Tips for using Art Babble in the classroom

Art Babble is a great resource for classrooms at any grade level. See below for a few tips on adding digital media to your classroom using Art Babble content. Also, be sure to explore our thematic sets of videos located in this section. Each set includes a collection of videos linked by a theme, teaching ideas, and connected standards. Have an idea for a thematic set? We’d love to hear it—email your idea to educators@artbabble.com

• Planning to visit a museum? Before or after your museum visit, watch Art Babble videos to prepare for the trip or as a post visit activity to extend the experiences on the trip.

• Looking for a place for students to do research about art? Assign students a research project using the content on Art Babble. The end project could be a set of student-created podcasts that could be presented to parents and school administrators as evidence of learning.

• Looking for a new way to hook students at the beginning of a lesson? Use an Art Babble video as your anticipatory set, or hook, to kick off a lesson. For example, a lesson connecting the arts with reading comprehension strategies such as inferring might begin by watching The Shipwreck, which offers many opportunities to make inferences using visual cues.

• Want to add digital media to lessons you have already developed in the past? Add a video from Art Babble to a thematic unit in your curriculum. For example, if you have a unit on book-arts, you could do a “book binding” search on Art Babble and find an animation illustrating how medieval books were constructed.

• Seeking more games for your classroom? Set up a set of questions or make a scavenger hunt to guide small groups of students on an exploration into a video that you have selected. For example, students could watch The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats to hunt for the inspiration for Peter, the main character in the book The Snow Day by Ezra Jack Keats.

• Have a student who has missed a day of class? Catch up students who were absent during a class day or missed the field trip with videos from Art Babble.

• Looking for a fresh take on vocabulary building? Build vocabulary based on new or unfamiliar words used in the videos. In addition to learning art-specific terms, look for terms that connect to other subject areas such as science, math, or language. For example, the term prism is important in math (to define a specific type of solid figure) and in the arts (to explore the separation of white light into a spectrum using glass prisms). By explaining these cross-curricular connections, students can better make meaning of new terms.

• Need ideas for helping students learn geography? Create a class or school-wide project that explores geography using Art Babble videos. For example, select one video per week in which
the artist or art work addresses a particular region, country or continent in the world. Create a play, art work or other project related to the content students have explored. Share final projects at a school assembly or family program so the whole school can benefit from the lessons.

• Need a new idea for your dramatic play area? For young children, select the For Kids tab located under “MORE” on the webpage and find a video you like (for example, “Soap Bubbles”). Then set up a movie area in the room with a computer and seats, use play money, tickets, and prompt children to pretend that they are going to watch an art movie.

• Want to encourage the next generation of educators to use digital media? For higher education classrooms, ask pre-service teachers or museum education majors to curate their own thematic set of videos using Art Babble (see our thematic sets as a reference).