

Make the Connection Interactive Graphic Library

By Pat Conover

Have you heard about interactive books? They're like a visual audiobook, adding a new dimension to student learning! They're powerful tools to help support the reading instruction of students with different learning styles. Students can listen to text read aloud as they read along. They can jump to glossary definitions, or find suggested websites for further learning. Just think of the many ways this lively format will help your ELL students and struggling, emergent, and reluctant readers!

Why and how should I use interactive books?

Interactive books provide a total learning experience that capture and hold the students' attention as they learn vocabulary and build fluency and comprehension.

Students simply pop a CD into the computer, select Spanish or English as the language of choice, and listen as the text is read to them, following along at their own pace. The text is highlighted so the student can associate meaning and pronunciation to the words. A glossary is one click away, as are additional internet sites. The best features in some are the free extended learning portion available within the "pages" of the interactive book.

One way to use them in the library is to ask students, as they read an interactive book, to find five important facts to communicate with others. By creating a project, students will process and comprehend the information, and then share it with others in a creative way. Use books like:

Tyrannosaurus Rex from the Pebble Plus Series (IL PreK-2)

Stegosaurus from the Pebble Plus Series (IL PreK-2)

Students can design looping paper chains, with an important fact on each loop, to display in the library or classroom.

Paper Chain Project

Try this project with any age group. The paper chain activity is guaranteed to help students read for critical information, provide a venue for sharing the information with others, and promote discussions about the various topics. Plus... it's fun to cut, loop, paste, and repeat!

1. Open PowerPoint. Go to File, New, select **Blank Presentation**.
2. Go to **File, Page Setup**. Change **Height** to 5 inches.
3. Go to **Insert, New Slide**. Select whatever works best for the project. Add text and graphics, filling the individual slides with information and images.
4. Go to **View, Slide Sorter**. The Slide Sorter option is found in the drop down menu or on the drawing toolbar. On the drawing toolbar, it is represented by four squares (slides) together.
5. **Select** the first slide. Go to **Insert, Duplicate Slide**. Repeat with each slide that you have created. Keep the project in **Slide Sorter** view.
6. Go to **File, Print, Print What, Handouts, 6 per page**. Select **Frame Slide** option.
7. Cut the strips. Staple, glue, or tape paper chains together. Add a colored paper loop, cut to the same size, between the printed ones for greater flexibility.

For more technology projects, check out Patricia Ross Conover's *Technology Projects for Library Media Specialists and Teachers* from Linworth Publishing, Inc.

Capstone Press has an entire collection of Interactive Books. Go to www.capstonepress.com/interactive to see the product listings, experience an interactive book demonstration, and have an online chat with a customer service representative. Get started with this new way to build literacy skills and improve comprehension, and watch your students have fun learning.

Additional activities

Other suggested project ideas for using the interactive books:

Animal Babies ABC from A+ Books Series (RL K-1, IL PreK-2) After the students have read this book, teach the animal alphabet project.

Purple from A+ Books Series (IL PreK-2) Help students create flip booklets of three additional things that are purple.

A Visit to the Library from the Pebble Plus Series (RL K-1, IL PreK-2) Have your young patrons create bookmarks about the library. Make classroom sets to share.

The Shocking World of Electricity with Max Axiom, Super Scientist from the Graphic Library Series (RL 3-4, IL 3-9) Have students do an acrostic research project.

Pat Conover is a middle school library media specialist in Shawnee Mission, Kansas. She has been a librarian for 12 years, two in New Jersey, and ten in Kansas. She was awarded the Kansas Association of School Librarians President's Award in 2003, and has recently presented a projects class at the National AASL Conference in Reno.

