

101 Quick & Easy Digital Camera Activities & Projects for the K-5 Classroom
NECC 2007 Atlanta **Melanie Holbrook & Candace Frazier**

1. Environmental ABC Books - Go on a walk around the school or neighborhood. When the child finds something that begins with that letter, let them take a picture. Use the pictures to create a class alphabet book, chart, and/or slideshow. Assign each student a letter and write it on an index card. This helps them to focus and serves as a reminder of what their letter looks like. Read the book, "Alphabet City" by Steven T. Johnson Let your students compare their pictures to the ones in the book.
2. Geometry in Our Community - Take older students on a walking field trip through your community. Have the students look for and photograph any objects they find that are examples of geometric concepts (Cubes, Squares, Cones, Circles, Angles, Lines, Rectangular Prisms). Put the pictures into a PowerPoint presentation to print and view. Count how many pictures you took of each shape. Use Excel to graph your results. Older students can label illustrations of terms such as lines, faces, vertices...
Variation: Geometry in your Home – let students take a camera home to photograph shapes. This is also an excellent way to involve parents.
3. Environmental Number Books –Go on a walking tour of the neighborhood or school, have students take pictures of items that are in the shapes of numbers. These pictures can be combined with photos of collections of objects representing the same number. Try to find natural groupings that don't require manipulation. Read Steven Johnson's, "City by Numbers " or "City 123" by Zoran Milich.
4. Shadows and Reflections – Discuss shadows and reflections and how each is formed. Then walk around the school grounds and surrounding area looking for and taking pictures of each. Ask the students to tell you if what they find is a shadow or a reflection and what it is being reflected or shadowed before they can take a picture.
5. Animal, Vegetable or Mineral– Take / use photos of different examples of plants, animals, and minerals for classification books. Arrange the pages so that the answer is listed on the page following the picture, under a flap, or absent altogether. This activity generates fabulous debate sessions as everyone tries to defend their choice of classification.
6. Photo Book Reports – Let the students arrange and photograph items in a way that tells about a particular book. "Charlotte's Web" and "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" are books that could be easily recreated this way. Use one photo or a series of photos depending on the complexity of the plot in each book.
7. People ABC Books – Have students pose as letters of the alphabet. Some will involve more than one child and possibly lying on the ground. You could use upper grade students for the upper case letters and the younger students for the lower case. Use the pictures for a PowerPoint or Photo Story presentation.
8. Shapes in Nature - Assign pairs of students to go on a walk around the school to find examples of shapes. Circles, Triangles, Lines, Squares, Triangles, Diamonds, etc. Import the pictures into KidPix and let the students draw the shape on top of the pictures. These can be printed for a

- class book. Extension - Count how many pictures you found of each shape. Graph your results.
9. Shapes Around Us – the same as Shapes in Nature but this time look for shapes in man-made objects. Students to go on a walk around the school to find examples of shapes. Circles, Triangles, Lines, Squares, Triangles, Diamonds, etc.
Extension - Count how many pictures you found of each shape. Graph your results.
Read “The Shape of Things” by Dodds and Lacombe or “Shapes and Things”,
“Shapes, Shapes, Shapes” and/or “So Many Circles, So Many Squares” by Tana Hoban.
 10. Pattern Pictures – Let the students choose items from your photo toy box to create patterns. Once the students have completed the pattern let them take a picture. Print the photos and the next day jumble all the items and have them recreate each other’s patterns.
 11. Name that Animal - Use digital photos, clip art photos or Google images to show the different parts of an animal in isolation. Let the students guess what animal it is. Show the entire animal on the next page.
 12. Labels Please - Use pictures to label the parts of something. (ex. Blown-up pictures of insects could be labeled with the names of the different body parts). Use to illustrate and accompany assignments and reports.
 13. Greater Than / Less Than, Equal to Books – Let the students arrange items in greater than, less than, and equal to groupings and take pictures. The symbols can, made of rulers, twigs or popsicle sticks. Variation: Playground Math – Let students create math problems and illustrations by arranging rocks and sticks or by drawing in the sand. They can photograph and rearrange to create illustrations for entire fact families.
 14. Community Books - Take pictures of different places in the community to make a community ABC book or a presentation on community members / jobs. You could even paste pictures of your student’s faces on real pictures or clip art of community helpers.
 15. Find a Face Books – Send the students on safari to photograph items that look like faces. Read, “Find a Face” by Robert and Gittings for inspiration. This activity will help students learn to observe.
 16. Holiday Activities – Use construction paper backgrounds to take holiday pictures. We used a turkey tail backdrop and a false turkey beak to take pictures of students as turkeys that they then used for a creative writing project. Backdrops - Use construction paper backgrounds to take holiday pictures. We used a turkey tail backdrop and a false turkey beak to take pictures of students as turkeys that they then used for a creative writing project. Masks & Hats – Use construction paper antlers or beaks to add interest to the pictures.
 17. Shape Jack-‘O-Lanterns - Import a picture of a pumpkin and create a KidPix template. Have students practice shapes by using the pencil, line, circle and square tools to create a Jack-‘O-Lantern. This is also great mouse practice.
 18. Picture Puzzles - Place a photo inside a frame with open sides. Write facts about the person, place or thing inside the frame. Ex. A pine cone, a dog, etc. With younger students the teacher should draw the puzzle piece lines. We made “I’ll Love You Forever” picture puzzles for Mother’s Day.

19. What Do You Hear? Take the students outside to photograph things that make noise. Discuss pitch, tone, etc.
20. Sorting & Classification - Have students use small plastic animals, counters or playing pieces to create sorting activities for each other. Have them explain the criteria they used to classify the objects. Be sure to take "before" pictures for comparison. Take pictures of each child's activity for slideshows, books and future reinforcement. The older the students the more and smaller objects you can use. Try printing a background image to arrange your items on. Ex. Ocean background for ocean animal figures. Read "Sorting" (Math Counts) by Henry Arthur Pluckrose.
Variations: Make collections of things that start with the same letter or objects that rhyme, a collection of odd numbered things, of objects that are parallel/ perpendicular, and practically anything else you can classify in some way. Variation: use a program like Kidspiration to arrange photos of single objects into classification groups.
21. "I Can _____" Books - Make a book about things younger students can do. Use simple text: I am reading, I am writing, I am walking, etc.
22. Season Books – Have the students go outside and take a picture of something that tells them what season it is. Print the pictures out and let the students look at them as they draw the same object in KidPix.
23. How Our Garden Does Grow! – Record the daily changes when sprouting seeds / growing plants. Create a "time-lapse" Photo Story presentation and watch the changes over and over.
24. Photo Number Books -. Use presentation software or a word processing program to place photos of items and all of the forms of the number onto one page. Ex. A picture of a vine in the shape of an 8, a picture of eight leaves, the word eight, and an 8 etc. Read Tana Hoban's, "1, 2, 3".
25. Fraction Number Books – Take photos of sets, parts of sets, etc. Helpful items for this activity include: overhead fraction bars (white background), dominoes, dice, counter shapes, tiles. (KidPix or PowerPoint). Use small containers (mini-muffin pans, etc.) to keep the items the students are working with from rolling around. This also helps show fractional relationships. For extension you can add the decimal representations to each page.
26. The Best Part of Me – Adapted from the book, "The Best Part" by Wendy Ewald. Students took pictures of each other, edited the photos of themselves to show a favorite body part (hair, eyes, nose, hands), and wrote an essay explaining why they chose that particular part. Students can also complete this activity as part of a Health unit on the human body.
27. Solids, Liquids and Gases – have the students go on safari to collect photos of objects depicting the different classifications of matter. Read "Look Up, Look Down" by Tana Hoban
28. Photo Venn Diagrams - Use pictures of two different objects (plant vs animal, child vs adult, mammal vs. reptile etc.) to create a Venn diagram. Students can fill in the similarities and differences more easily as they look at the pictures.
29. Let the students create a "School Rules" or "Class Rules" book complete with illustrations of acceptable behaviors (with your students posing "caught" in appropriate activities). Doctor the photos to use your mascot as the "good" student or make masks to wear during the pictures. We are the Road

Runners so I use Coyote for the “bad” examples and the Road Runner for the positive ones.

30. “Eye Spy” Books – help students create and share their own “Eye Spy” books Let the students use small items from the toy box to create collections related to a common theme and create “I Spy” questions. I spy 3 circles, 2 fruits, 3 solids, 4 animals that live in the jungle. Old posters and lengths of patterned fabric make great backgrounds.
31. Book is a Noun: A Parts of Speech Presentation – Students photograph items that illustrate each part of speech and combine them to create individual or class books. Ex. a picture of a blue car with the word “blue” to illustrate adjective. Older students can use PowerPoint to animate the part of speech word in each example sentence. Add extension pages with Rhetoric sentences.
32. Machines at Work – Take pictures of items that show examples of machines from simple to compound. Younger students can collect photos of a specific type of simple machine. Older students can create entire presentations showing both simple and compound machines and their sub-categories.
33. ESOL School Dictionaries -Have ESOL classes or students take pictures of common school items and places (i.e. book, pencil, media center) and caption the pictures with both the English and Spanish translations. Common phrases can also be added. Give every class a copy and show the PowerPoint on your closed circuit system in the morning before classes start. This is especially helpful for new arrivals.
34. English Please ¿Inglés Por favor? – Send ESOL students around the school to take photos of things they don’t know how to say in English. They can work with English speaking classmates to create a presentation showing all forms of the word.
35. Kinesthetic Graphing – Take a vote about some subject (favorite sports, ice cream flavors). Arrange the students according to your data. You can also use criteria such as the colors of shirts or hair color. Create a graph by having the students stand in graph fashion. Take a photograph to create a “picture graph”. Reproduce the picture graph in Graph Club to show how different types of graphs can tell the same story. Arrange the students near the playground equipment and the picture can be taken from the top.
36. Digital Science Scavenger Hunts – A lot of science topics can be covered with scavenger hunts. Create a list of items you want the students to identify (plant parts, types of rocks, etc) Take your students outside to take pictures of the items on the list as “evidence”.
37. So Many Shapes – Look for items that display more than one shape. Ex. a house can include rectangles, squares, triangles, etc. read “The Shape of Things” by Dodds and Lacombe or “Shapes, Shapes, Shapes” by Tana Hoban for inspiration.
38. Symbols of the United States – Take pictures of government symbols in your school and neighborhood. Create U.S. Symbol Books using the photos and written explanations of the symbolism. Use clip art and stock photos if you need more examples.
39. Food Pyramid – Create a large scale food pyramid for a classroom wall by taking items of foods from each group and arranging them on the wall in the proper locations and servings. Use photos of the food in your school

- cafeteria and they can double as the daily menu. Read “The Edible Pyramid: Good Eating Every Day” by Loreen Leedy.
40. Sequence of Events - Let students take a series of pictures to illustrate a sequence of events. Taking the pictures by themselves helps the students to focus on the correct order. Take the photographs during normal school activities such as eating an apple, carving the class pumpkin, sharpening a pencil, etc.
 41. I’m an Animal - Let students paste a picture of their face on a picture of an animal. The students then write either fantasy or factual stories from the view point of the animal. Include details such as: appearance, habitat, diet, etc. Younger students can dress or disguise themselves as animals and then caption the pictures with animal facts.
 42. Physical and Chemical Change – Before and after pictures illustrating the principles of physical and chemical change. Ex. paper/wood & ashes, water & ice. Grow some “Magic Rocks” and use the pictures in a time lapse show.
 43. Sign Sentences – Use photos of signs to create sentences. You can either let young students cut out the words from printed pictures or have older students use photo editing software to rearrange the words on a sign to mean something else.
 44. Forms of Energy – Create a book using photos that illustrate different types of energy from potential to solar to chemical.
 45. Transportation Books – Split the students into groups and take pictures of different types of transportation. You can use the photos for graphing activities or books.
 46. I Ate $\frac{3}{4}$ of a “_____” – Have kids divide and/or sort food into halves, thirds, fourths, etc. and photograph the sets. You can use pizza, candy bars, cereal, etc. As students eat the treats have them take additional photos showing how much is left with every bite. Read “Eating Fractions” by Bruce McMillian or “Apple Fractions” by Pallotta and Bolster
 47. Natural vs. Man-made Environments / Ecosystems - Compare and contrast objects with graphic organizers. Ex. Pond / Aquarium)
 48. Today I Feel “_____” or Body Language Dictionary - Record different emotions for a class chart or dictionary.
 49. Symmetrical Safari – Have your students take pictures of items they think are symmetrical. Use KidPix or editing software to draw lines showing each item’s line of symmetry.
 50. Environmental Print Books - Take pictures around town of easily recognizable signs (McDonald's, Target, Open, etc). Assemble into a book for K and 1st Grade beginning readers entitled, “_____”s I Can Read" Book. Read “I Read Signs” and “I Read Symbols” by Tana Hoban, “Signs on the Road” by Mary Hill or “City Signs” by Zoran Milich.
 51. Yours, Mine, His, Hers – Explore the concept of possessives by having students take pictures of each other holding personal items. Be sure to take some group pictures for plural possessives. The pictures can be inserted into a presentation for the students to caption the pictures with a sentence using a possessive correctly.
 52. Number Facts & Families – Practice number families by having the students use manipulatives to set out illustrations of fact and/or number families. Use popsicle sticks for the mathematical symbols.

53. Alphabet Books - Take pictures of objects in and around your school that start with each letter of the alphabet. In kindergarten let every student take a picture of an item that begins with the letter of the week.
54. Science Sequence Stories – Photograph stages of growth all around you. Possible topics include: plants with blooms that change into fruit; or eggs, tadpoles and frogs in the school pond. You can take a picture of one stage of growth and use internet images to fill in the blanks.
55. Relative Position and Perspective – Take photos of the same object from all possible perspectives. Let the students write down where the camera was in relation to the object in every photo. You can tilt or flip the camera upside down to take pictures. Extension: make “Mystery Photos” by taking photos of items from a perspective that makes it difficult to identify. Read “Look Up, Look Down” or “Over, Under and Through” by Tana Hoban
56. X-treme Close-ups - Take extremely close up photos of some common objects (or use internet photos). Have the students list the characteristics of the items to determine what it is.
57. “I Wish You Were Here” Digital Postcards – Find and scan a picture of a place you have always wanted to visit (countries, cities, habitats, etc) and place yourself in the picture using photo editing software or a scanner. Find the background images in newspapers, magazines, travel brochures, online state sites, etc. KidPix 4 has backgrounds depicting other places built in. Use these images to create postcards with messages that give facts about the location.
58. Growth Pics - Take and use pictures to illustrate stages of growth: children, a class plant/garden, or life stages of butterflies and frogs.
59. Community Helper Books – Take pictures on Career Day and use them in a presentation about community helpers.
60. How Much Math Do you See? Challenge your students to see many sets of items they can get into one picture. Multiplication concept can also be illustrated in this manner. EX. a picture of 4 desks, 2 pencils on each of the desks.
61. Spatial Concepts– Up / Down, On / In, Inside / Outside, Behind / In Front, etc. Use the custom animation options in PowerPoint to have the items enter the screen in approximation of their relationship, ex. The up picture could float on top of the down picture.
Variations: Use a fabric background or rug with a town scene. Have the students place toy cars, people, animals in different combinations around the town. Take pictures of each combination. Use word processing or presentation software to describe the items in the picture. Ex.’s: The policeman is beside the little girl, the red car is above the town library, etc. Older students could use directions such as north or 2 blocks south.
62. Idioms Come Alive – Bring the subject of Idioms to life by having students combine pictures they take with photos from the internet, etc. to illustrate what an idiom sounds like it means. Create presentations that show the idiom pictures and the correct meanings This activity is also helpful for ESOL students who can have problems understanding some of the oddities of the English language.
63. American History Postcards – Find copy-right friendly Internet photos depicting events in American History and write a stories or messages telling what is happening in the picture. Older students can take photos of

themselves in poses that would fit into the scene and manipulate the image to include themselves.

64. Types of Rocks – Take close-up and normal pictures of different types of rocks. Put them into a presentation or book. Use the close-ups to point out classification characteristics.
65. Follow the Leader - Illustrate the steps in a procedure by taking a picture during each step of a procedure or experiment. These are great for use in learning centers. Pictures taken during students' science experiments can be used as part of the science fair backboard.
66. Photo Weather Books - Take readings and pictures every day for a week, month, etc. Use the variables appropriate for your grade level: Location, Temperature High & Low, Precipitation -Amount & Type, Wind Speed, etc. The data collected can be used for graphing activities.
67. Opposite Books - A collection of photos arranged as opposites. The subjects can be arranged in one picture or in separate photos that are arranged on opposite pages in the final product. Possible combinations include: adult / child, hot / cold, small / large, living / non-living, natural / man-made, full / empty. Read “A High, Low, Near, Far, Loud, Quiet Story” by Nina Crews, “What's Opposite?” by Stephen R. Swinburne, or one of Tana Hoban’s opposite books: “Big Ones, Little Ones” , “Exactly the Opposite” or “Push, Pull, Empty, Full: A Book of Opposites”.
68. Math Pictionary – create a photographic mathematical term dictionary. Ex. A = Angle, P = Parallel lines.
69. Name that Micro-Organism - Take photos of substances such as dirt and water that contain micro-organisms. Do research to identify what micros live in each item and paste Internet blow-ups of each type of organism onto the original photo to illustrate a report.
70. Seasonal Signs – With older students have them take pictures of everything they can find that signals the season. Write sentences or stories using the seasonal evidence you found. The signs can include both natural and human signs of the season such as snow or a child wearing a heavy coat.
71. Illustrated Vocabulary -Take photos of items to illustrate vocabulary topics such as: Synonyms, Antonyms, Homonyms, Homophones, etc
72. Word Wall Illustrations – use photos of spelling or vocabulary words with text on your word wall.
73. Art Concepts – Have each student find and photograph items that illustrate common art concepts such as: color, line, texture, shape, form, dimension, etc.
74. Illustrated Food Chains - Take pictures and put them together in Inspiration to demonstrate the inter-dependence that exist in various communities, food chains and webs. You can use PowerPoint to “animate” the sequences and relationships.
75. This Makes me Feel “ _____ ” books -_Photos of objects and happenings can create an emotional response in us. Have the students take pictures of items that evoke different emotions in them and write about it.
76. Creative Writing Prompts - Have each student either set up items to take a picture or take pictures of items and happenings around them. Write stories about what is happening in their picture, or write descriptions of the item in the picture. Let students manipulate pictures to illustrate fantasy stories. They can also trade pictures with each other.

77. Rhebus Books – Assign the students to write a story using pictures. Then have them create a PowerPoint presentation with the story told in both pictures and words. Use a combination of pictures they take, internet photos, and clip art.
78. Color Me “Green” books – Use photos of items of a certain color to create color books. You can use one color per book or one color per page. This is also helpful of learning about the different hues of a color. Read “I Said Red” by Serfozo and Narahashi as inspiration. Save time by using your stock photo collection. Read “Colors Everywhere” and “Of Colors and Things” by Tana Hoban.
79. Clouds are Fluffy - Go on a texture safari and photograph items displaying different textures to be incorporated into a class book. Older students can create similes and metaphors from the same photos. Ex Clouds are fluffy like cotton balls.
80. Pizza Party Fractions – The next time your class earns a reward pizza party use the pizzas to snap photos illustrating fractions. Use the photos to write word problems. Ex. If Cole eats $\frac{4}{12}$ of the pizza and Hannah eats $\frac{2}{12}$'s how much did they eat altogether?
81. Photo Cookbooks - Culminate a unit on measurement by cooking. Photograph the entire cooking experience: from measuring the ingredients to eating the product.
82. Producers vs. Consumers - Take pictures of plants around your school. Using KidPix or PowerPoint have the students put their plant pictures and either clip art or stock photos of the animals that consume that plant on the same slide. All of the student pages can be added to the same presentation or printed.
83. Rotting Away – Leave samples of food out (cheese, banana, and bread) Take daily pictures and discuss what is causing the food to rot as an introduction to decomposers
84. Photo Field Notes - Write stories and science reports with lots of details. Have your students take one photo that shows an entire object and another that is an extreme close-up so they will have the details in front of them as they write. Ex. a rotting log ecosystem
85. A School Who’s Who Book – take photos of school workers for an Open House presentation. Principal, custodians, secretary cafeteria workers, counselor, etc.
86. The 5 Senses – take and sort photos of items according to which sense we “see” that item with. Take photos of student eyes, ears, mouths, hands, and noses to use in sorting the objects. Arrange the pictures on the floor as a picture graph and then use Graph Club to replicate the data. Variations: Take pictures of students holding item(s) they choose to illustrate for that sense. Students take photos of a body part and arrange it on a slide with items that part perceives.
87. Water, Water Everywhere – Use pictures of different water sources in a presentation. Let students photograph the water sources in your area and use internet photos for sources you don’t have ready access to.
88. Virtual Tours - Create a virtual tour of your classroom, school, or community. Have each student select an area to photograph and describe to create one page in a slideshow. These pages can be put together to form the entire tour.

89. Pollution – Take pictures of pollution near your school. Have the students write about causes of and solutions for the problem.
90. My Measurements Book. Take pictures of items depicting different measurements. Illustrate of inches, feet, yards, cups, gallons, etc. You can adapt this to any grade level by varying the complexity of the photos. Ex. a photo of pencil lying beside a ruler to a photo of a “cup” of milk containing both Fahrenheit and Celsius thermometers.
91. What is THAT? Illustrate the concept of Shadows and Light by assigning your students to manipulate items to create shadows. Don’t let them take a picture until they can explain how that shadow is being formed. These pictures are particularly suited to black and white prints. Read “Guess Whose Shadow” by Stephan Swinburne or “Shadows and Reflections” by Tana Hoban for inspiration.
92. “Accelerated” Reading Book Graph - When students pass an Accelerated Reader test with a pre-determined percentage of accuracy let them take and print a small photo of themselves holding the book for a class graph. The graph can be displayed in either the classroom or the hallway.
93. I’m An Artist – Use photo editing tools to turn your photographs into true works of art. Try impressionism, abstract art, etc.
94. Number Matching Game- Take photos of numbers and representations of that number. Create a set of cards for a number matching game by printing the pictures onto unlined index cards and laminating them. For more advanced matching games use photos of inter-related objects such as cause / effect, or animal / habitat , etc.
95. Our Illustrated Newsletter – Practice clear and concise writing by having students write captions for photos to be included in you class newsletter or on your class web page. You can also create a class book about a field trip in this manner.
96. What Happened? – Create cause and effect books by taking pictures of items that illustrate a cause/effect relationship of some type. One photo can contain both items or you can use separate pictures put together so as to illustrate the relationship.
97. Rhymes – Take multiple pictures of objects that rhyme or of arranged collections of that rhyme. Use microphones to record the students saying the rhyming words or made-up rhymes about the items.
98. Homophones – Create PowerPoint presentations of homophone pairs. Include both visual and audio representations of the items.
99. Estimation – Allow students to choose an item and estimate its length. Then place the item beside a ruler or another unit of measurement. Does the actual measurement equal their estimate? Students will try harder to come up with a correct estimation when there is photographic “evidence”.
100. What’s Your Angle? – Photos of building, objects, etc that show different angles. Create a class book complete with a laminated tag board protractor attached.
101. Can You Believe It? – As the culminating activity in a unit on Propaganda techniques have students use photo editing software like Photoshop to create their own examples of as many techniques as possible.

Tips and Tricks

Keep It Simple:

- You can take the pictures for students to add to, manipulate, etc.
- If you are short on time let the students take the pictures, then you can place them into PowerPoint (or other programs) and have the students add any necessary captions, etc.
- Not enough photos to finish the presentation? Use clip art, Flickr and Google images. The students like seeing their work mixed in with “real” photos and love clipart. When you use copyrighted items use it as an opportunity to practice copyright awareness*. You can even find pictures on the web and e-mail the author for permission to use it in a class project.
- Activities can be done with print-outs or on computers. There is nothing wrong with using paper and glue with your photos. The actual physical manipulation is a big plus for some students.
- Sometimes taking the picture is enough. The focus required to select and photograph an object fitting the assigned category does the job
- Try limiting the number of pictures each student can take. This forces them to be more discerning about what they photograph.
- Scanners can be used to create collages that illustrate many of the same topics as these activities.
- Sound can be easily added to most presentations using a cheap microphone and recording software that comes on every computer.
- Sometimes you only need to take the pictures to teach the topic.
- Keep blank PowerPoint templates with varying numbers of slides and levels of difficulty available for when you are in a hurry.
- Have a collection of various pictures of your students. Take full body and head shots of various sizes ahead of time. Most school photographers provide a CD containing all of the fall school pictures. Keep some of these pictures around at all times. Use full page labels as contact sheets for easy adhesion.
- Take a camera every time you go to recess and build a stock photo library.
- Appoint class photographers each month to capture classroom activities for future use in newsletters, web pages, year-end collections, etc.
- Train your students to complete sections of the process. Have a photographer, printer, author, etc.
- Take pictures of each step in any procedure you want students to follow and number them. This is especially helpful in learning centers and during experiments since they allow students to see what they need to do.
- Going on a Field Trip? Show students photos of important sites ahead of time to help them focus. You can use the same photos to review after the trip.
- Try and take pictures for several projects at the same time. (ex. Fraction Set pictures and Numbers Book pictures) Split the students into groups. While one group is setting up the next can be taking pictures, etc. This makes it easier with only one camera.
- Have more than one grade do parts of the same project.
- You don’t even really need a digital camera. You can scan existing prints and create a CD or request a CD when you have your film developed. This way you’ll have access to all the benefits digital photography offers.
- Ask your friends, church or service group members to donate older model digital still and video cameras and memory cards they outgrew when they upgraded

- When you are training young students on how to use cameras give them old cameras to play with. It doesn't even matter if the cameras work. You just want the students to get some practice looking through viewfinders and pushing buttons, zooming and checking for fingers in front of the lens.
- Always have extra charged batteries, floppy disks and/or memory cards. Our oldest Sony Mavica came with a separate charger which comes in really handy. Check around your school to see if you have one.
- Train the students on how to use the cameras in very small groups. It is helpful to let them take pictures and then go over them together as a large group to discuss which shots are the best and why.
- Use cameras with straps and insist the students let them hang around their necks so that will be safe from dropping.
- You can adjust cameras to take smaller, but still great pictures so that you have plenty of memory on trips.
- Use small containers (min-muffin pan, small paint palette) to keep the items the students are working with from rolling around. These are also helpful when working on grouping and fractional relationships.
- With younger students it is best to create a template for the actual project. Save copies in several places on a network drive for when someone invariably saves their blank page on top of the template.
- If you are using several cameras it is helpful to keep small envelopes handy so the students can write their names on the envelopes and seal the memory card inside. This avoids confusion about who took which picture.
- We raise money for printer ink by selling CD's with slideshows of the photos the students have taken all year.

Handy Stuff:

Keep a collection of cheap plastic figurines and play sets around. I have everything from farm animals to miniature firemen. You can get this stuff at every dollar, drug and grocery store in the world. I call mine the Photo Toy Box.

Posters that can be used as back drops are great. A poster of anything from a lake to a town can be used to arrange items.

I also have lengths of different fabric prints. The selection is almost endless: night sky, clouds, the jungle, underwater, the beach, farms, construction sites, towns..... You don't need much to use as a backdrop for a photo. Sometimes you can even find great pieces in the remnants bin at a craft or fabric store.

Publishing materials:

Cheap photo albums, plastic page protectors, plastic notebooks, presentation binders. There online services where you can have bound books made to order.

Publish, Perfect and Share your Work:

The basic word processor and picture viewers that come pre-loaded on most computers can be used to replicate these projects (ex. Note Pad, Word Pad,

Microsoft Photo Editor & Media Player or [iPhoto & iLife](#)). I use PhotoShop Elements or [Picasa](#) (free) for photo editing and either PowerPoint or PhotoStory (free) for presentations. Most word processing and presentation software also have basic editing tools built in. Digital cameras usually come with some type of photo editing software included.

Multimedia Options

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1. Photo Story 3 is free, easy to use, and looks great.
 2. PowerPoint (MS Office) & [Keynote \(Apple iWork\)](#) are easy to use for presentations and publishing.
 3. Tape all of the multimedia presentations you create and show them on your school's closed-circuit cable system as "subliminal" messages.
 4. Post your photos on a free site so students and parents can view them from home.

Print-outs:

- You can use PowerPoint to publish your digital picture projects. It is easy to print (in different sizes even), videotape and/or publish on your school web page. Print your pictures for books and mini-posters. Whole page = 8.5 x 11, 2/page = 4x6, 4/page = , 6/page = ,
- Use paper preprinted with a relevant design to print your pictures. Ex. Use paper preprinted with a fall theme to publish such projects as: Shape Jack-'O-Lanterns, Wanted –Turkey's, or elements of fall.
- Tag-board (bright-white) or 4x6 unlined index cards.
- Cheap Matte photo paper. It is sturdy and prints fairly well.
- Depending on the project there are some fairly inexpensive photo papers. I stock up every time my favorite dollar store has them.
- Use plastic page protectors and report covers to publish materials.
- You can buy any size, shape or color Photo Albums for \$1.00 at certain stores. I even found four with season titles.
- Younger students will enjoy decorating each page with a relevant sticker. Ex. A snowflake sticker on each page of a book about winter.

Online Publishing and Printing:

- We have used Coke Reward points to get free certificates for the Kodak online printing site.
- We have also used the site [LuLu.com](#). This site allows you to upload your pictures, etc. and you have the option to make the book available for others to buy. We have a grant for next year to do one of these books per classroom and we are hoping to generate a little income by making the books available for parents to buy.

Requirements

Hardware-

At least one digital camera

Extra batteries are nice but not mandatory

Printer

*** A photo printer with slots for memory cards is best. It allows for easy

uploading and sharing of pictures. The memory card slots allow teacher to bring in their personal cameras without worrying about cords.

Color Inkjet Printer (Remember to set the print quality to "Fast-Draft" for most projects)

Laser Printer - black and whites prints are even preferable with some projects

Software

We use KidPix, Kidspiration, Inspiration, PhotoShop Elements 4, Picasa, Photo Story, and Power Point. Photo Story and Picasa are even free. (You can make do with most word processing programs and the Microsoft picture editor).

Legalities

*******Do you have permission to take and use this child's photo?**

*******Do your students wear name tags? If so, is the name visible in the picture?**

To Be Continued:

Contact Us:

- Check here for frequent updates and the addition of new projects.

[Using Digital Photography in the K-5 Classroom](#)

http://www.rockdale.k12.ga.us/personal/mholbrook/dig_photos/default.aspx

- Have an idea? E-mail us and we will add it to the list. Have a great project?

Send us the link!

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