47 Interesting Ways* to Use **Moodle** to Support Learning

*and tips

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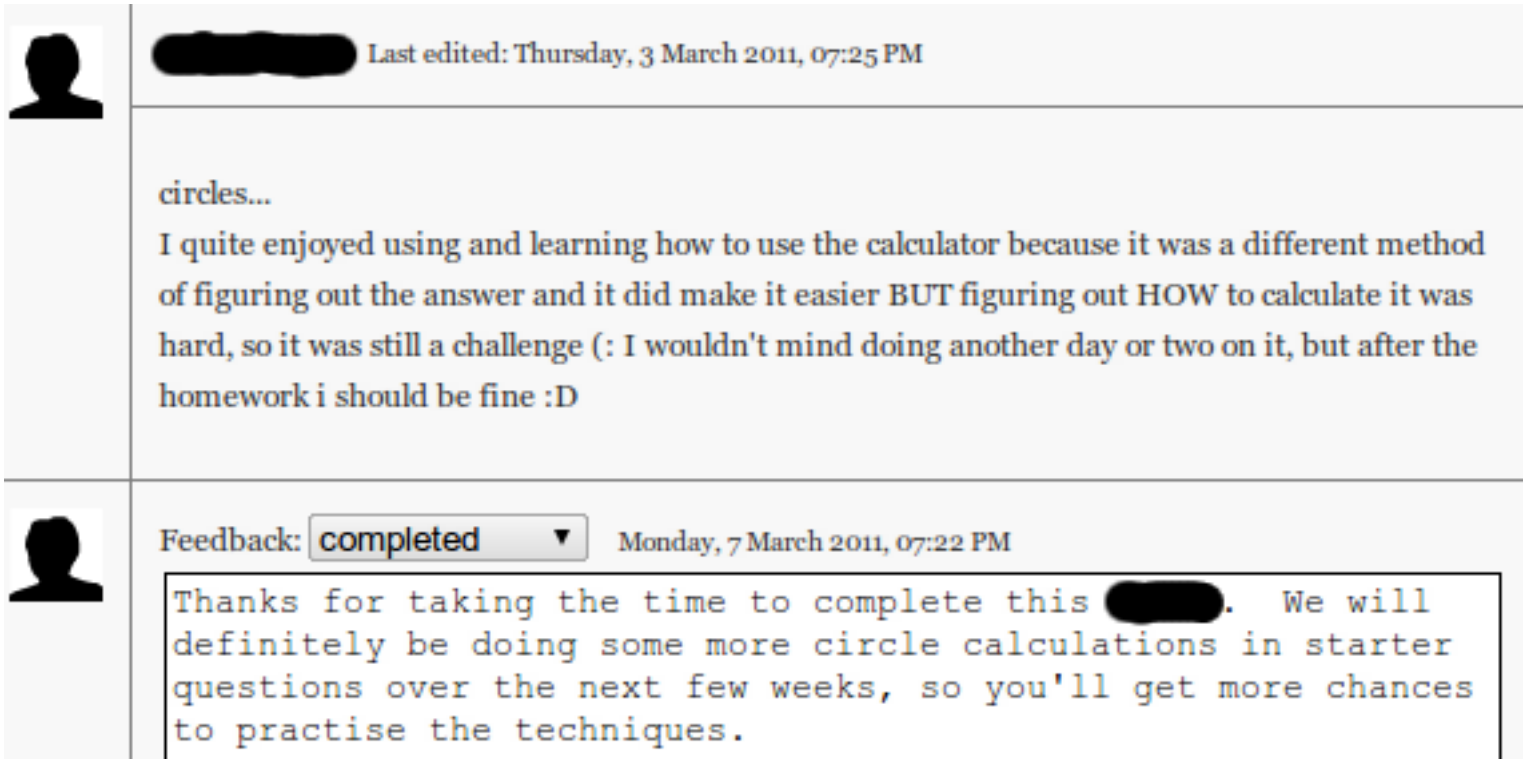
#1 - Learning Logs

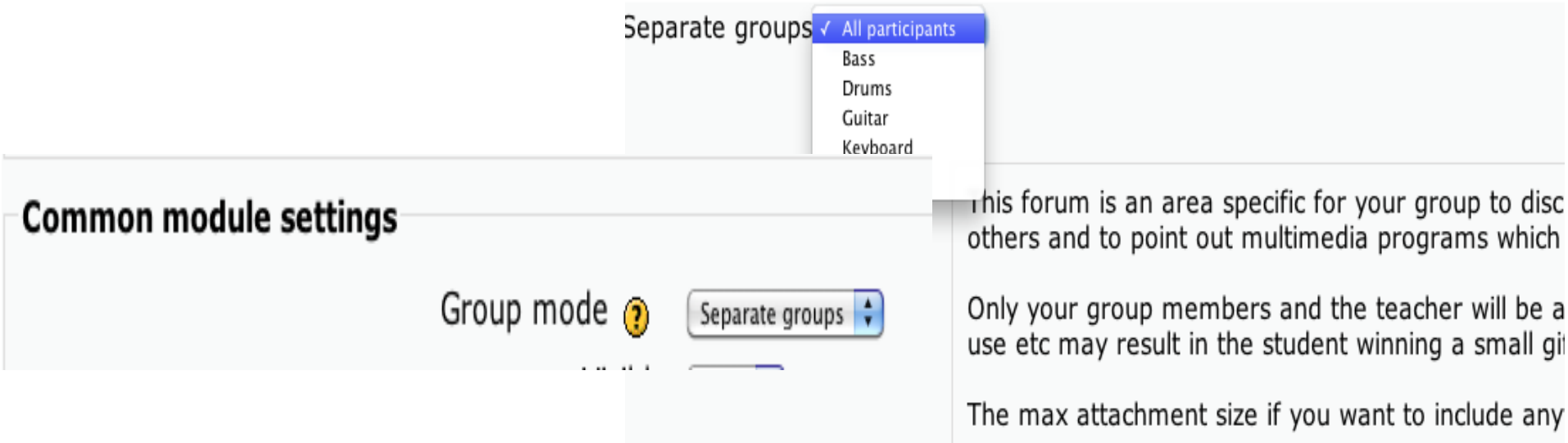
Use the Journal activity to give learners an opportunity to reflect on their learning. Using Moodle allows this to happen outside the classroom too, and gives the teacher the opportunity to give feedback.



#2 - Using Groups with Forums

A great way to engage groups of students in a safe environment is through creating a forum board whilst using the group mode of 'separate groups'.

This lets specific groups of students in a project based task collaborate together (all in the same forum) but not have to worry about peers who aren't in their group distracting the threads (task ideas) they are working on.
For my video explanation: http://www.vimeo.com/16335301



#3 - Learners as teachers

Make the learners 'teachers' on a Moodle course.

Tell them to edit one topic block each for an assignment.

This makes the Moodle more Facebook-like and the kind of activities that they create on the Moodle may surprise you.

@xlearn

#4 - Live Chat

Using the live chat function of Moodle in the classroom will allow learners to communicate about a group classroom based task, share ideas, links and together solve problems.

As the chat can be "saved" and "recorded" can be used as evidence for portfolios or similar.

@jamesclay

#5 - Forum posting - not just for text

A forum posting is not limited to just text. Students can upload files, like a JPG file, that becomes the posting. Also, commenting can be turned on so that a dialogue / critiquing of each others work can take place.

And although I'm just about to experiment with this, there is a grading / feedback feature that can be implemented as well.

@Thespian70

#6 - Forum posting - using the Q&A forum

When choosing to create a forum using the Q&A forum can be invaluable. Let's say you are trying to establish reading comprehension. Scan or type the piece of text into moodle. Then using the Q&A format of the forum ask a series of questions. Students can only see each others answers when they answer themselves. They have 30 mins to edit their answer after they submit so it gives time to self assess based on others answers and to submit better answers. The effect on attainment is remarkable.
@clareire

#7 - Multiple Choice quiz - several attempts - using results block

Use the quiz module to create multiple choice quizzes
Give students 3/4/5 attempts to retake the quiz (you decide)
Use the results block to display grades
Great assessment as learning as students retake the quiz to improve their grades - moodle provides excellent feedback so building on previous attempts is very achievable

@clareire

#8 - Reflection tools

Moodle is an ideal platform for reflection due to its Social constructivist nature. My favourite ways of getting students to reflect is using:

a. An online assignment where students are allowed unlimited attempts with no opening or closing date

b. Creating guided reflection using the feedback/questionnaire modules – I find that getting students to decide on the questions using a mindshower or contributing their ideas in a forum first is the best way to really engage them in this process.

c. If students are reflecting within a group then the wiki is a great tool.
@clareire

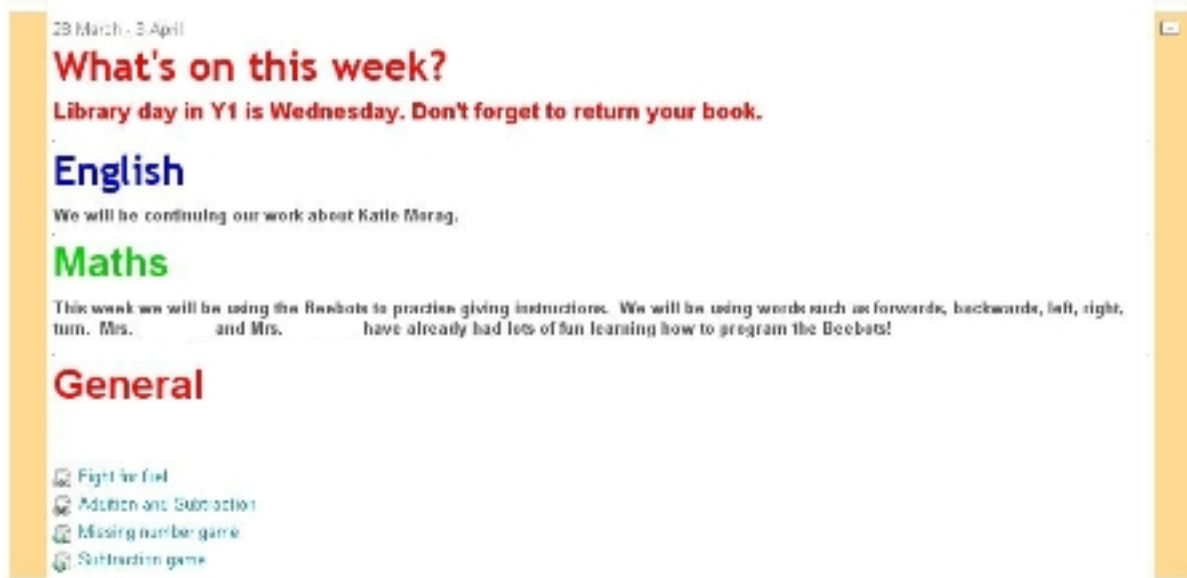
#9 - Parental engagement

We started our Moodle exploration with Y1 & Y2 in English & Maths.

This was to support those parents who expressed an interest in what their children were doing in school and how they might best help them.

Rather than provide activity sheets to take home and lose (or not use!), we used the 'weeks format' to provide interactive activities which supported what was being done in the classroom during that week.

Parents could work with their child at appropriate times on targeted activities, asking questions of the teacher through the forums and providing feedback on what they thought about the activities ... all within the environment.



#10 - Moodle Choice for a Quick Quiz

To share results and discuss - if you are in a classroom with all students on computers use the Choice activity to create a series of quick multiple choice questions.
For 5 questions - create a choice for each question before the class - and hide all except choice 1.

Ask question 1 - get students to make their choice - then show the results to the class (you can make anonymous)- discuss results

Now unhide choice 2. Ask question 2 - get students to make their choice etc...

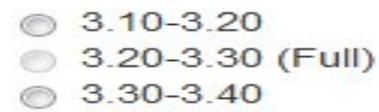
At the end of the class the choices can either be kept.....or deleted. Beauty of this is that no extra voting pads/costly software etc needs to be used.
@suggsburgess

#11 - Using the choice module for parent evenings

In this example you are also using the choice module as described in #10 but with this one you

a. set up all the appointment times in moodle
b. limit the choice to only one per time
c. students log in with their parent, choose a time for their meeting

this takes all the headaches out of collating them at your end and the choices that are no longer available are, well, no longer available.....



@clareire
www.inspiringteaching.com/wordpress

#12 - Glossary - student generated

When introducing a new topic you issue students with all the key words/terms they need to learn in the topic. You then assign a word to each student. As homework they must add the term to the glossary (when you set it up make sure that they are not approved by default as you will want to check them later).

Useful hint: do not add the word to the definition, just add it to the concept.....useful for the next interesting way!

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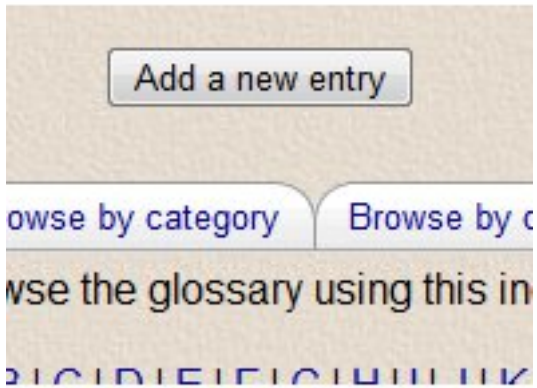

#13 - Glossary - to game

Using a glossary you can turn the glossary into a hangman (or a crossword, or a Cyptex/wordsearch, or Snakes and Ladders) game in a few clicks. To do this you need to have the contributed game module installed.

Students of all ages enjoy it and it helps to reinforce definitions and terms.
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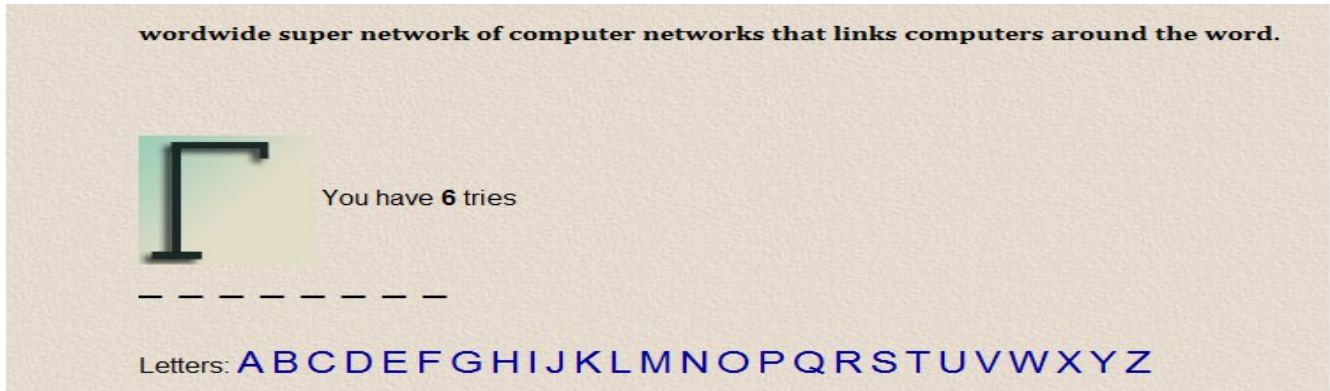
www.inspringteaching.com/wordpress



@kristianstill ·
students.
http://www.kristianstill.co.uk/wordpress/2011/03/16/better-learning-rates-for-some/

#14 - Glossary - with random glossary entry block

Set up a glossary with "interesting facts of the day" or "great science term" or whatever you want.....

The set up a random glossary entry with the random glossary entry block.....this way every time the student logs into the page the see a new "fact" on the page.....super

@clareire
www.inspiringteaching.com/wordpress

#15 - "Pimp my course"/ student moodlers

This is similar to an earlier interesting way to use Moodle

In this idea you give students access to your course and ask them to "jazz it up".....

I have also found it great to give students a moodle course for their clubs/activities - some of my very best interface ideas came from those courses.

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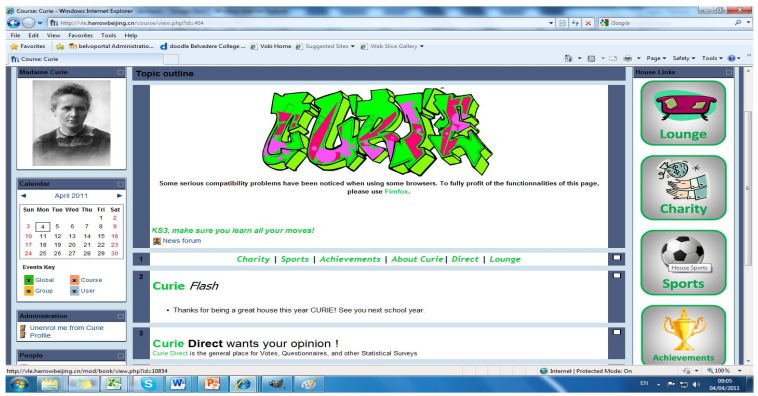
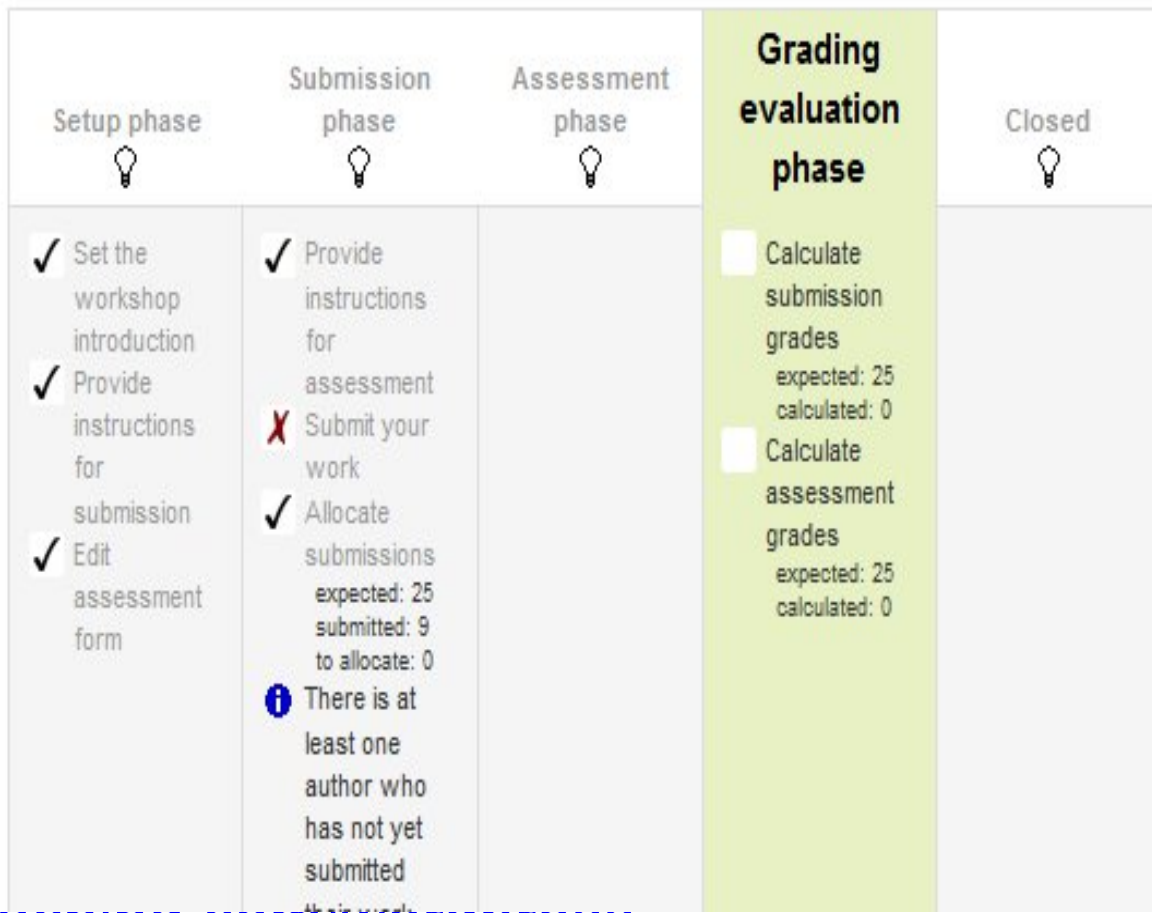


#16 - invest time learning how to make a lesson

The lesson module in moodle is really excellent, you can add all sorts of media to the lesson but the real beauty of it is that you can
a. test for understanding as student progress
b. send them back to slides if they get an answer wrong

@clareire

#17 - Invest time learning how to use the workshop module



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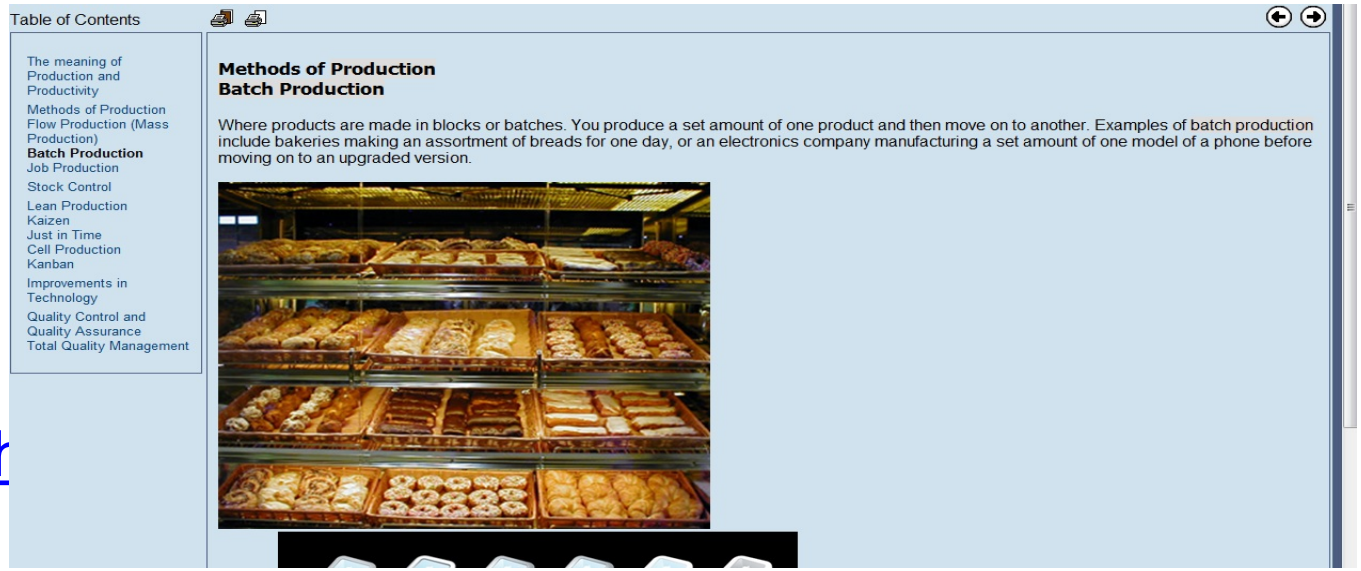
#18 - Book module

The book module is a great way to add "web 1" content to moodle - are some really nice tutorials in youtube on how to use this module.

@clareire

www.inspiringteach

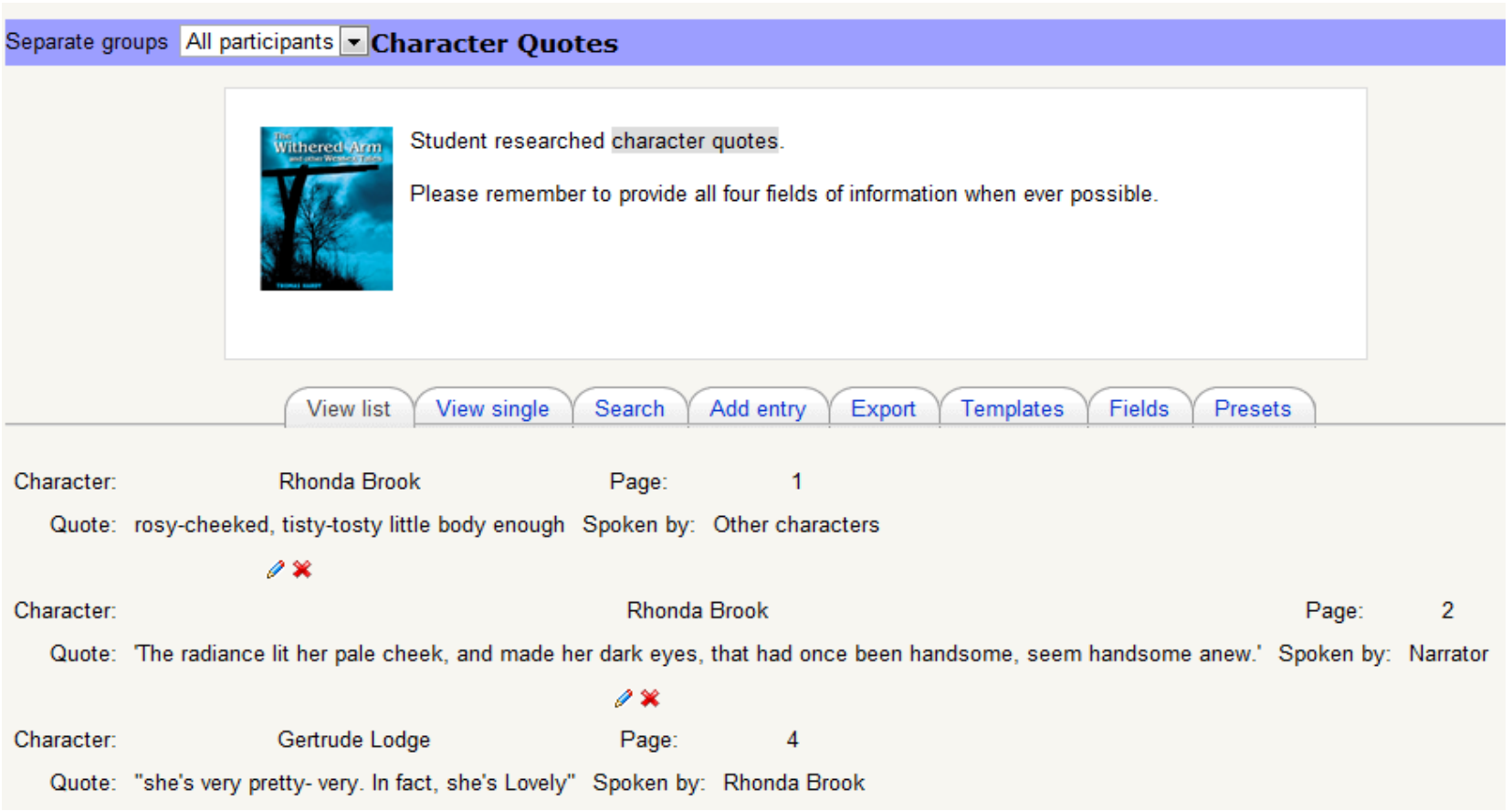


#19 - Database module to keep a database of artists

The database module is an ideal way to collect examples of artists work. As an example you could ask students to find an impressionist artist and using the settings you ensure that they cannot duplicate the artists so if Degas is taken they have to find another one.....they then upload the sample of the artists work and you have a student generated image bank!

@clareire
www.inspiringteaching.com/wordpress

#20 - Database module to keep a data



The database module is an ideal way to collect examples of literary quotes.

Students submit their quote, spoken by, to whom and theme. As a database can be sorted, this provides an excellent learning in it on right, very useful so essay writing, but one that can be converted to classroom quizzes. Export / import to glossary - to Games Module. See #13 @Kristianstill

#21 - Wikis for end of year revision

The teacher sets up a wiki and on the front/main page you make links to each chapter and put the name of the student after it.

Each student then takes their chapter and summarises it
This generates a set of notes which all students can access

As the teacher you may need to moderate/improve content but it's not as huge as making the summaries yourself!

@clareire
www.inspiringteaching.com/wordpress

#22 - Podcasts of revision notes

Following up on the last point on using wikis for end of year revision.

Students use audacity to make podcasts of their notes and you (the teacher) uploads the mp3 files to the podcast module.

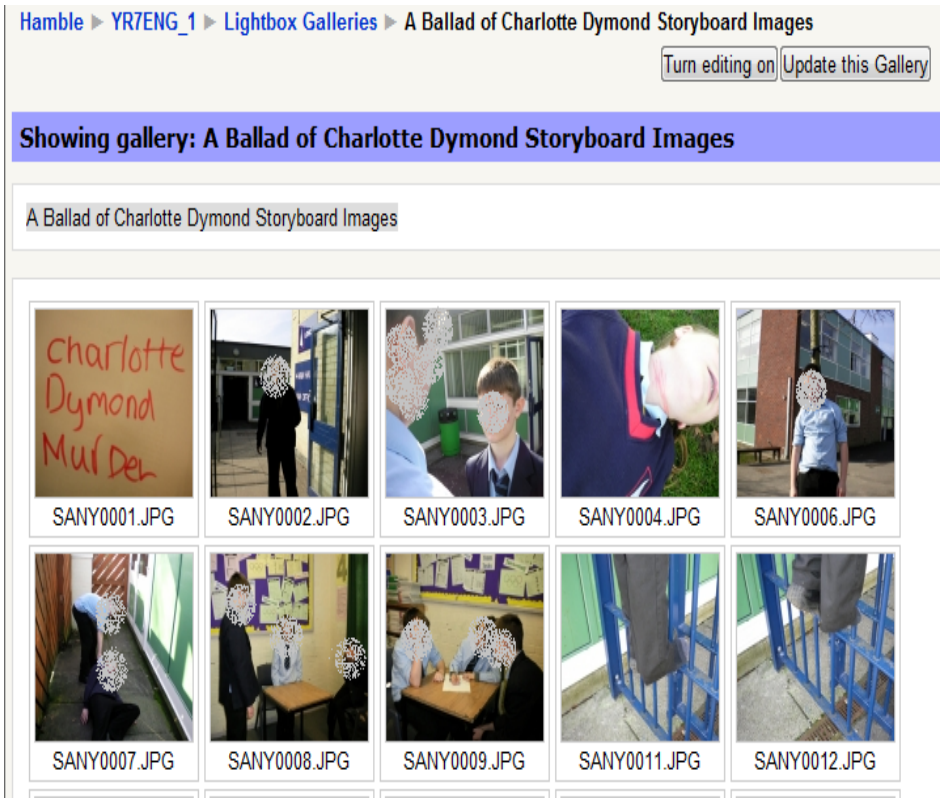
This allows students to revise on the run!

@clareire

#23 - Galleries for Storyboarding or Movie Trailers.

Share images taken or collected by students for storying boarding tasks.

Step 1 - Learning input eg Romeo and Juliet / Ballad of Charlotte Diamond
Step 2 - Students recreate the story and take images
Step 3 - Zip and upload files. Link to a gallery
Step 4 - Students now have access to the gallery. Use a range of tools (Photostory, MovieMaker, Animoto, to create the storyboard or movie trailer.
@Kristianstill



#24 - Using the ilp module - targets

The ilp module is one of my favourite moodle contributed modules.

As a form tutor or a subject teacher you can get students to set a target every month - this will form an excellent bank of achievements over a year/years.

@clareire
www.inspringteaching.com/wordpress

#25 - Combine Bookmarks and RSS for uptodate Links

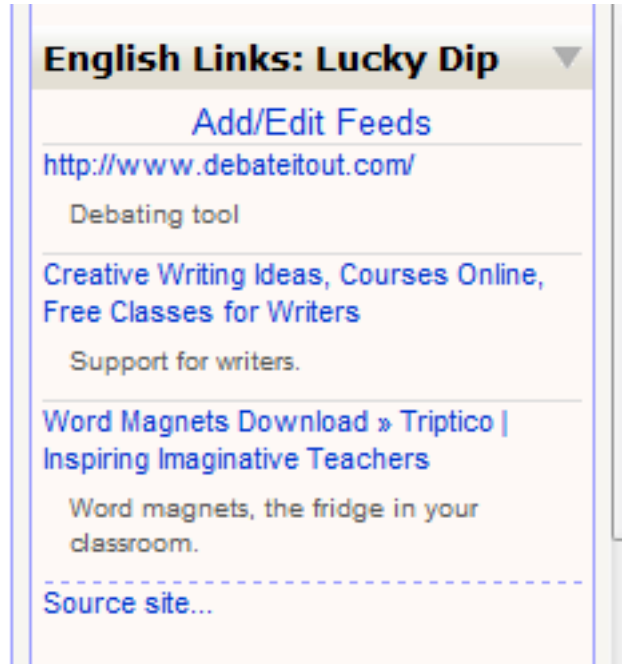
Add subject specific resources to your courses by using tagged bookmarks RSS feeds (or go ahead and use mine..... the most common subjects are available.)

Assuming you are tagging your bookmarks.... add the tag to your search criteria.
Request to see the feeds on the page, now grab the (URL) link.

http://feeds.delicious.com/v2/rss/KristianStill/english?count=15

Add it to the RSS feed block in Moodle. Configure as you choose.

Now you get to make more of your bookmarking efforts.

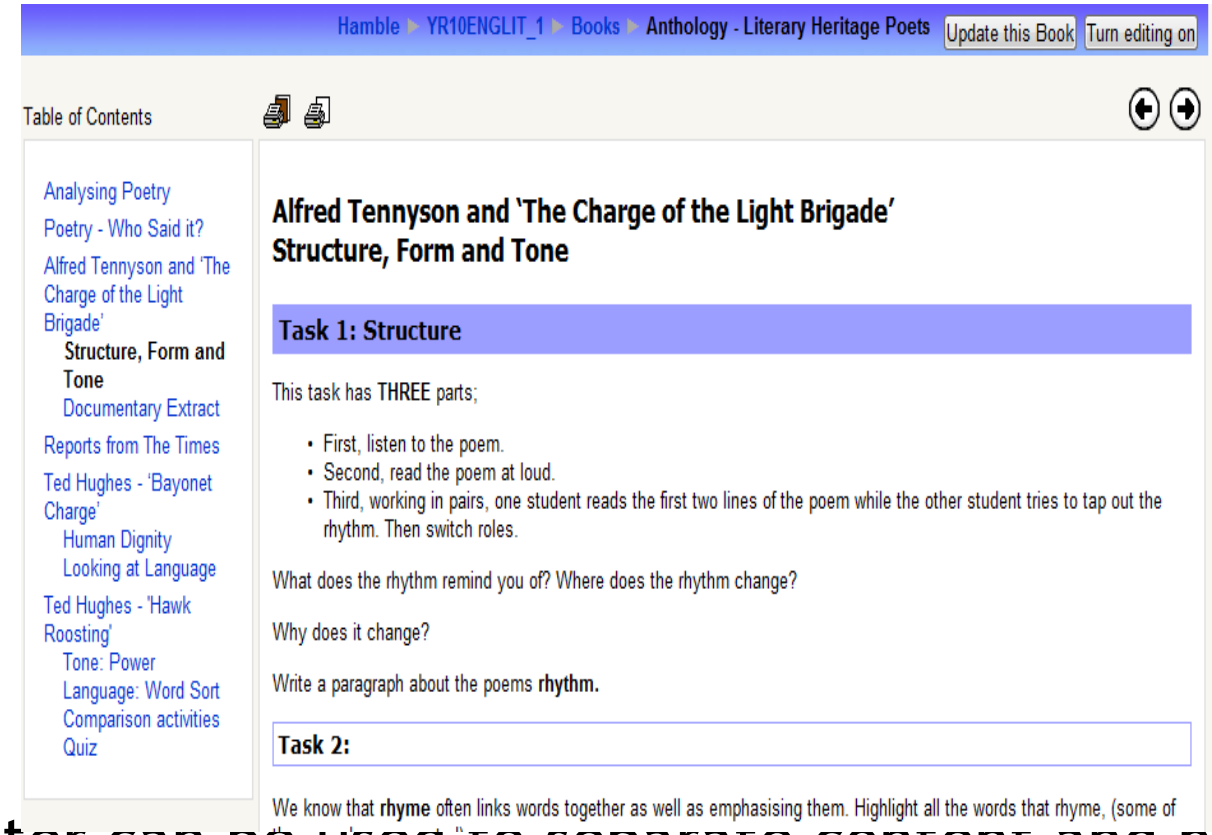


@kristianstill

Lots of moodle tagged links on Delicious

#26 - Replace a series of webpages with a book.

We use this for Course handbooks that we would usually print and hand out to students. It works really well #sustainability @gsyoung

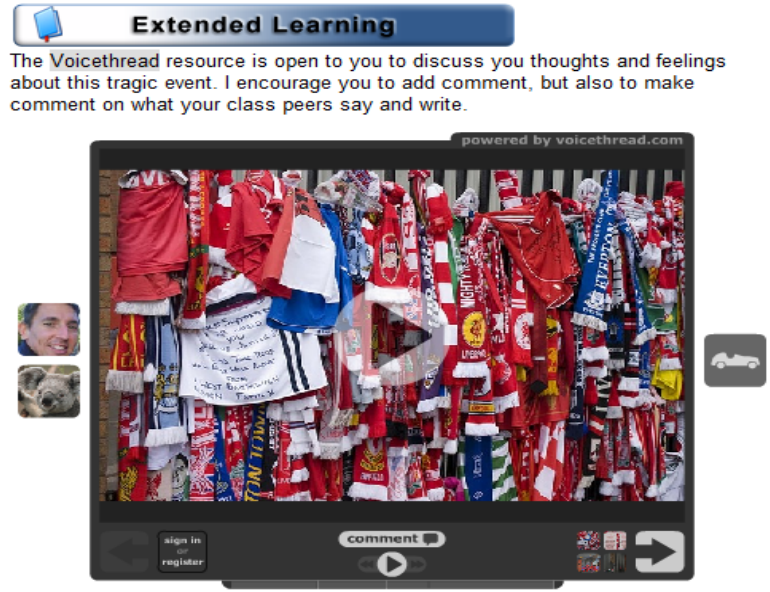


Book Module
Chapters and Sub-Chapter can be used to separate content and hence reduce the length of your topic or course with the added bonus of easy navigation. @Kritianstill

#27 - Get more vocal with Voicethread

Most netbooks, laptops have built in mic. Set up and then embed a voicethread in a range of formats. Get the students to 'tell you' what they think.

This resource is only as good as the images you direction you offer of course.

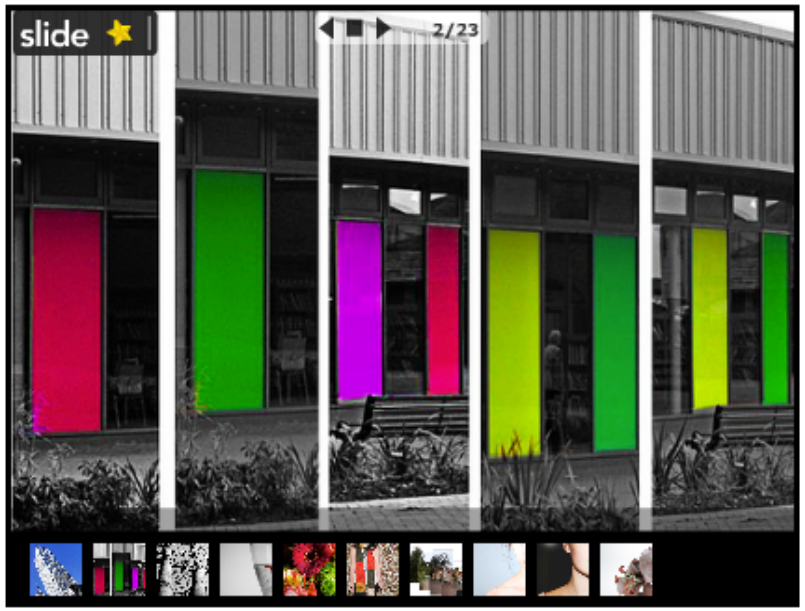


http://www.kristianstill.co.uk/wordpress/2011/01/17/the-hillsborough-ballad-with-voicethread/

#28 - Embed Slide shows of students work to be inspired by peers

Use Slide or flickr to Embed recent work from students .
This shares what work students are doing across different groups but it also can be used for peer assessment within a classroom or using forums.
Flickr allows you to easily access the embed code which can be added as a label to your Moodle course it also updates as soon as images are added to your Photostream
http://www.flickr.com/photos/sfcart/show/

@nellmog



#29 - Allow learners to submit responses to tasks verbally using Nanogong

Use the Nanogong plugin to provide an extra assignment type.

Nanogong embeds a voice recorder into the assignment submission page so that earners can give a verbal response very easily. This can then be played back by the tutor and graded with feedback, in the manner as the other assignment "types"

@mattsmeeth

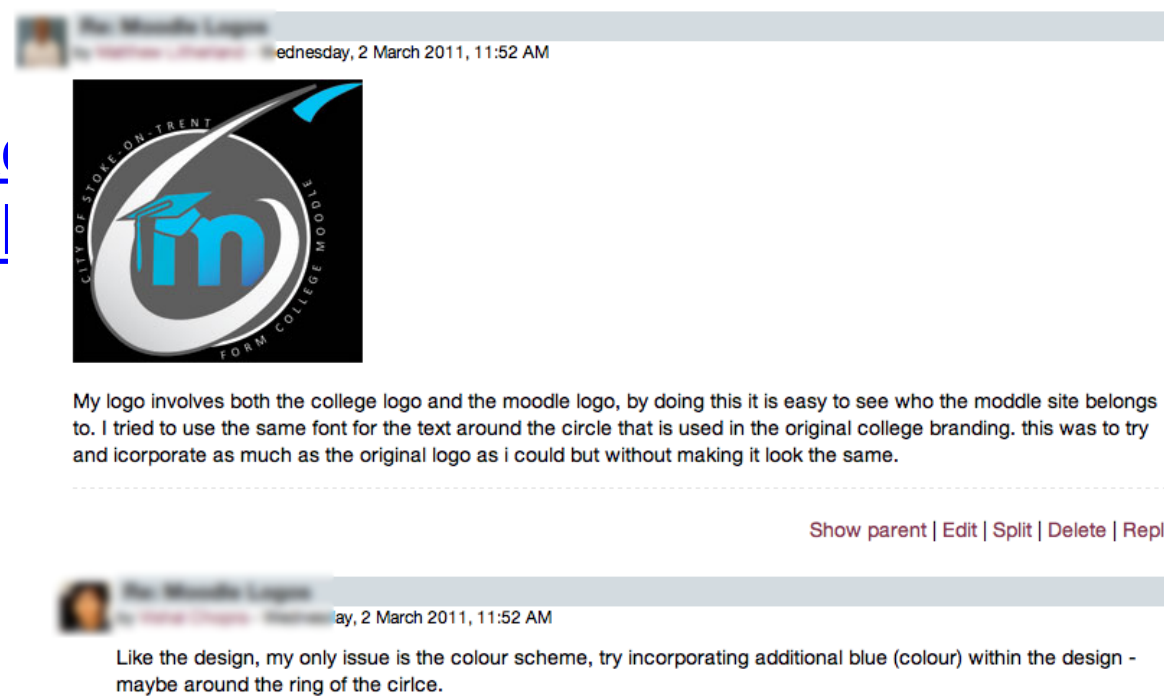
#30 - Use Moodle as a Design opportunity

Set a project to "Re-design Moodle". Often we make up fictitious projects when there are real projects within school and college students can work on.

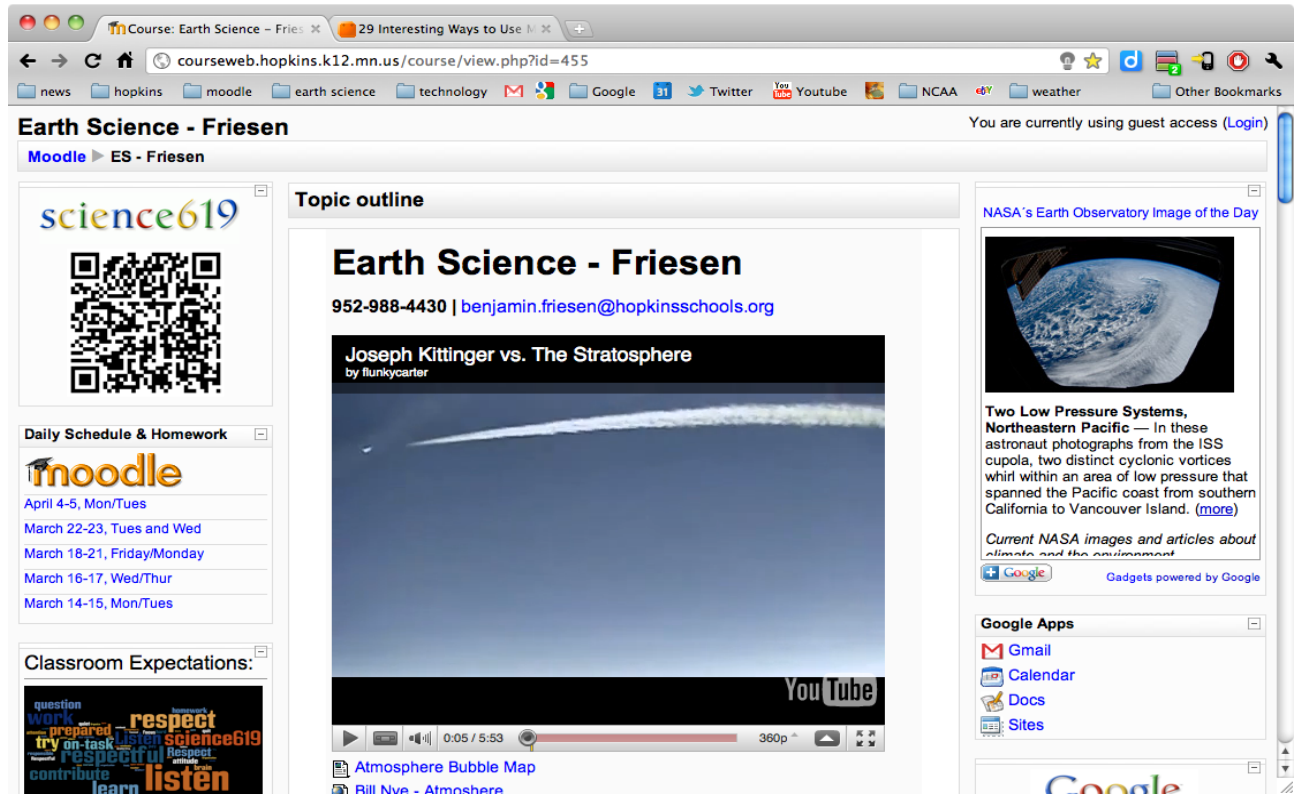
Recently our students have been redesigning the look of Moodle but this has also meant they have investigated how different tools within the platform work and how usable different Moodles/layouts are. The forum Module has been heavily used for critiquing others development. Also a number of web 2.0 tools have also been embedded (lino.it Jog the Web) to structure early research tasks.

More of their early logo designs can be found here http://stok
com/2011/03/btec-grap

@nellmog



#31 - Add Gadgets and Embed Content

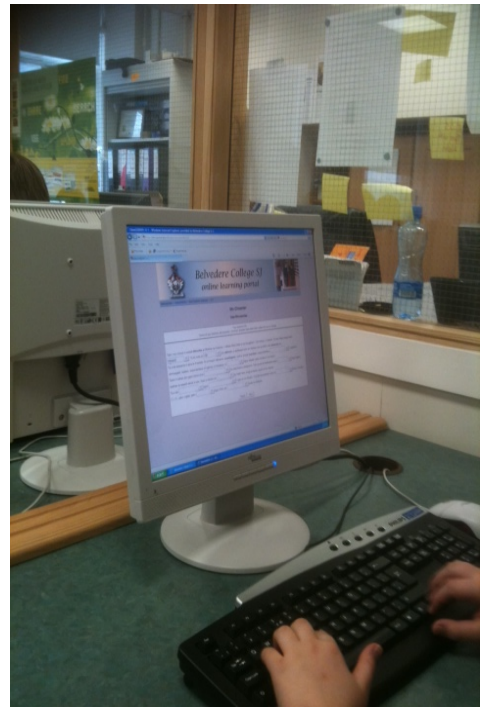


Make your Moodle page look like other websites by embedding videos, gadgets and RSS feeds into your page. Try and make it a place students will want to visit. [Moodle Link](#) @schoolhuman

#32 - use with Hot Potatoes

Giving students rights to make quizzes is possible but can be a lot of work for the Admin person. A quick way around this is to use HotPotatoes and upload those quizzes to moodle.

Recently, I have used this approach to create crosswords and cloze tests. In Irish language classes students have
a. written a passage
b. the teacher has corrected it for mistakes
c. the students have typed them up
d. the students have pasted them into the cloze hot potato quiz
e. students have then gapped the exercise providing the hints in Irish also
f. we save them in hotpotato format and when they are checked again the
g. best 5 go into Moodle where
h. students take each others quizzes



@clareire
www.inspringteaching.com/wordpress

#33 - Realtime Quiz plugin

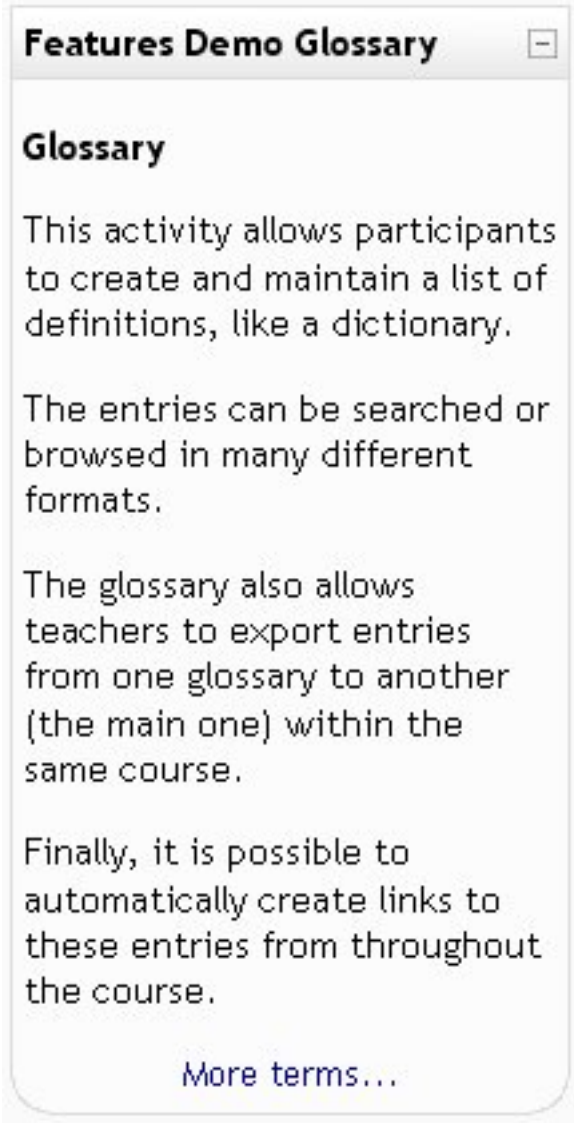
Much like #10, get quick feedback from a class by installing the Realtime Quiz plugin, setting up a series of multiple-choice questions and giving students a short time (e.g. 30 seconds) to answer each one.

In between each question, you can see how many gave each answer and discuss the answers, if needed

@davosmith
http://www.davodev.co.uk

#34 - Random Glossary Entry block

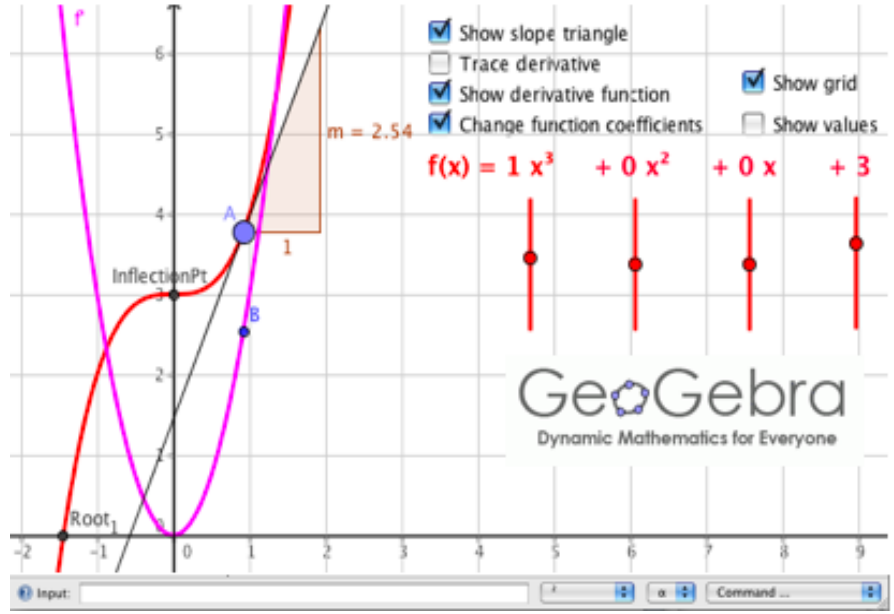
Use the Random Glossary Entry block in your course. Key concepts, quotes, dates or even images can all be used to keep the course page interesting.



@johnroughley
http://moodletips.posterous.com/

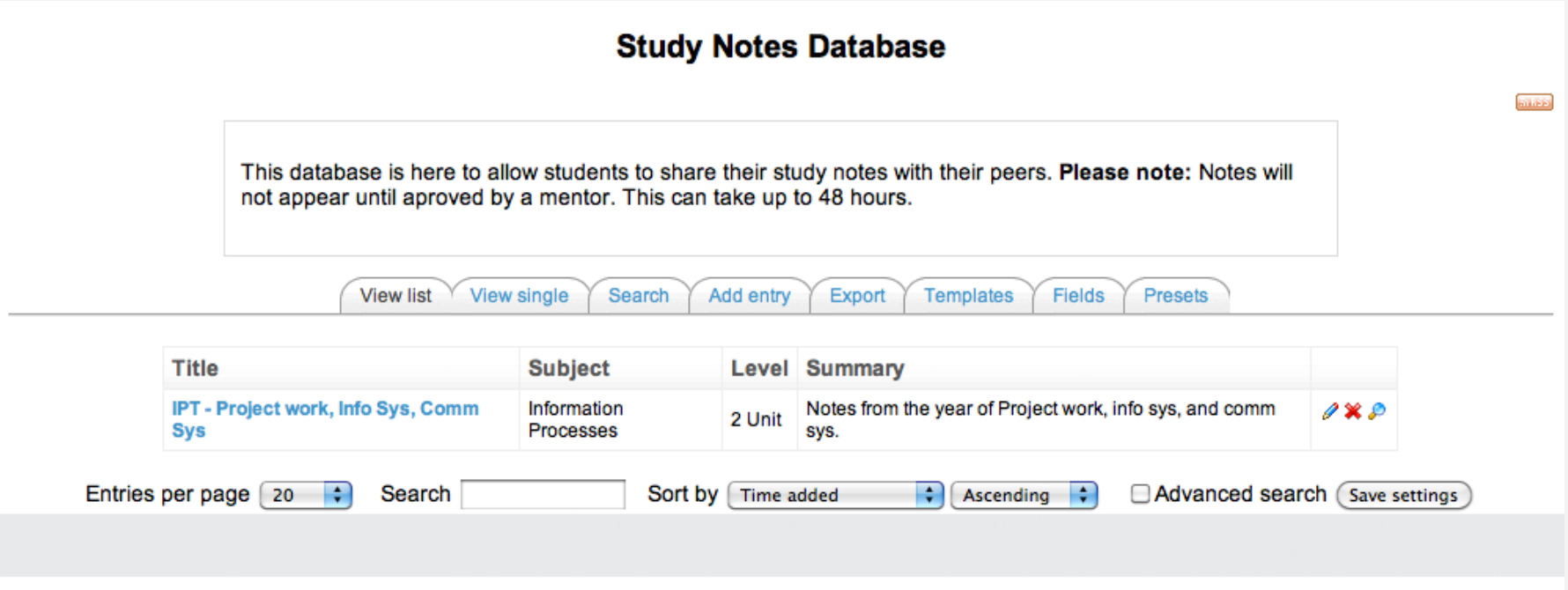
#35 - Discover math concepts with the GeoGebra plugin

Have your students investigate mathematical concepts on-line. Create worksheets for students to attempt and interactive graphics for them to explore. It's a great enhancement to a mathematical Moodle course. See http://moodle.org/mod/data/view.php?d=13&rid=2423 for details!



@IanDavidWild
http://heavy-horse.co.uk/

#36 - Use the Database tool to allow students to share study notes



One of my favourite uses of Database is to create a DB for students to upload and share personal study notes.

It is set up so that students can only view the notes of their peers once they have uploaded 2 of their own.

@moodleman http://www.moodleman.net

#37 Roles overide of Lightbox gallery to display student work

Make students a teacher of this activity to allow them to add images to the gallery. They can then comment on each others work.

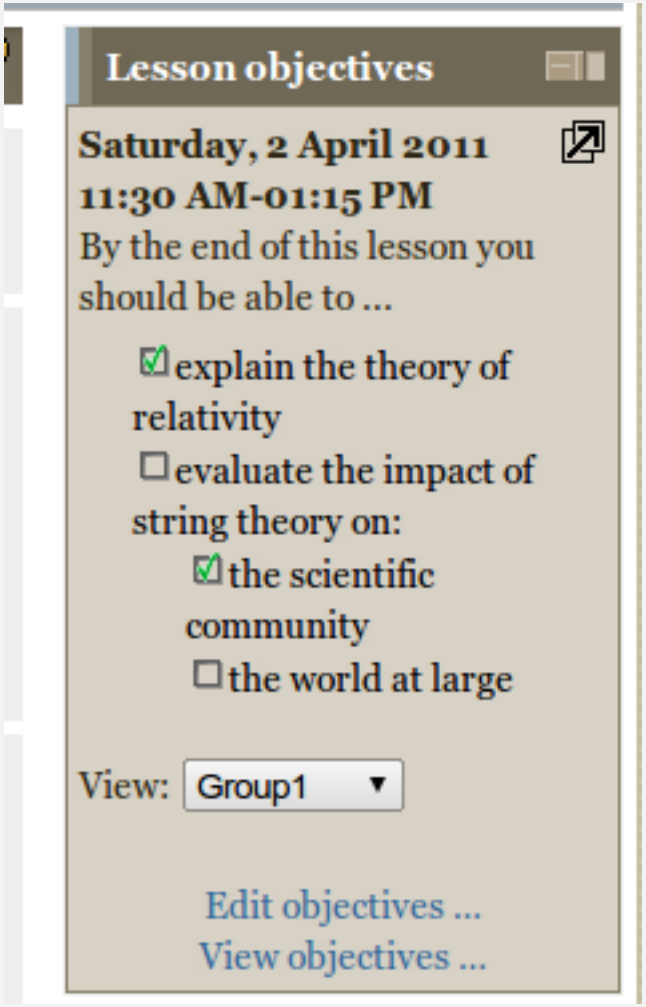
Example is a vocab assignment using Big Huge Labs: http://ecommunity.pwsd76.ab.ca/mod/lightboxgallery/view.php?id=30998

@jenclevette

#38 Lesson Objective

One to explore.
@Davosmith has just released a Lesson Objective plugin that displays current lesson objectives in the side bar (to both teacher and students) Teachers can check/tick them off as they are completed and a whole lot more.
It will take some planning but also focus the learners on the task at hand.

@kristianstill



http://moodle.org/mod/data/view.php?d=13&rid=4692

#39 Group sorting wiki

Always a tricky one. How to get the students to sort themselves into groups.

1. Set up a wiki page
2. Create a table in the wiki with
   - as many columns as you want groups.
   - as many rows as you want group members (+1 spare)

3. In the top row, put Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, etc in each cell.

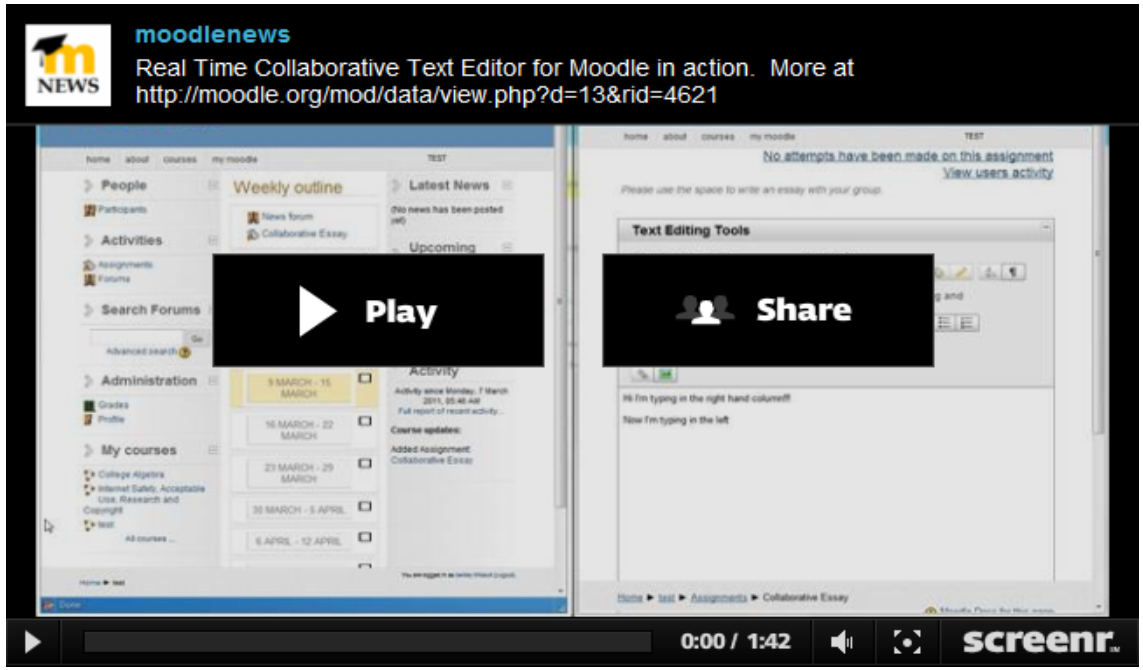
4. Let the students do the rest...

Tip 1: Encourage students to change the group names too.
Tip 2: Call it the Sorting Hat (for younger students...)

@catspyjamasnz

#40 Get some real time collaboration

There's a great Real Time Collaboration module available (http://moodle.org/mod/data/view.php?d=13&rid=4621) which allows students to collaboratively edit documents (just like Google Docs!).



http://www.screenr.com/NFJ

@Moodlenews

#41 Let students practice with ungraded quizzes

While some of your online assessments might be graded, timed and providing students 1 or 2 shots to 'make the grade', consider creating additional non-graded shorter quizzes from the same test banks and allowing students to retake to perfection before the "big test".

Question pools are a great way to manage and randomize any graded or ungraded quiz. Read more at http://docs.moodle.org/en/Question_categories

@Moodlenews

#42 Go Mobile!

Any modern phone OS (Android, Windows, iOS, etc.) has a built in browser...why not allow mobile access to your Moodle and let student interact with quiz materials, choice activities or just to read resources?!

There are ton's of Mobile apps and webservices already available for Moodle...give one a try.

Shown: [Mobile Learning Engine]

[@Moodlenews]

[Diagram 1]

#43 Using Youtube

Set up a discussion forum, asking your students to contribute a video from youtube to this forum along with a brief description on the video.
Set criteria like:
The video must be relevant to the subject in question
that each student must post at least one video and
no video can be repeated by a fellow student.

You can then grade these contributions and the grades will appear as an assignment in the grade book
Better still you can get the students to grade them

@glynnmark

#44 Virtual Suggestion Box

Embed a wallwisher or linoit page into Moodle using a label to create a virtual suggestion box for the School Council.

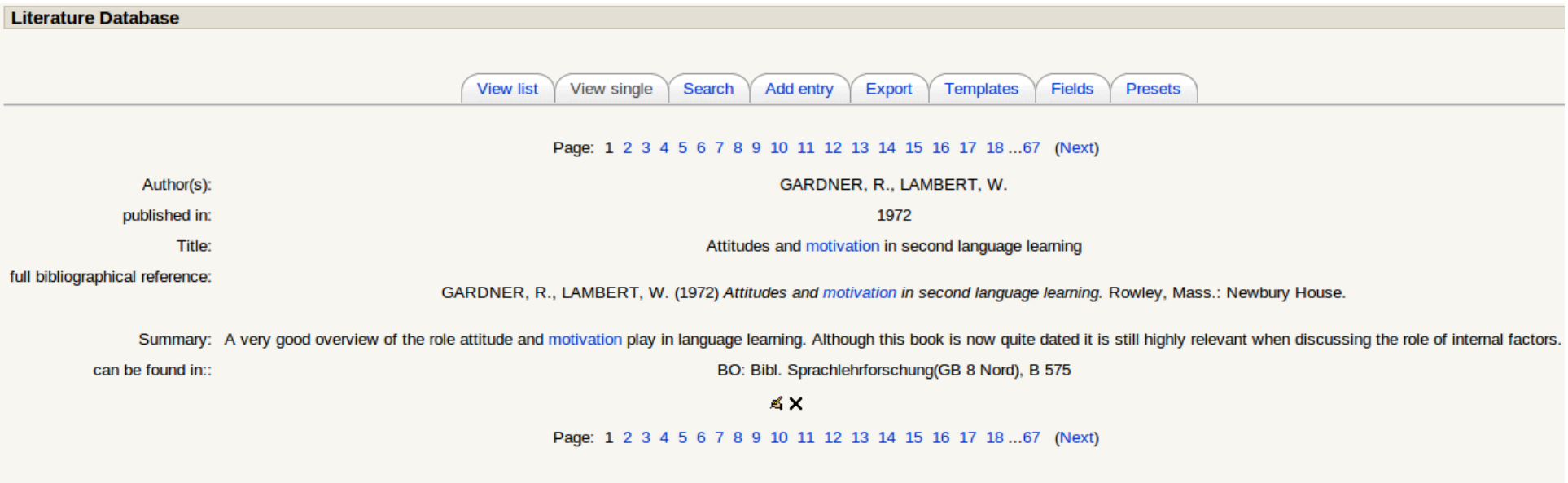
www.wallwisher.com
http://en.linoit.com/

@halfpintgill

#45 - Bibliography Database

(University) students post the results of their search for sources for their end of term papers together with a short summary and the shelf number so that all can benefit from one another's work.

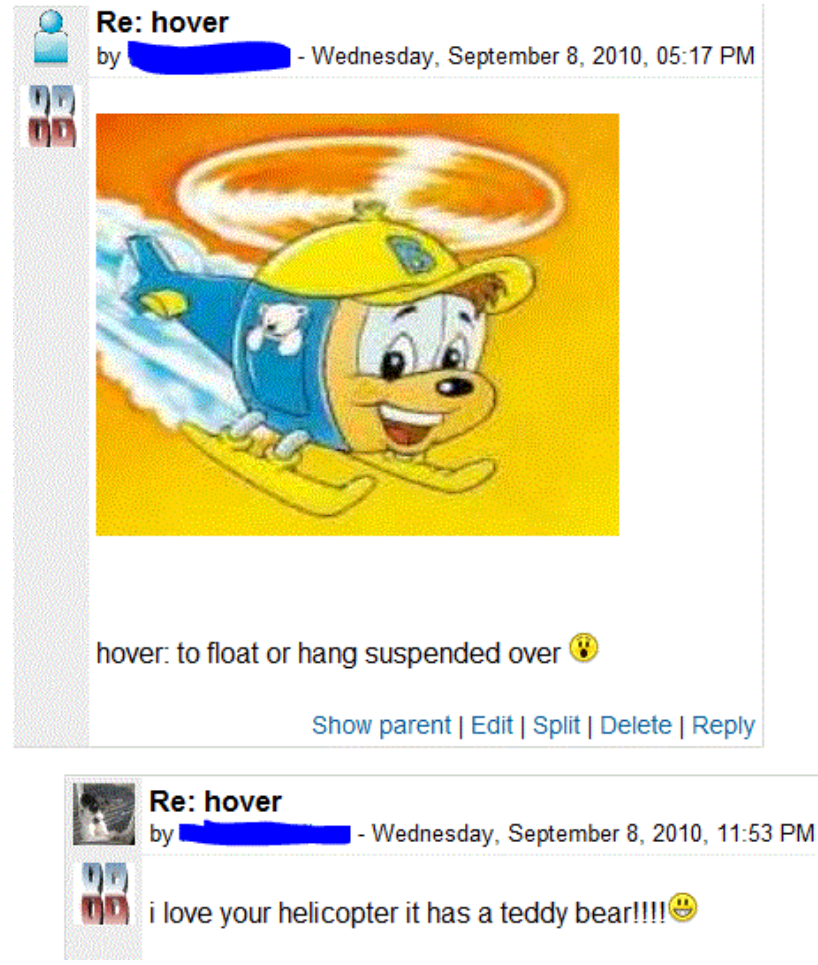
(@stephanrinke)



#46 - Vocab Forum

Post vocabulary words on a forum with each word as a separate thread. Have students post pictures, definitions, synonyms, antonyms, use of words in sentence. This is a much richer resource than the glossary.

More details in this blog post.



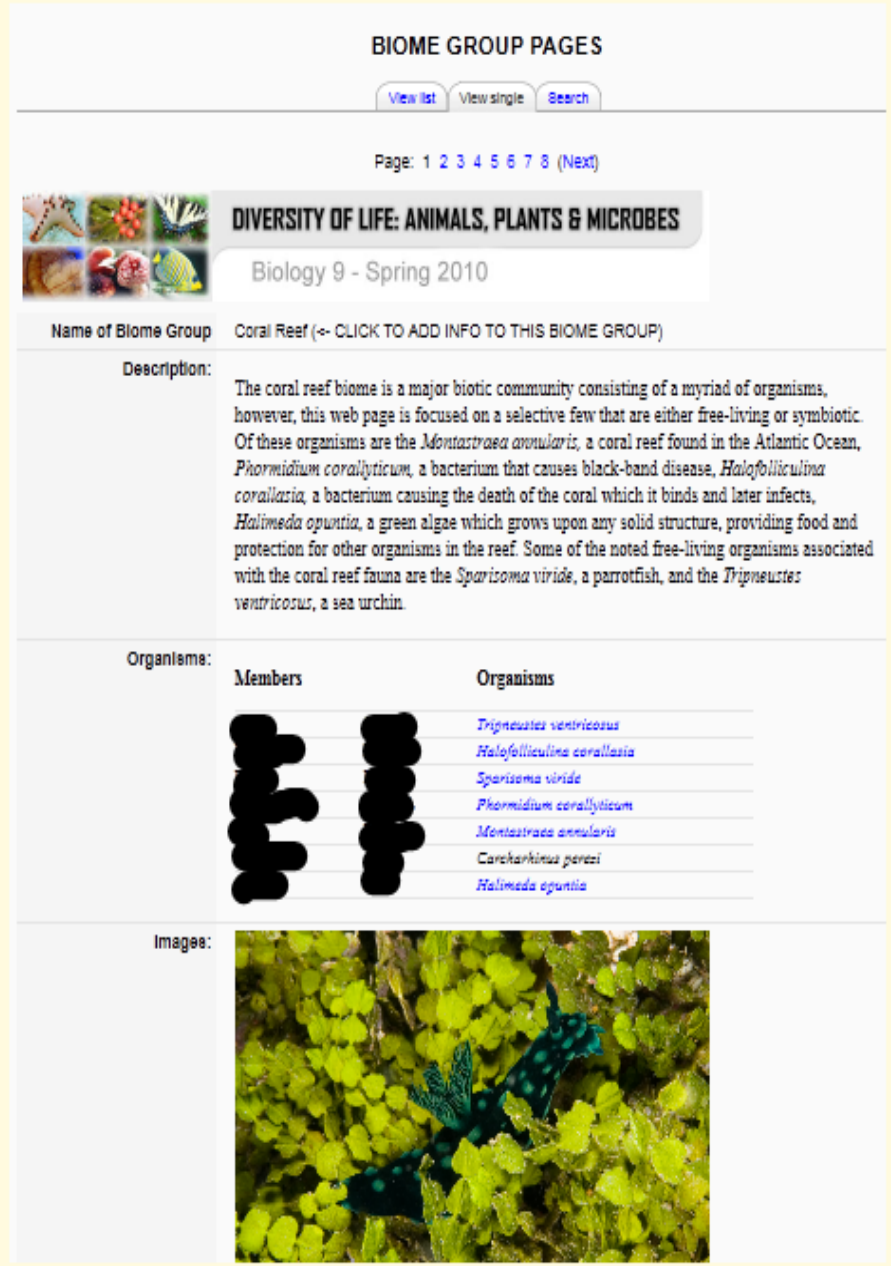
@francesblo

#47 - Database of Web Pages

University Biology students built web pages to display their research on teacher-assigned organisms.

Database activity was used to create the web page template and students simply add their entries.

for more info on template set up contact sashley1@drew.edu



If you would like to:
Contribute your ideas and tips to the presentation.
Let me know how you have used the resource.
Get in touch.
You can email me or I am @tombarrett on Twitter

If you add a tip (or even if you don't) please tweet about it and the link so more people can contribute.

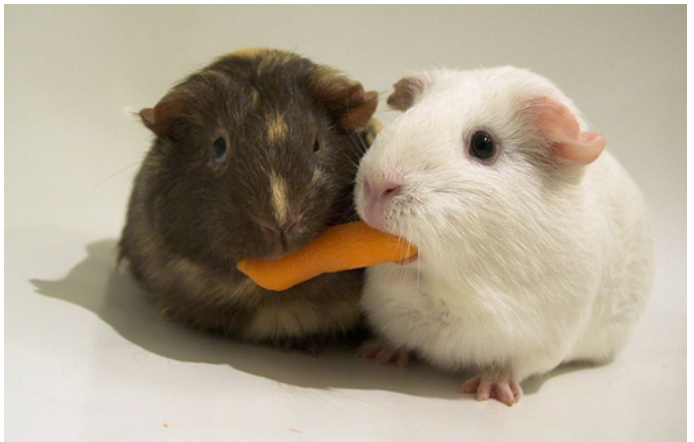


Image: 'Sharing'

I have created a page for all of the **Interesting Ways** presentations on my blog.

The whole family in one place :-)

Thanks for helping
Tom Barrett

Have you seen Maths Maps yet?