Bitmojis in the Virtual Classroom

Perhaps you are considering making your remote teaching more visual, accessible or interactive, adding a relevant Bitmoji with a message, to your tasks, can help some students to understand the intent a little more. By embedding Bitmojis in your virtual lesson, some activities that students do every day could be introduced in a more engaging format. You can add Bitmojis to Seesaw, Google Classroom, PowerPoint, Microsoft Teams, PDFs and many more.

Some examples of how teachers are using this include:

- A teacher could present in Zoom and share their Google Slides/PowerPoint screen
- A teacher could use a screen recorder (e.g. Filmora SCRN) and prerecord the resource
- Schools using Google classroom may allow students to navigate
- A teacher could share the Google Drive file with students using Edmodo

NOTE: some Bitmojis may not be appropriate for school use since the terms of service specify Bitmoji is for users over 13 (and some of the content is for more mature audiences), its best saved for post primary students. Teachers, though, find it extremely useful.

> What is an emoji: Emoji are ideograms and smileys used in electronic messages and web-pages. Some examples of emoji are ☺, 😭, and 😺. Emoji exist in various genres, including facial expressions, common objects, places and types of weather, and animals. *(Wikipedia)*
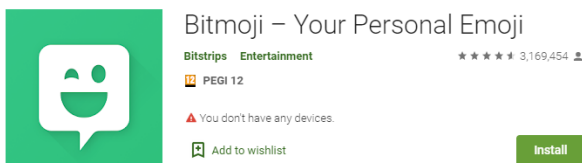
There are two initial required steps involved in getting set up for using Bitmojis in a Virtual Classroom. They are:

A. Creating a Bitmoji, your personal emoji on the Bitmoji App on your device.

B. Using the Bitmoji Chrome Extension on Google Chrome (laptop).

A: Creating a Bitmoji, your personal emoji on the Bitmoji App on your phone/device

The Bitmoji app allows you to create your own personal avatar, and offers a huge library of stickers – all featuring your avatar. You can then use Bitmoji in Snapchat and wherever else you chat.

1. Install the Bitmoji app on your phone/device.
2. Sign up for Bitmoji. Depending on what you want to use Bitmoji with, you'll do one of the following:
    a. Snapchat or
    b. Sign up with email (keep note of email and password for section B)
3. Select a gender.
4. Design your Bitmoji character with options including the following: Skin tone, Eye shape, Hair colour, Jaw shape, Face add-ons (e.g. glasses)
5. Tap 'Save Avatar'

Suggest stopping at this point and proceeding directly to B: Using Bitmoji Chrome Extension
Bitmoji Keyboard: this input method may be able to collect all the text that you type, including personal data like passwords and credit card numbers.

6. Add Bitmoji to your phone keyboard by: (follow a for iPhone or b for Android)
   a. You can add the Bitmoji avatar list to your **iPhone**'s available keyboards, after which point you can paste Bitmoji images into virtually any app which has a text box in it. You can then tap the text box to bring up the keyboard, tap and hold the globe icon in the bottom-left corner of the keyboard, select Bitmoji. Select a Bitmoji avatar. Tap and hold the text box, then release your finger and tap Paste.
   b. You can add the Bitmoji keyboard to your **Android**. If you want to use Bitmoji in other applications, you can add the Bitmoji avatar options to your Android's keyboard. You can then select the Bitmoji keyboard by long-pressing the globe icon in the keyboard and selecting the Bitmoji keyboard. Bitmoji can only be used with Gboard, which is the Google Keyboard used on many Androids. You can install Gboard from the Play Store.

STEP ONE
COMPLETE

B: Using Bitmoji Chrome Extension

Bitmoji

Offered by: bitmoji.com

★★★★☆ 1,683 | Social & Communication

In order to use Bitmoji Chrome extension, you must first create a Bitmoji on your [iPhone](#) or [Android](#). Ensure you have completed A (steps 1 through 5) above and created your own Bitmoji avatar.

1. Open Google Chrome on your laptop/PC
2. Search for and open the 'Bitmoji Google Chrome extension page'. This is the page from which you'll install Bitmoji.
3. Click Add to Chrome and click Add Extension, this will install it on your Chrome browser
4. Log into your Bitmoji account.
   a. (Optional) click Log In with Snapchat and enter your Snapchat login credentials, or
   b. Enter your email address and password into the "or log in with your Bitmoji account" section (using details used in A above) and then click Log In.
5. Click the Bitmoji extension icon. This green smiley face icon should be in the upper-right corner of the window. Next, click 'Get Started' at bottom of dropdown menu

It is now possible for you to use your Bitmoji on any text location that supports images

1. Scroll through the Bitmojis and choose one
   a. (Optional) You can Copy and Paste in your Bitmoji. Once you've copied your Bitmoji, you can paste it into any text box that supports images.
   b. (Optional) Alternatively right click and save image. You can insert image in any document including Powerpoint and Word like here:

C: Using Bitmojis in Google Slides

You are now ready to use your Bitmoji when creating your classroom. The following is for Google Slides.

1. Open Google Slides and use a blank slide
2. Click on 'Background', then 'Choose Image' and search for 'wall floor background'
3. Click 'Insert', then 'image' and 'Search the web'
4. Search for 'transparent interactive whiteboard'. Then insert a text box in-front of the interactive whiteboard and write your message
5. Try inserting a 'transparent desk' 'transparent bookshelf' etc
6. Click on the Bitmoji extension icon. This green smiley face icon should be in the upper-right corner of the window. Choose a Bitmoji.

D: Next Steps for Your Virtual Classroom:

- Create links to videos that play on the interactive whiteboard
- Create links to activities, these could be links to educational websites (e.g. Epic!), documents you have prepared etc.

- Create a virtual bookcase with links to a PDF

E: Other ideas:

Adding a relevant Bitmoji with a message to your tasks can help students to understand the intent a little more. Some other ideas include:

- Create comics in Google Slides or Google Drawings
- Provide feedback to online student work.
- Use them in your email signature.
- Use them in a class rules printout
- Send playful well wishes for birthdays or other achievements