Software

Do you know what content and software programs work best with your SMART products? **SMART's Software Accreditation Program** includes hundreds of multimedia content and software titles from companies around the world. The program recognizes titles based on their level of compatibility with SMART Board interactive whiteboards and SMART Podium interactive pen displays.

Consider the following SMART-accredited titles for your next lesson.

### CCC! Video on Demand by New Dimension Media

**CCC! VOD** is a server-based system that delivers high-quality video content to K–12 schools. Its library includes over 2,500 programs, and all content is correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards. CCC! content is compatible with iTunes and the iPod MP3 player, and its Classroom LIVE! Feature can be used to enhance distance learning.

### Global Warming Series by Classroom Complete Press

The **Global Warming Series** is a collection of downloadable PDFs and worksheets that examine global warming. The series looks at the issue from a perspective that encourages students to make informed decisions about products and lifestyle choices.

### Algodoo by Algoryx Simulation

**Algodoo** is a novel two-dimensional simulation program that enables students to create interactive scenes while making use of real-world physics concepts. The playful pairing of science and art makes Algodoo as educational as it is entertaining.



## SMART Table™ Activities



If you're using the SMART Table interactive learning center in your primary classroom, check out the growing number of **SMART Table activities** on our education website. Most activities correspond to a SMART Notebook lesson activity and SMART Response question set. You can use SMART Table activities with small groups to complement whole-class and individual learning experiences.

Here are a few science, language arts, math and social studies activities to get you started.

### Water – Evaporation

Science students can learn about the different forms that water takes – solid, liquid and gas.

### “Ra” Words

Language arts students can learn about words that begin with “Ra.”

### Chronological Order

Math students can learn how to order things chronologically.

### United States of America

Social studies students in the third-grade can explore and test their knowledge of the United States.

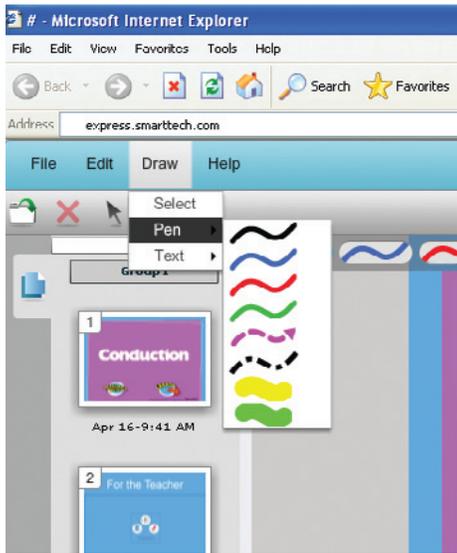
### Dinosaur

Science students can learn about dinosaurs.

### Color Stories

Art and language arts students can learn to identify the colors of certain things.

# Fast Facts about SMART Notebook Express



- **Universal** – Anyone, anywhere can use SMART Notebook Express to access SMART Notebook software content, regardless of the operating system or device being used
- **Based on SMART Notebook** – SMART Notebook Express includes some of the most popular editing and delivery features of SMART Notebook software
- **Easy to access** – SMART Notebook Express is a web application that does not require you to install software, register or log on to access it
- **Easy to share** – With SMART Notebook Express, you can share your SMART Notebook files with other educators, students and parents, regardless of whether they have SMART Notebook software
- **Integrated with the SMART Exchange** – Use the SMART Exchange to find and access thousands of SMART Notebook lesson activities and content – then open them with SMART Notebook Express
- **Automatic feature updates** – As SMART Notebook Express is a web application, updates to features are made automatically

# Interactive Lessons for Everyone



Anytime, anywhere access – that’s where learning is headed. So why can’t teaching head in that direction, too? With SMART Notebook Express, it is.

SMART Notebook Express is our new lightweight version of SMART Notebook software. Currently in beta form, this web application enables you to quickly open and interact with lesson activities online, without having to install any software or log on.

SMART Notebook Express was created because educators told us they wanted to access their SMART Notebook lesson activities without boundaries – and share them too. This application gives you the freedom to work on your lessons at home, in the library or even at a coffee shop. You can then send them to anyone, anywhere – regardless of the operating system or interactive whiteboard that is being used.

## SMART Notebook for the world

As long as you have access to the Internet, you have access to SMART Notebook lesson activities and content. That’s because SMART Notebook Express is a web application. For computers that don’t have SMART Notebook software installed, SMART Notebook Express is the answer.

Share lessons with colleagues or send parents their child’s in-class presentations. You can also enable students to access your SMART Notebook files while they complete homework assignments.

SMART Notebook Express can be used hand-in-hand with our online community, the SMART Exchange. Anyone can quickly search the SMART Exchange to find lesson activities and use SMART Notebook Express to instantly open them. They can then make light edits to the files.

With SMART Notebook Express, interacting with SMART Notebook files and content is something everyone can experience. Visit the [product page](#) for more information.

## Share your thoughts

As SMART Notebook Express is currently in beta, we are constantly improving its existing features and adding new ones. You can help shape this product by trying SMART Notebook Express and then completing [our survey](#). The full version of SMART Notebook Express will be available in spring 2010.

## Ask Julie

To find out more about how SMART Notebook Express gives educators, parents and students universal access to SMART Notebook software content and lesson activities, we talked to Julie LaFleur, product manager for SMART Notebook Express.

**EDCompass** Why did SMART choose to make SMART Notebook Express a web application?

**Julie** It's all about access. Over the years, we've heard from our users about the need to be more flexible, and with SMART Notebook Express, we feel we've achieved this. With just an Internet connection, anyone can access SMART Notebook Express. It offers automatic feature updates and easy, reliable access from any web browser, anywhere in the world.



**EDCompass** Why do you think it's important to give all teachers and students access to SMART Notebook files?

**Julie** With universal, open access, teachers can now easily share their lesson activities with students, parents and colleagues. Students can access these activities from home to study or complete assignments, and missing a class doesn't mean missing a lesson. Parents can also become more involved by accessing the lesson activities or assignments from their home or work computers.

**EDCompass** How else can educators benefit from SMART Notebook Express?

**Julie** Educators can now access their SMART Notebook files from places where they don't have SMART Notebook, like when they visit another school, present at a seminar or work at home.

**EDCompass** What are the differences between SMART Notebook software and SMART Notebook Express?

**Julie** SMART Notebook Express is best used for viewing and sharing lesson activities, whereas SMART Notebook software is best used for creating and delivering them. SMART Notebook Express does not give users access to all of the features in SMART Notebook. For instance, multimedia items can be viewed in SMART Notebook Express but not created.

**EDCompass** SMART Notebook Express is currently a beta. What are the future plans for this product?

**Julie** The beta period for this product will end spring 2010. By this time, we'll have incorporated the feedback we collected to finalize the product's features and deliver an excellent user experience. But even after the beta period, we will still continue to release new features and functionality.

## SMART Notebook Express and the SMART Exchange



The SMART Exchange is an online destination that gives educators a place to share ideas and find digital content for their classrooms. From forums with training tips to the many posted lesson activities, question sets and Gallery items, the SMART Exchange has everything teachers need to enhance learning for their students.

Now, with the introduction of SMART Notebook Express, the SMART Exchange has become a destination for even more educators because anyone, anywhere can use the digital content posted there. It will soon feature an Open with Notebook Express button, enabling teachers to access lesson materials without ever having to leave the SMART Exchange. So even without SMART Notebook, teachers can take advantage of the great content that is created by the global community of teachers and SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

## Up Next

In the February issue, learn about the SMART Podium line of products and find out which offering best suits your classroom needs. You can also read how teachers are engaging students through distance education.

# Technology News You Can Count On

There's never been a more important time to make the right choices about educational technology. You need to ensure the money you invest today offers benefits that continue, and even multiply, in the future.

*Interactive Administrator* can help you make decisions that have lasting value. This quarterly newsletter from SMART is designed especially for administrators and technology directors. It offers reliable information about educational technology and insight from other educators on best practices in technology implementation and use. In every issue, you'll find

- A district case study
- Relevant and timely research on educational technology
- Articles on the latest technology trends
- Information on SMART's newest hardware and software products
- Insightful articles from SMART's CEO, Nancy Knowlton
- News and innovations from SMART

Stay informed about the latest educational technology news and issues. Register now to receive your free quarterly subscription to *Interactive Administrator*.

To learn more, visit [smarttech.com/ia](http://smarttech.com/ia).



## Your Link To SMART Support

SMART makes it easy to access all the information and resources you need to get the most from your SMART products.

*SupportLink* is our latest newsletter for teachers, administrators, technology specialists and support staff around the world who use and maintain SMART products. It focuses on the technical aspects of using SMART products and offers tips, product information, links to training resources and SMART support and service updates. You'll also find links to our extensive Knowledge Base, which contains more than 1,500 technical documents, and information about how to quickly connect with SMART customer service specialists by phone, e-mail or webchat.

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