

# Using an interactive whiteboard in 3rd grade

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## Overview

I have been using an interactive whiteboard in my third grade classroom for a year now, and am excited by its capabilities and potential for use in education. Children are intrigued by the Activboard, and want to get their hands on it whenever possible. The setup requires the board itself (a Promethean Activboard, in my case), a video projector, and a computer, all connected together. It functions like a computer, overhead projector, and even a set of maps all rolled into one. I also have a set of handheld voting devices, called Activotes, which allow students to send votes wirelessly to the Activboard. In addition, you can show videos, DVDs, and TV shows on it, by connecting a VCR and cable TV signal. For me and my students, it's an exciting and engaging learning tool!

## Demonstrating the possibilities

In this session, I present a variety of ways that the Activboard is used in my classroom. I show several "flipcharts," which are the presentation files created with Promethean's Activstudio software. The flipcharts I plan to show include:

- a chart for collecting sunrise and sunset data
- ISAT math prep, with voting results
- a "magic hat" that does multiplication and division
- a map of the Oregon Trail, with links to related videos and web pages
- a word list to aid in the writing of a story about a field trip
- a spelling word-sort activity
- ruled paper for teaching handwriting
- a grammar/punctuation activity, called "Caught Ya!"
- a science activity on phases of the Moon
- an activity on Chicago's history and geography
- examples of US and Illinois maps

(If you are interested in "borrowing" any of these, please contact me.)

## Websites

I also feature several websites that I use with the Activboard. They include:

4L Puzzle Maths-Make It Count

[http://www.channel4learning.net/sites/puzzlemaths/games\\_menu.shtml](http://www.channel4learning.net/sites/puzzlemaths/games_menu.shtml)

Sum Sense

<http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/SumSense/summulti.html>

HM teaching tools—mult. table, number line

[http://www.eduplace.com/math/mw/tools/tt\\_3.html](http://www.eduplace.com/math/mw/tools/tt_3.html)

Planet Science/Interactive solar system

<http://www.scienceyear.com/wired/index.html?page=/planet10/>

BBC Science/Friction

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/science/activities/friction.shtml>

Make a flake

<http://snowflakes.lookandfeel.com/>

Promethean Planet (US)

<http://www.prometheanplanet.com/us/>

If you have any questions about interactive whiteboards, or need more information, please feel free to contact me at the above email address.