MACUL Swag: **awesome, engaging, and FREE web tools to use in your classroom**

PhotoSynth: make a panorama OR a 3-D image (called a synth)



Getting Started:

* Go to [www.photosynth.net](http://www.photosynth.net)
* Create an account using your Microsoft Outlook account
* Download the “Photosynth” program

Using the Program:

* Synth: take a ton of pictures of a 3-D object from all angles (zoom out, zoom in, tilt the camera, etc…don’t fret about taking “good” pictures. This is about quantity and variety, not quality)
	+ Create a synth by uploading all pictures of your object and wait a few minutes. The program does all the work for you. If you have lower than 75% quality, take and upload more pictures.
* Panorama: take a ton of pictures of a scene (from every angle…then repeat the process above. Done.)

Photosynth Classroom Applications:

* You go on a field trip to see a monument and want to document it in 3-D
* You visit a beautiful scene and want to document your surroundings
* Look through the synths/panoramas on the Photosynth website and use these images to teach about a geographic location or monument
* Create a 3-D image of a 3-D artwork you created and write an accompanying art reflection
* Create a 3-D image of a monument/artwork you liked on a field trip and write/record a reflection of it

Virtual Field Trips: A Pinckney, MI teacher compiled links to virtual field trips from a variety of subject areas

* Go to [www.vft78.weebly.com](http://www.vft78.weebly.com)



Classroom Applications:

* Send students to peruse a site as an anchor activity and reflect on what they learned
* You peruse a site first and design questions or activities for students to complete during and after they visit the site

Scoop.it: curate your own digital magazine!



Using the Program:

* Go to [www.scoopit.com](http://www.scoopit.com)
* Create a free account
* Peruse others’ scoop.it pages or embark on designing your own
* Pick a topic you’re interested in curating a magazine for and search scoop.it for related content (if you like any of the suggestions it gives you, you can curate them to your own page)

Classroom Applications:

* See attached blog
* Unit planning
* Anchor activities
* Create a resource pool
* Research current events
* Find current, real-world stories that relate to class content

FotoFlexer: an online site to do basic image editing: text and graphic overlays, tints, special effects



Using the Program:

* Go to www.fotoflexer.com
* While you can create an account, you can always just upload images and edit them without having to commit to creating an account

Classroom Applications:

* Tint and edit images to create a different mood
* Interpose or juxtapose image and text to create new mean
* Edit images for collages or posters
* Create author, historic figure, great mathematician, scientist/inventor posters (upload a portrait of them and layer a famous quote or important facts about them on top of the image; print and post in your room or on a bulletin board)

Pinterest: make an online pin board to collect and share images and accompanying captions



Using the Program:

* Go to [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)
* Requires facebook/twitter to sign up
* Install the “Pin It” button to your favorites tool bar and as you come across images you like, “pin” them (they’ll get linked back to your pin board)

Classroom Applications:

* See attached blog post on symbolism in *The Glass Menagerie*
* Historic context (collage images and captions related to your class content)
* A pinboard of a story's setting (with accompanying captions - maybe quotes from the text to accompany the images)
* A pinboard that documents a character's personality, interests, values, etc.
* A unit planning tool to pin different texts, quotes, and artworks all centered on a shared theme
* Create an “interests” board to introduce yourself on your teacher website (or have students do it as an icebreaker activity)

Other Cool FREE Things You Can Investigate on Your Own:

* Weebly.com (start a class blog!)
* Michigan Virtual University (free PD courses)
* Windows Live Photo Gallery (an online place to house, organize, and edit all of your photos)
* AutoCollage (upload a ton of photos and this program builds a collage for you; it recognizes face and so zooms in on those so no one’s head is cut off)
	+ Get from [www.us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com](http://www.us.partnersinlearningnetwork.com)
* Microsoft Ice (an image composite editor; stitches images together into one panoramic image)
* Microsoft Mathematics 4.0 in the Classroom (projects calculator and buttons; unit converter)
* [www.21things4teachers.net](http://www.21things4teachers.net)
* Bubblus (visual organizer)
* Gliffy (sophisticated templates and venn diagrams)
* [www.pics4learning.com](http://www.pics4learning.com) (a database of copyright-free images)
* ZoomIt (functions like an interactive whiteboard; lets you type text on top of your computer screen; sets a timer to project on the screen)
	+ Be sure to download the technet one
* Google Museum