Let’s Take a Trip!

Introduction to Virtual Field Trips

**What is a Virtual Field Trip?**

1. A Virtual Field Trip (VFT) is an internet based activity for students and teachers to explore and virtually visit places, environments, or time periods that may not be possible.
2. The place can be near you physically or anywhere in the world. Virtual Field Trips can be created in the form of a web page with links for students to visit.
3. VFTs are not just about websites – they’re about learning.
* Students gain experiences and bring them back in a variety of formats, including photos, sounds, videos and text, which suit their learning styles.
* Students are expected to assimilate their experiences and discoveries to transform the material into knowledge demonstrated through a final product.
1. Although Virtual Field Trips come in different forms, teachers should always use standards to make sure the activity aligns with the curriculum.
2. Use VFTs to introduce your students to new places, new people, new processes, etc.

**Types of Virtual Field Trips**

1. Virtual Field Trips – Example: Tour the White House
2. eMuseum Tours
3. MORE…….

**Benefits of Virtual Fields Trips**

* No cost to students or teachers
* Can be repeated
* Students/Class can work at their own pace
* All students can participate
* You can visit almost anywhere in the world

**Virtual Field Trips at Your Fingertips/Resources/Examples**

1. Dr. Alice Christie’s VFT Resource Guide: <http://www.alicechristie.org/search/tripss.html>
2. PASD Virtual Field Trip Training Site: [http://pasdtechtraining.wikispaces.com/Virtual+Field+Trips](http://pasdtechtraining.wikispaces.com/Virtual%2BField%2BTrips)
3. Virtual Field Trips Tips and Tricks: [http://virtual-field-trips.wikispaces.com/Virtual+Field+Trip+Tips](http://virtual-field-trips.wikispaces.com/Virtual%2BField%2BTrip%2BTips)
4. Alabama Virtual Library: <http://www.avl.lib.al.us>
5. Thinkfinity: <http://www.thinkfinity.org>
6. APTPlus: [www.aptplus.org](http://www.aptplus.org) (Make sure to check out the Learn360 videos)
7. Gooru Learning: <http://www.goorulearning.org>
8. WatchKnowLearn: <http://www.watchknowlearn.org>
9. YouTube Education: <http://www.youtube.com/education>
10. PBS Learning Media: <http://www.pbslearningmedia.org>

**Planning Your Own VFT**

* Handout ‘*Checklist For Planning and Implementing a Virtual Field Trip’*

**Assignment Ideas**

1. A good way to keep students focused during the VFT is by preparing a study guide to be completed throughout the trip.
	1. Have a general outline and spaces to fill in the information they find
	2. Make it look like a trip itinerary
	3. Include destinations, places to visit, things to look for (like maps, food, money, climate, etc.), and even dates
2. At the end of the VFT, have your students organize and assimilate everything they’ve learned. Have them create

Travel brochures or infographics; Newsletters or newspaper; Posters or collages or Glogs or Smores or Thinglinks; Travel logs and/or journals using Word Processers, or Google Docs; Multimedia Presentations;

**Create Your Own VFT**

1). Tour Builder <https://tourbuilder.withgoogle.com/>

2.) Trackstar <http://trackstar.4teachers.org/trackstar/index.jsp>

3.) Trip Wow: <http://tripwow.tripadvisor.com/>