

# Webcams in the Classroom

David Cox,  
Instructional Technology Facilitator



## Region 6 TLTC

Note: This is a tentative work in progress and is open to daily changes (and probably duplicates a few links). Please email me links with brief descriptions when you inevitably find new Web cam activities and links so I can add them to this list which we can all continue to share. [coxd@rapides.k12.la.us](mailto:coxd@rapides.k12.la.us)

### What are Web cams?

[http://itsinfo.tamu.edu/workshops/handouts/pdf\\_handouts/web\\_cameras.pdf](http://itsinfo.tamu.edu/workshops/handouts/pdf_handouts/web_cameras.pdf)

This is a link to a downloadable document for your informational needs.

### Wikipedia article: Webcams

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webcam>

This one is certainly worth the read for general information about the Web cam milieu.

### Using Web cameras in the classroom- a quick guide

<http://www.schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk/webcam/classcam.htm>

Web cameras (webcams) are simple video cameras that are connected to the Internet and provide images that may be viewed with a normal web browser.

### How to use Web cams safely in schools

[http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=is&catcode=ss\\_to\\_es\\_tl\\_uor\\_03&rid=9930&pagenum=1&NextStart=1&print=1&PHPSESSID=d75749c446c08bf0bb2ef6c823acb4fe](http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=is&catcode=ss_to_es_tl_uor_03&rid=9930&pagenum=1&NextStart=1&print=1&PHPSESSID=d75749c446c08bf0bb2ef6c823acb4fe)

Pros and cons and explanations both brief and to the point

### Web cams in the classroom

<http://www.jamesriser.com/JamesRiser/WebCamsInClassroom/WebCamUse.html>

This site is one teacher's take on the Web cam in the classroom

### Some Initial Web Cam Teaching Ideas

- WormCAM -- Keep a wormery with live action!
- PlantCAM – Show growth progress of a plant/plants growing under different conditions with a ruler showing
- CloudCAM - check out the cloud cover or weather at your school.
- ClassCam – show the class activities to homebound students
- FishCAM – show an aquarium with fish or fish eggs hatching

- BugCAM – find eggs or a cocoon to show an insect hatching
- CampusCAM – make video or still shots of the campus to create a virtual school tour for the school’s Web site
- ActivityCAM – use the cam to create “avatars,” animations, to teach or reinforce concepts of any sort or for students to create responses to activities; pronounce new vocabulary lists; retell a story; react to a lesson; solve a problem; explain a process; give an oral report; read a story, essay, or poem (textual or creative) to the class; contact video pen pals; translate from English to other languages; read and record text and other assignments for special needs students; sing a song; review test materials; create Parent Night, Math Night, or Open House greeting from the class; and or even “teach” an activity!

Specific concepts to use to create activities includes ideas such as:

- Foreign Language - Teacher could record vocabulary word pronunciation to go along with printed list
- English/Journalism - Students could interview subject and upload file for all in class or school to hear
- Biology - Teacher could record lab activities or safety procedures to accompany handouts

As you make these discoveries or create new activities, please email them to me at [cox@rapides.k12.la.us](mailto:cox@rapides.k12.la.us)

## Web Cam Sites of Interest

[http://216.182.167.201/products/instructor/Jan05\\_websitings.htm](http://216.182.167.201/products/instructor/Jan05_websitings.htm)

Web Sitings: Web Cam Magic from Scholastic

Sites that use live cameras to bring the world to your classroom

A Coral Camera Activity

[http://www.coexploration.org/bbsr/coral/lessons/coral\\_cam\\_activity.html](http://www.coexploration.org/bbsr/coral/lessons/coral_cam_activity.html)

A classroom activity for students to view live action on the Bermuda Coral Reef, organize, and learn about what they are observing, this site has links to lesson plans and is for ages 8 and up.

Webcams in the Classroom: Animal Inquiry and Observation

[http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson\\_view.asp?id=234](http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=234)

Based on the observation of webcams (rather than a birdfeeder outside the classroom), this lesson plan engages students in similar inquiry learning which can result in a year-long study of a particular animal, comparisons of observations of several animals, or application of the inquiry process to other activities in the classroom.

TeachersFirst Resource Listings

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/archives/tchr-subj-date.cfm?subject=science&lower=0&upper=6>

[http://k12.ucop.edu/text\\_only/text\\_enrichment.html](http://k12.ucop.edu/text_only/text_enrichment.html)

These two sites can give creative teachers some good ideas for using the Web cam in class.

BirdboxCam

<http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/birdbox/birdbox.htm>

This activity is cool when the birds are actually there.

Read Across America

<http://www.twice.cc/read/RAATeacher.pdf>

Classrooms use interactive video to connect with other classrooms “across America” and read to each other. The activity is sponsored by the [TWICE](http://www.twice.cc) organization, in cooperation with the NEA.

### Weather Scope

<http://www.k12science.org/curriculum/weatherproj2/en/activity3.shtml>

Track and record weather at your school, create graphs, use a spreadsheet simply, and compare/contrast the class's results of some famous places around the world.

### Puerto Vallarta, Mexico Web cam

<http://www.puertovallarta.net/interactive/webcam/index.php#>

See a nearby yet exotic location. This can be the start of activities for many different subjects, all of which can inspire teachers and students.

### Scientists Use Web Site to Report Volcano Activity

[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_lesson/newsforyou/newsforyou028.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/newsforyou/newsforyou028.shtml)

See a Web cam being used for one of its most serious applications, monitoring a live volcano! Links and information allow students to help the teacher think of activities for which the Web cam can be used in their classes.

### EarthCam

<http://www.earthcam.com/>

This cam site brings the world to your classroom, live and in motion. Of course, you should preview the cams to make sure they are suitable for your instructional needs. There are some good links here!

### Sending Smoke Signals by Web Cam

<http://www.wvpt4learning.org/lessons/pdf06/sendsmoke.pdf>

An interesting idea, this one can also lead creative teachers to new activities to achieve GLEs in a meaningful but entertaining way.

### Live from the Big Island

<http://www.hawaii.com/visit/bigisland/images/webcams/index.php>

Hawaii as you have not likely seen it before is available here.

### Wonderville Science Challenges

<http://sciencechallenges.cust.lexi.net/faq.php>

Web cams can be used in a number of ways, as this site shows for 7<sup>th</sup> graders only.

### The National Zoo

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/WebCams/>

See live cams of animals in their habitats.

### The USGS and Science Education

<http://education.usgs.gov/>

The U.S. Geological Survey provides scientific information intended to help educate the public about natural resources, natural hazards, geospatial data, and issues that affect our quality of life. Discover selected online resources, including lessons, data, maps, and more, to support teaching, learning, education (K-12), and university-level inquiry and research. Look into the links to see the cams.

### Web Cams Bring Lessons to Life

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_tech/tech/tech100.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech100.shtml)

A good but brief discussion of Web cams in the classroom, the article has a list of links to cams used in the author's classes which follows here:

### Sites to See: Eyes on the World

[http://www.education-world.com/a\\_tech/sites/sites081.shtml](http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/sites/sites081.shtml)

A Webcam is a digital camera that regularly provides images online. Many educators know of a Webcam at their local zoo or famous landmark. Now, find out how to locate Webcams in almost any country in the world, learn how to use a Webcam within your classroom, and discover tips and cautions for teaching and learning with this technology.

Visit one of the sites listed below to provide your students with a unique Web cam experience.

- [Panda Central](#)  
See live video of giant panda Hua Mei from the San Diego Zoo's Pacific Bell Giant Panda Research Station.
- [Critter Cams](#)  
Check out Animal Planet's collection of Web cams, featuring alligators, elephants, rhinos, sharks, and more.
- [National Zoo Animal Cams](#)  
Still and video cameras broadcast the activities of naked moles, Amazon River fishes, Asian elephants, ferrets, and other creatures at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.
- [Wild Birds Unlimited](#)  
Wish you had a bustling birdfeeder outside your window? This site's Bird FeederCam is nearly as enjoyable as the real thing!
- [Passages of the Deep -- Shark Cams](#)  
This site from the Oregon Coast Aquarium offers four shark cams!
- [Kelp Cam](#)  
The Monterey Bay Aquarium sponsors this cam that spies on its kelp forest. The site also offers a peek at its penguins!

### [EarthCam](#)

Find a Web cam for nearly any location or purpose with this online guide. Be sure to carefully preview this material to make certain that it's appropriate for your class.

Teachers using Web cams in their classes

<http://www.atacc.ab.ca/resources/techs/video/index.html>

Connect with others already using a Web cam in their classes

San Diego Zoo's Cam Live Cams and New Portal (including audio podcasts)

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/videos/index.html>

Web Specialty Cams from the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.

- [Elephant Cam](#)
- [Bat Cam](#)
- [Mole-Ratt Colony Cam](#)
- [Rhino Cam](#)
- [Giraffe Cam](#)
- [OranguCam](#)
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[Gorilla Cam](#) Watch Kiki & family using a full-motion user-controlled cam!

[Fisheye View Cam](#) Used by marine biologists to study coral behaviors at Fisheye View labs in Coral Gables, Florida.

Good Portals

WebcamSearch.Com

<http://www.webcamsearch.com/>

WebCam Central

<http://www.camcentral.com/>

Cams2000.Com

<http://www.cams2000.com/links/directory/index.html>

You can search for new and interesting cams at these portals but do not share these with students as some of the sites are unsavory/adult which can easily be found by an inquisitive mind.

Videoconferencing in the Classroom

<http://www.2learn.ca/teachertools/Videoconferencing/videoconferencinghowto.html>

Learn from those who have been to the mountain top...survived, and now thrive.

Use the Web cam to help teach astronomy

[http://www.euhou.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=156](http://www.euhou.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=156)

<http://www.astronomy.com/ASY/CS/forums/311023/ShowPost.aspx>

The first link is the scoop on using low cost Web cam and a telescope to assist in the teaching of astronomy.

The second link is to a blog where someone did it.

Project Cam

<http://www.ciconline.org/ProjectCam/default.htm>

Developed by Cable in the Classroom, Project Cam is an online environment with video, chat and file sharing capabilities. It allows educators, students, and experts to make live connections to other learners and experts via webcams and high-speed internet.

Webcams in the Classroom: Animal Inquiry and Observation

[http://readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson\\_view\\_printer\\_friendly.asp?id=234](http://readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view_printer_friendly.asp?id=234)

Here is a real lesson plan to use the Web cam in the classroom for your use: to do, to emulate, or to take further.

Churchill House in England

<http://www.churchillhouse.com/webcam/webcams.html>

Some schools have fully embraced the use of cams to meet the rest of the world.

Downtown Manhattan, N.Y. Cam

<http://www.rioting.com/rioting/index.php?page=webcam>

For SS/ELA studies, this is an interesting contemporary view. It sure doesn't look like Walt Whitman's Manhattan!

Illinois Education Web Cams

[http://www.agintheclassroom.org/060605/Teachers/ag%20cam/ag\\_cam\\_home.html](http://www.agintheclassroom.org/060605/Teachers/ag%20cam/ag_cam_home.html)

The cams may not still be up, but the ideas for them are great.

Around the World in 80 Clicks

<http://www.steveweb.com/>

Cool when it works. It goes great with the novel [Around the World in 80 Days](#) or a geography class.

Discovery Channel Links to the Day's Live Cams

<http://dsc.discovery.com/>

Search here for live cams online from different sources.

NASA

[http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/exploration/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/exploration/main/index.html)

Type in "live web cams" in the **FIND IT @ NASA** search

Arctic Theme Page

[http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/gallery\\_np.html](http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/gallery_np.html)

Note: Due to Arctic darkness, the link may only show past photos.

Leonard's World

<http://www.leonardsworlds.com/>

Leonard's Cam World links to cams that are child-safe, so it's a good place to send young researchers on their own. Cams are grouped by category, including capital cities, animals, storms, and national parks.

exzoobrance

<http://www.exzoobrance.com/>

Get a close-up of alpacas, sharks, and falcons at this creature- and kid-friendly site by clicking on "Animal Web Cams." A collection of still images provides backup if the animals have wandered out of range.

Snoweye.Com

<http://www.snoweye.com/>

Links to over 3400 cams are currently available. Whether you're discussing weather patterns or geography, showing students the "live" differences in world climates will pack an educational punch. Use this directory of ski resort Web cams to show that when it's balmy in Colorado, it's frigid in Argentina.

Old Faithful

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/yell/oldfaithfulcam.htm>

The reality of Web cams is that it's hard to predict if you'll catch the right shot to share with your students. Not so with this cam, which captures the trusty eruptions of Yellowstone's Old Faithful Geyser. A helpful timer lets you know when to expect action.

Insect Zoo

<http://zoocam.ent.iastate.edu/>

See insects of different types online at the Iowa State University Entomology Department. Check their daily schedule of specimens.

Oregon Coast Aquarium Jelly Fish Cam

<http://www.aquarium.org/jellies/jellycam.htm>

Lights are off at night so view during the day. Other cams may come on later during the year.

South Pole Live Cam

<http://www.cmdl.noaa.gov/obop/spo/livecamera.html>

Updates roughly every 10 minutes. It has links to other worldwide cams as well.

<http://www.anetstation.com/>

See their links to other sites of cam links as well.

Greenland Summit Camp

<http://www.summitcamp.org/>

See link on the left to their live Web cam.

Monterrey Bay Site with several cams

<http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/>

At this writing there are six live cams online.

Web Whacker for Educators

<http://www.edufly.com/subject.html?G=11&S=42>

Searches here sometimes find new cam links.

Again, when you find good Web cam activities and class-safe sites to share, please email them to me at

[coxd@rapides.k12.la.us](mailto:coxd@rapides.k12.la.us) and I will update this list and keep it posted on the Region 6 TLTC site

<http://www.rapides.k12.la.us/region6tltc/tlct.htm> .