

26 Interesting Ways* to use Voicethread in the Classroom

*and tips

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#1 - Mystery Places

Upload an image of a mystery scene and have the class suggest what they think it is or what might have caused it
Example from [Y7 geography class here:](#)

[Mary Cooch](#)

,/,/,/,/.



#2 - Six Hat Thinking

Upload a statement detailing a problem to be solved.

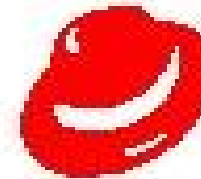
Allocate pupils different colour hats as per De Bono's 6 hat thinking technique.

Students respond to the problem according to the perspective required by their hat.

Six Thinking Hats (De Bono)



Facts
Neutral, Objective
Information



Emotions
Hunches, Intuition
Feelings



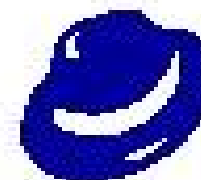
Critic
Analyst
Logical Negative



Sunshine
Optimism
Logical Positive



Creative
Growth, Possibilities
Ideas



Cool
Agenda, Process
Overview, Decisions

#3 - Peer Review Artwork

Scan in and upload the children's artwork. Using VoiceThread, the children zoom in on each other's work, adding comments and annotations on sections they like.



#4 - Inspecting Artwork

Before a new unit of work on a featured artist, upload a selection of their work. Using the zoom tool, the children look more closely at the piece, and identify any key features. They annotate and label these in the usual way.



#5 - (re)View & Discuss Video

Voicethread lets you add video, upload a clip; comment, review and discuss.....



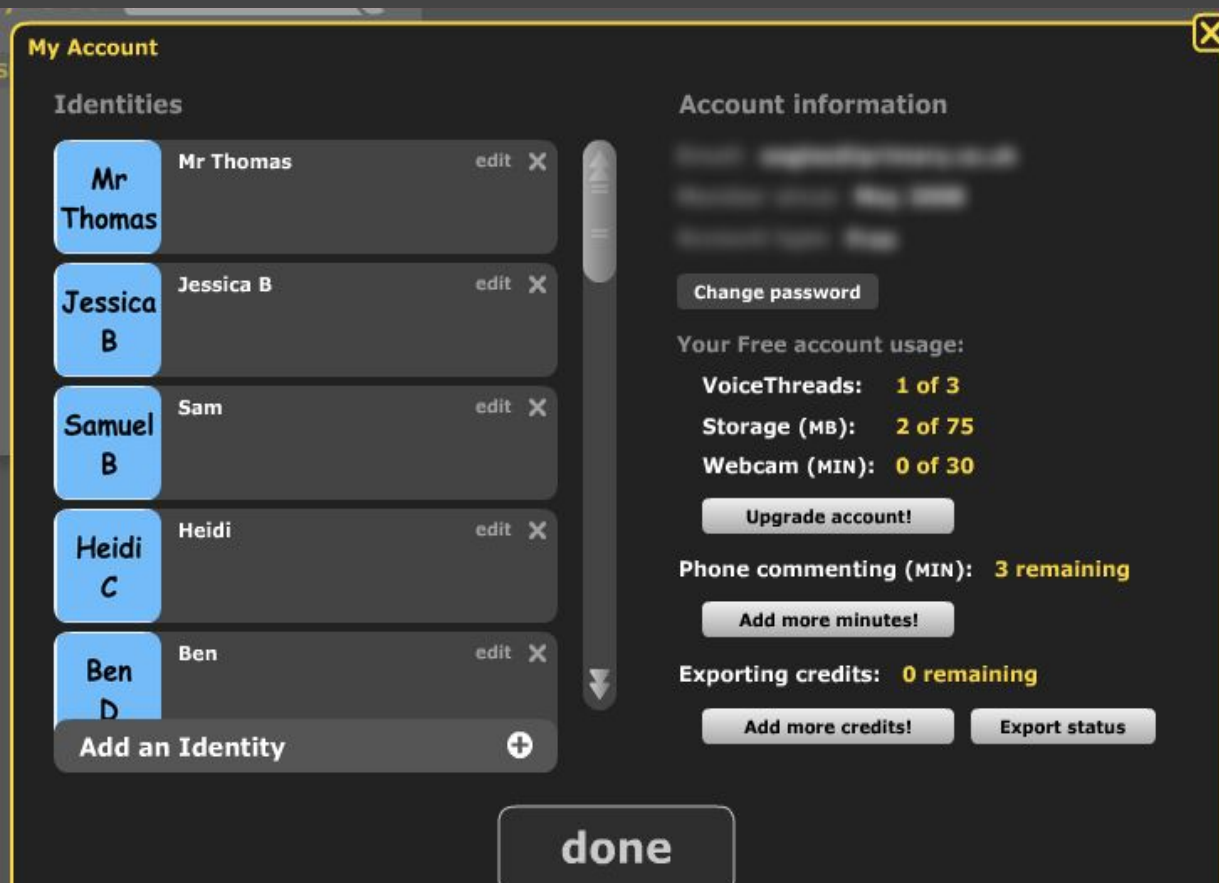
[Link to example](#)

Clip source: [Newsfilm Online](#)
[@theokk](#) [Theo Kuechel](#)

Very useful for satisfying the needs of The Primary Framework Year 5 Narrative Unit 5.

#6 - Getting Setup

A general tip on getting setup. Create one account for your class, then create 'Identities' for each pupil. These identities need an image (or avatar) to help identify them. When commenting, children select their identity, so their comments are tagged as coming from them.



Chris Thomas

#7 - Revision/review text

Provide picture/excerpt from studied text describing main character for students to comment on in character of other protagonists - can do the same for all key characters so students get a balanced idea of personalities and relationships and how this affects the plot.

Bev Humphrey

#8 - MFL Language teaching

Depending on the MFL you are studying import a video from YouTube or a similar site and ask your students to discuss it, also link to pictures of a similar theme for further discussion.

The students can speak and write notes in the language they are studying.

Here's an example of what my class started

<http://voicethread.com/share/515481/>



[Kevin Mc Laughlin](#)

#9 - Reviews

*Use Voicethread as an alternative 'My favourite...' lesson idea

*Import photos from a school outing and ask class to document it

*After exploring a topic in Science/History/Geography ask the class to discuss what they liked most or didn't enjoy

#10 - What are they thinking?

* Find images of people... these might include:

- your own digital photos,
- Creative Commons images from Flickr (or other photo sharing sites),
- still pictures taken from a film.

* Ask pupils to add text / audio comments to explore what the characters in the pictures might be saying / thinking / feeling.

* Great for developing inference, deduction and empathy skills.

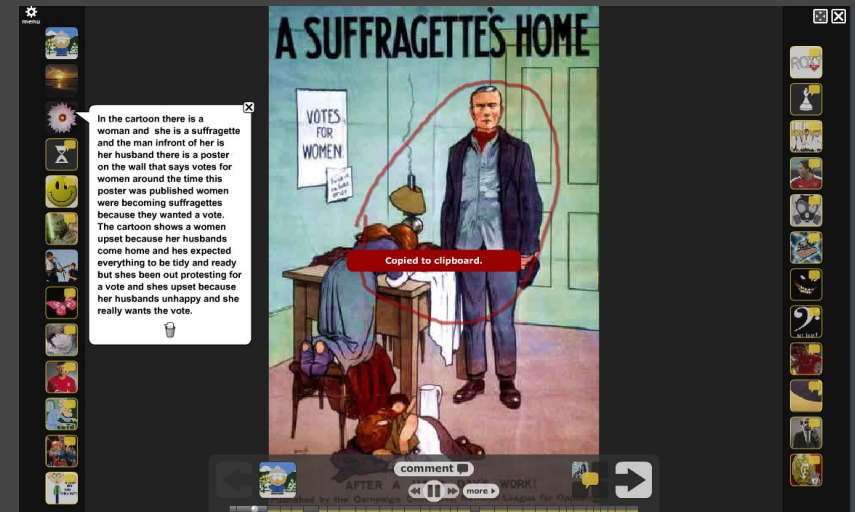


[Mark Warner](#)

#11 - Practice source technique

Practice analysing historical sources with your classes - doing so with VoiceThread means *everyone's* opinion can be shared quickly and easily.

Analysing historical sources in this way also builds up a great repository for revision time!



See an example here:

<http://voicethread.com/share/208243/>



[Doug Belshaw](#)

#12 - Collaborative play scripts

Add a series of images or video footage to use as a basic storyline for a play.

Each student takes on the 'voice' of a character and adds to the thread to develop the dialogue. Stage directions can also be included.

Dr Who (whispering):
What on earth's that?



Kylie:
Is it time to run?

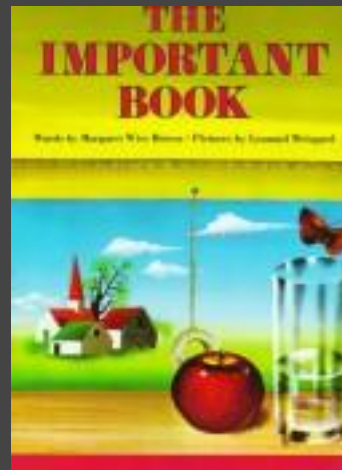
#13 - Write "Important" Poems

Read The Important Book by Margaret Wise Brown to your students. Have them write their own "important" poem. Create a VoiceThread of their finished work. Then they can add comments on each other's page.

My class's [VoiceThread](#) can be found here.

Email me for a copy of the complete lesson plan and rubric.

plnaugle@gmail.com



Submitted by
Paula Naugle

#14 - Digital Portfolios

Students can add of series of images either of themselves learning or of their actual work.

Record thoughts and reflections with each image. Use the doodle pen to highlight specific things.

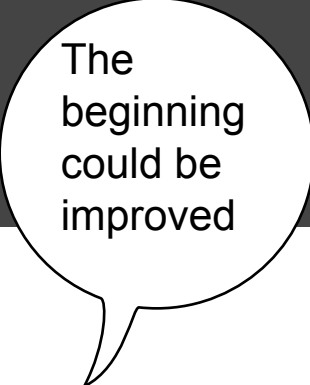
Encourage family members to leave comments.

[Click here](#) for a more comprehensive explanation and two student examples.

Submitted by
Chrissy Hellyer



#15 - Improve Writing



The beginning could be improved

It was raining. Bob got up. He went to see his friend John.
John and Bob got wet. They felt cold so they hid in the woods.
When they were in the woods they heard a noise. A monster came out of the bushes.

Upload a piece of good writing and in shared reading annotate what makes it good

Upload a piece of 'dull' writing and choose sections for children to improve- annotate or record

#16 - Geography/PSHCE



Choose a photo for discussion. What are the people in it thinking? Why did the photographer choose this image?

What are the problems these people face?

Powerful way to share. Could record sound files in role and add to work.

Bullying images e.g Victim thoughts/bully/onlooker

17 - Perform a poem

Take a poem with several verses
like in the example the

"Der Erlkoenig" by

Wolfgang v.Goethe

Search for copyright free images

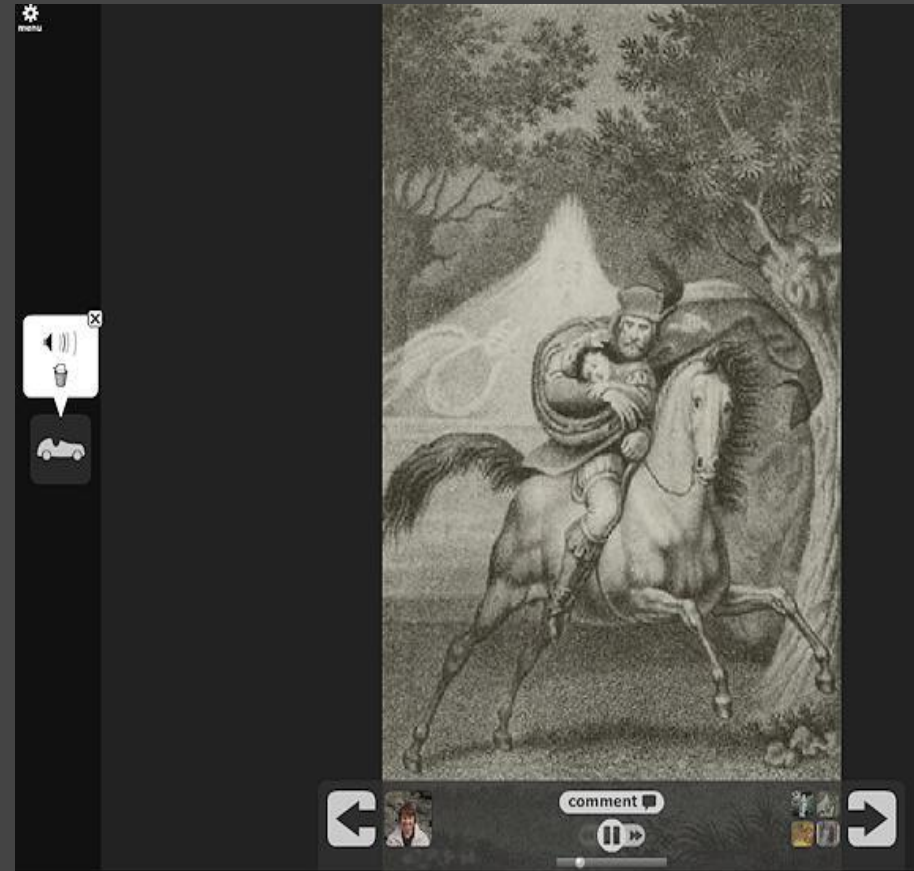
Upload the photos

Record the voices of the students
by microphone and using the

free program Audacity

Save to mp3 and upload it

Here you can watch
the German poem



<http://ed.voicethread.com/share/506227/>

18 - Describe an Experiment

Students take pictures before, during and after a science experiment and then record their predictions, observations and explanations. This can be used as an assessment task, to gauge student understanding of the process.



<http://voicethread.com/share/118702/>

19 - Describe a Process

Students draw a picture of a process - the water cycle, food web, carbon cycle, circulatory system or digestive system for example. They then describe the process, using the pens to draw annotations on their pictures.



<http://voicethread.com/share/118753/>

20 - Describing Probability

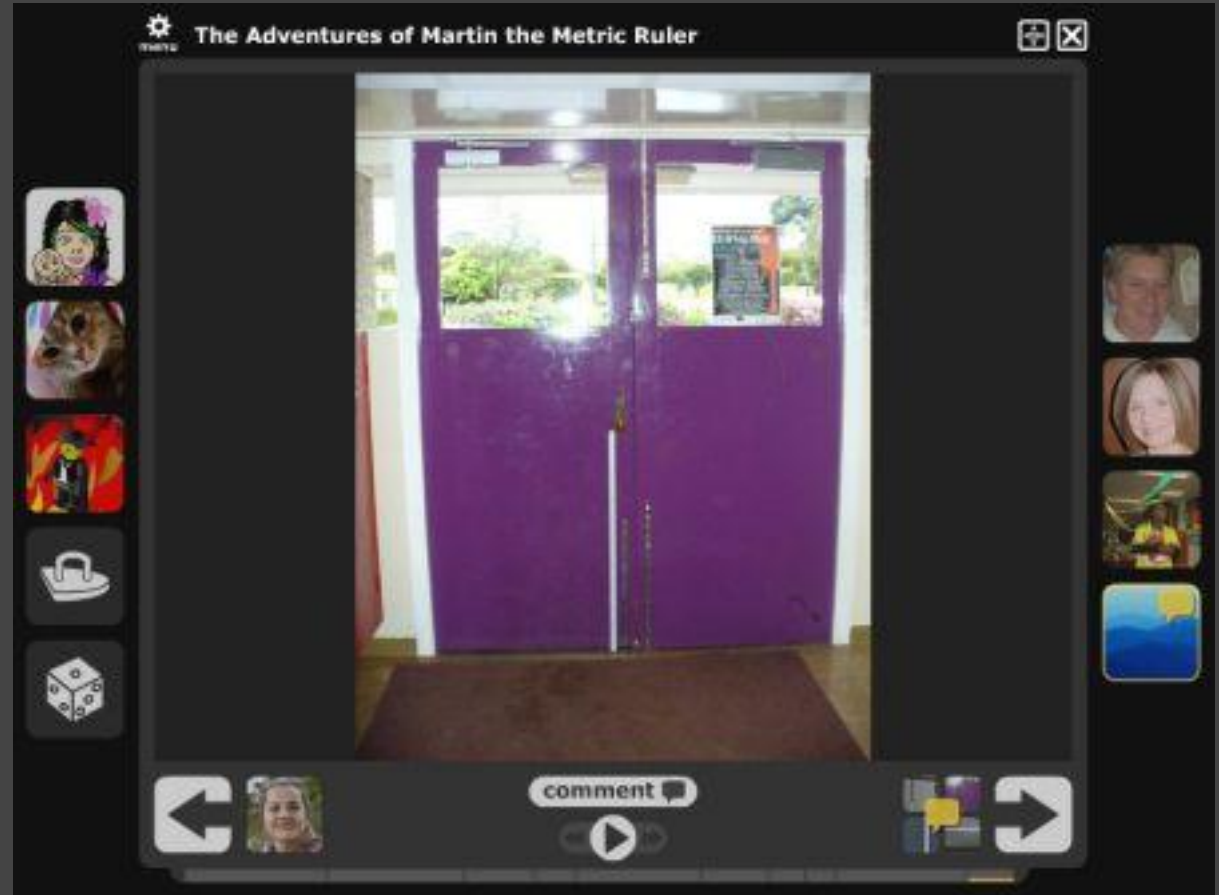
Students upload images showing different choices and make up stories about the probability of choosing each event. For example, "5 of the chocolates have nuts, 7 have soft centres and 4 have hard toffee. What is the probability of choosing a nut chocolate?"



<http://voicethread.com/share/222931/>

21 - The Adventures of.....

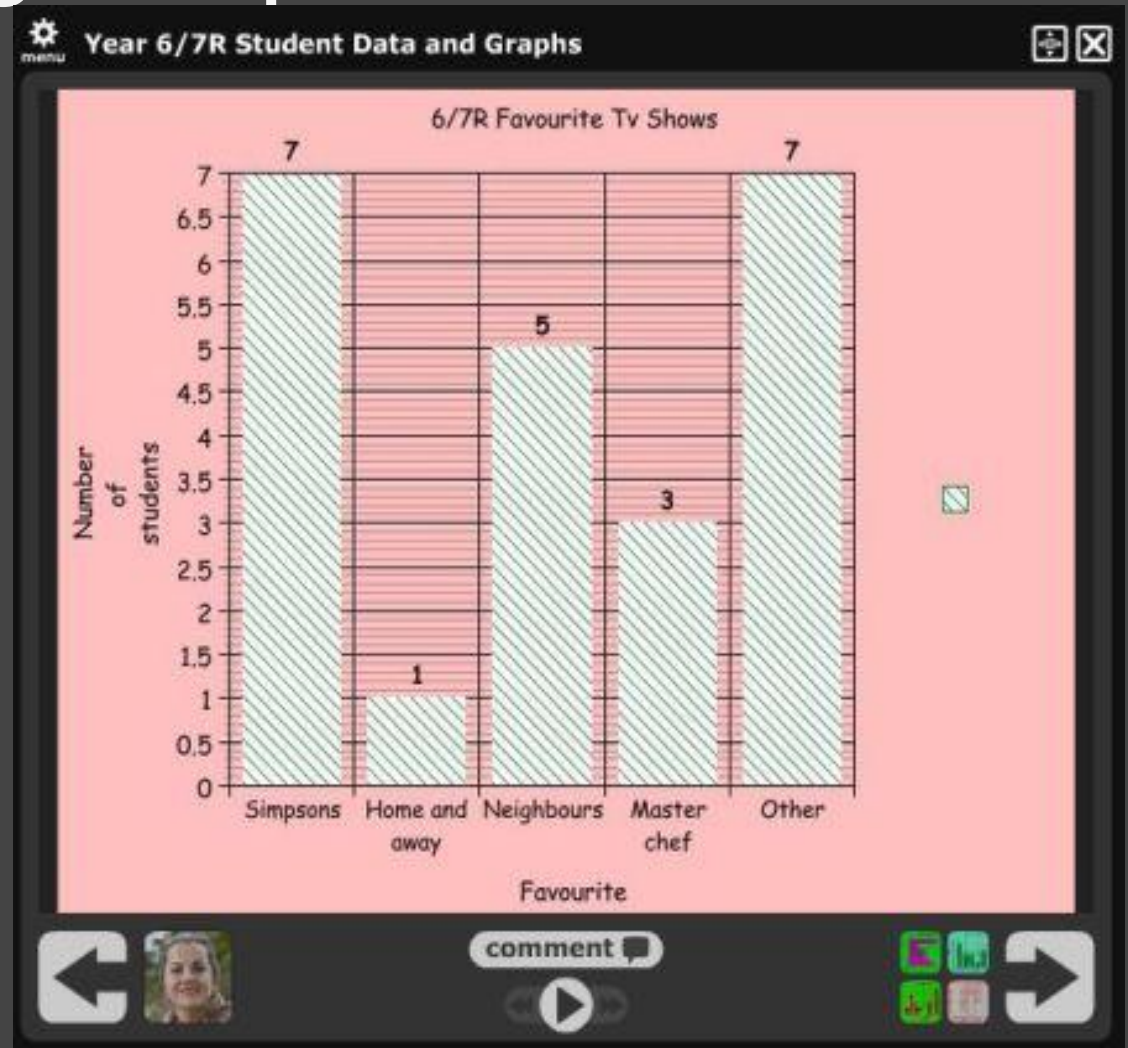
Students take pictures of a familiar object with a known height (stuffed toy, metre ruler, matchbox) in different locations around the school. Then they estimate the size of objects in the photo using the ratio of the known object. So, if the bin is twice the height of the ruler, the bin is two metres tall.



<http://voicethread.com/share/210662/>

22 - Interpreting Graphs

Students upload images of graphs they create (can use Create-a-Graph) or graphs of something they are interested in (footy statistics, local rainfall, song downloads etc) and describe what the graph shows - mentioning SALT - scale, axes, labels and title)

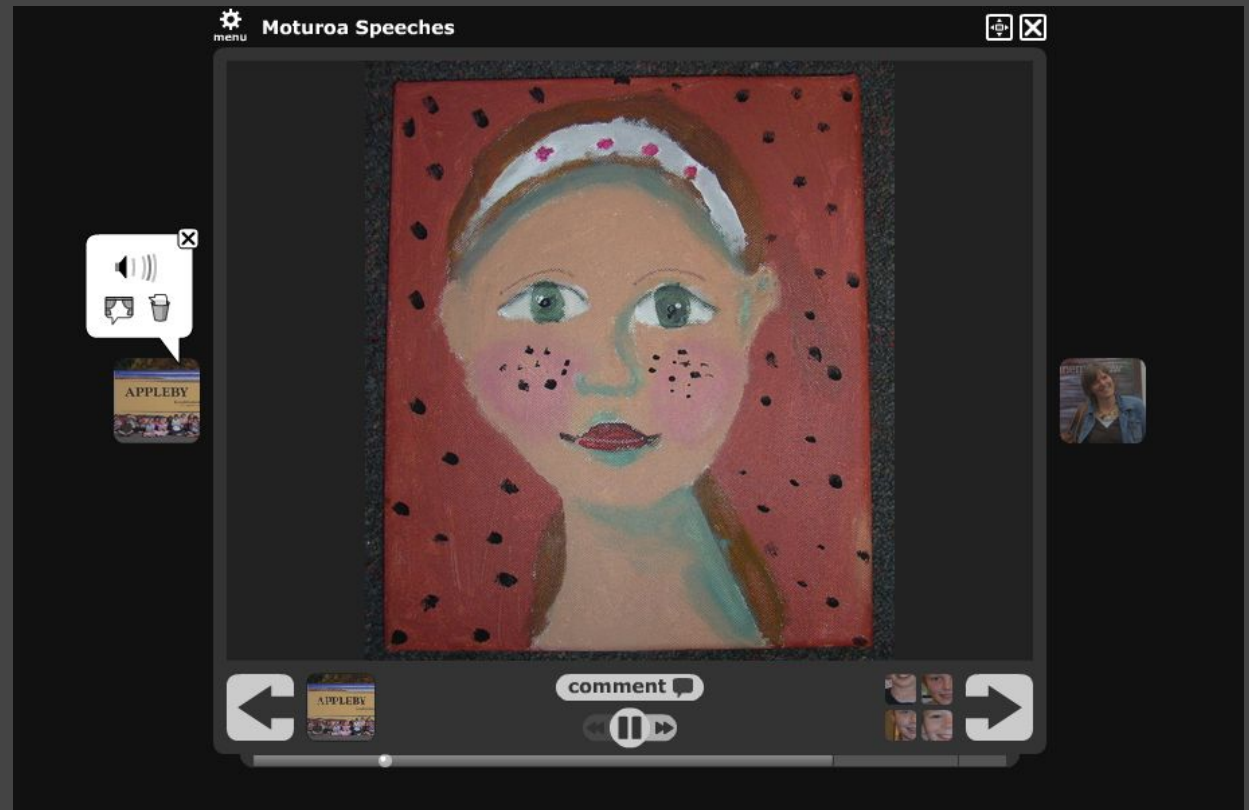


<http://voicethread.com/share/1264128/>

#23 Ask for feedback on speeches

Record children's speeches and encourage other people for their feedback.

Two stars and a wish.



<http://voicethread.com/share/586604/> <http://twitter.com/allanahk>

#24 - Real experience

We use Voicethread to give students a real experience with a real scientific talk on ocean acidification. So our scientist involved in the project uploads his last conference talk and adds his comment. (<http://voicethread.com/?#u287989.b731558.i3869587>).

Students can follow the talk at their own pace (good because high level and also good for non native English speakers), browse the presentation, and leave questions for scientists to answer



We made one public version (the one linked here) and a private one for students. We tested quickly last year and the students were really interested in this new way to discuss with scientists.

Géraldine Fauville

[@Gege1979](https://www.instagram.com/Gege1979)

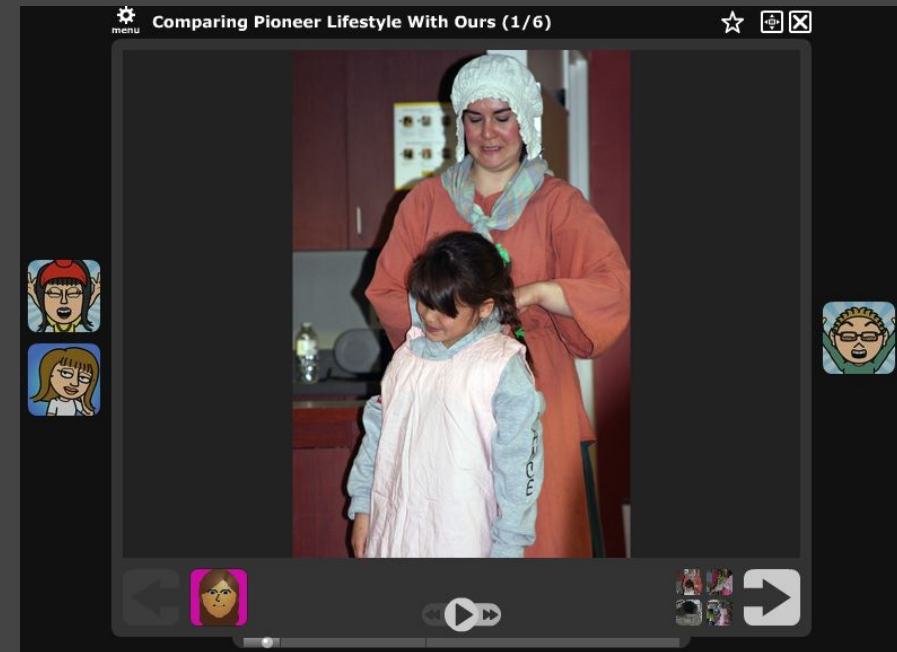
25

I have used it in my class to show how many different ways to get at an answer. I put them in groups, show them different ways to solve a problem.

Each group has a different way to solve the problem.

26 - Make a Comparison

Make a comparison between something that is well known (to your students and audience) and what is seen in a photo. For example, students could be asked to compare one aspect their own lifestyle with that of a pioneer. In the following example, 8 and 9 year olds compared contemporary food, clothing, housing and schooling with those of early settlers. <http://voicethread.com/share/2039358/>



Marie Swift

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.

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

The whole family in one place :-)



Image: 'Sharing'

Thanks for helping
Tom Barrett

Have you seen Maths Maps
yet?