

ICT in the Classroom - PDST Technology in Education (formerly NCTE)

Paint software - focus on literacy & numeracy (Primary)

Ref: 13-10

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the benefits of using paint software in the Junior classroom, some ideas for classroom use to support literacy and numeracy and some further resources to enable you to effectively integrate the use of this technology in your classroom.

Benefits

The benefits of using paint software in the classroom include:

- It allows pupils to identify different colours and shades of individual colours.
- It allows pupils to develop fine motor skills using the mouse.
- It is easy to use software which taps into pupils' creativity.
- It is free and accessible on most computers.
- The pupils' finished artwork can be saved and used in other curricular areas or added to an e-portfolio.
- It allows pupils to identify different shapes.
- It allows pupils to manipulate different shapes.
- It allows pupils to colour in and decorate pictures with the click of a mouse; pupils can edit their pictures and produce high quality results.

Classroom Application

Literacy

Ideas for classroom application of this technology to support literacy include:

- The pupils can draw their favourite scene from a story. Pupils describe what they have drawn and why it is their favourite part of the story.
- Pupils illustrate a class book. Type out the sentences of story so that each pupil has one sentence to illustrate. Read each sentence. Ask the pupil to draw a picture showing what his/her sentence says. Combine all the pictures with the text to create a class story.
- Trace each pupil's hand. Scan the traced image into the computer. Ask the pupils to decorate their hand using MS Paint. Discuss the differences between each person's hand and how they decorated it.
- Scan some black and white pictures relating to a current theme i.e. the Gingerbread Man. Pupils can use the mouse to colour in the picture.
- Pupils can illustrate a picture from a big book i.e. Elmer, Rainbow Fish.

Numeracy

- Pupils can experiment with different shapes, manipulating them, changing their size etc. and colouring them in.
- Pupils can create a shape picture.
- Teachers can create a 'paint by numbers' picture and scan it into Paint. Each number represents a different colour. Number can be in the form of a simple sum for added complexity.

Assessment

Literacy

These examples outline ways in which paint software can be used to assess literacy:

- Pupils are given a word and draw a picture using Paint software to illustrate its meaning.
- Pupils draw a picture of their favourite scene in a story.
- Pupils describe their picture to their peers.
- Pupils consider each other's completed pictures and evaluate using three stars and a wish structure.

Numeracy

These examples outline ways in which paint software can be used to assess numeracy:

- Pupils complete a paint by numbers activity using 1) basic numbers 2) sums.
- Pupils create a shape picture.
- Pupils colour in a shape picture by listening to directions i.e. 'Colour all triangles red, colour all circles yellow' etc.
- Pupils create a picture to go with a number sentence.

Special Educational Needs

These examples outline ways in which Paint software can be used to support pupils with SEN:

- Allows pupils with difficulty holding a pencil/crayon to colour in a picture using a mouse and point and click.
- Allows pupils to edit and erase colour from a picture with the click of a mouse.
- Develops pupils' mouse and fine motor skills.
- Allows pupils to illustrate feelings/emotions etc.

Useful Tips

- Do not allow pupils to print their creations ad hoc. Ask them to wait until Friday and then ask the teacher to print it. It is amazing how something completely crucial on Monday can be completely forgotten about by Friday!
- Use your scanner/visualiser to create templates for use in Paint software. Having outlines to colour in is a great way to develop pupils' mouse skills.
- Save samples of work for pupils' e-portfolio and track their progression.
- You can scale your brush, line, spray paint tool or eraser tool by selecting the tool and pressing CTRL and + to make it larger.

Video Tutorials

To learn how to use Paint, a free paint software program, please spend some time exploring the NCTE Video Tutorials at the links below

- Paint – introduction and making lines
<http://www.ncte.ie/ICTTraining/VideoTutorials/#21980>
- Paint – making shapes
<http://www.ncte.ie/ICTTraining/VideoTutorials/#21978>
- Paint – fill colour and entering text
<http://www.ncte.ie/ICTTraining/VideoTutorials/#21976>
- Paint – editing an image
<http://www.ncte.ie/ICTTraining/VideoTutorials/#21982>

Useful Links

- Using Paint – Guidance Sheets
<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/ict/usingpaint.htm>
- MS Paint for Little Children
<http://jo-murphy.suite101.com/ms-paint-for-little-children-a30237>
- Lessons using Paint
http://activities.macmillanmh.com/Techknowledge/data/_shell/_global/files/_swf/tk.php?level=0K&unit=04&lesson=31

http://activities.macmillanmh.com/Techknowledge/data/_shell/_global/files/_swf/tk.php?level=0K&unit=03&lesson=20

http://activities.macmillanmh.com/Techknowledge/data/_shell/_global/files/_swf/tk.php?level=0K&unit=04&lesson=31