

Kerpoof Scholastics News

August 2008



Welcome to the August 2008 Kerpoof Scholastics Newsletter. Our goal is to provide information about [Kerpoof's free resources for educators](#). If you have colleagues who you think would be interested in receiving this newsletter, please feel free to forward it to them. If you have received a forwarded copy, you can sign up for your own free subscription.

We want Kerpoof Scholastics to be a great resource for you. Please feel free to contact us with comments or suggestions!

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Welcome back to Kerpoof Scholastics!
Now that everyone is back in school, Kerpoof Scholastics News is back as well. We hope you had a great summer! We've been hard at work over the summer making improvements to Kerpoof. We hope you will like what you see.

What's new on Kerpoof

Search tools

This summer has brought a number of changes and improvements on Kerpoof. We'll describe some of them here, but you can also check out our [What's New](#) page for more information. You can now search the gallery of shared scenes and movies. Look for a specific username or keyword or sort by type (movie, picture, card, drawing or story). You can also do a search for objects in the object library. Just type in what you're looking for and new objects will appear.

New scenes

In honor of the Olympic Games and their show of international sportsmanship, we've

WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL!



launched some fun, new sports scenes. Users can make their own pictures of baseball/ softball, soccer, basketball, hockey, tennis, volleyball or football games. There's also a new movie scene, Under Construction, available for users who have earned enough Kerpoof Koins to buy it. Even nonmembers can buy this scene which allows them to create movies based on arts and crafts supplies.

Super Doodle fun

Last but not least are the improvements to Super Doodle. We've improved the fill function so that users can now fill between objects, etc. There are five new pen styles (crayon, cloud, puffy, fire and spray can) which can be purchased by any user in the Kerpoof Store. There are also six new fill patterns (wild grass, reptile scales, tiger fur, rock wall, metallic diamond plate and tree bark) available for purchase in the Kerpoof Store.

New Kerpoof tools for teachers

This summer, we have been working to incorporate all of the great feedback we got from our survey on tools you'd like to see added. We are very excited about the new Teacher Tools that we will be rolling out over the next few weeks. These classroom administration tools will allow for the easy creation of Kerpoof accounts for an entire class of students, thus assigning them usernames and passwords that you can track and avoiding the need for students to register individually. These tools will also allow you to reset students' forgotten usernames and passwords and monitor or control students' access to collaboration features like group galleries, message boards, chat and buddy drawing.

Educators who want access to these tools will need to submit a short application that we will use to verify their identities as educators. We'll tell you more about the Teacher Tools in the September newsletter and on the [Kerpoof Scholastics home page](#) as soon as the tools become available.

Summer contest winners

We asked Kerpoof Scholastics News subscribers to take a short survey in May. More than 100 of you responded, helping guide the creation of our new classroom administration tools for teachers. We randomly drew two names from the respondents to receive a \$25 gift card to Target. Congratulations to our winners, Janet Sandy of Poland, OH and Samantha Cheung of Temple Hill, MD!

New York State Standards flyer available

If you teach in New York, you can now take a look at ways to meet the New York State Learning Standards using Kerpoof. We've added a flyer to the Kerpoof Scholastics Web site that provides some ideas on how to meet specific standards for your state.

New lesson plans available on Kerpoof Scholastics

There are two new lesson plans available at Kerpoof Scholastics this month. Take a look and be sure to check out our new lesson plans as we continue to roll them out each month.

Becoming a Scientific Observer

This lesson plan lets students hone their observation skills, then use the data they gather to create a chart or graph displaying what they saw. In addition, this lesson plan employs a classic KWL activity, including a final assignment to write a paragraph about something interesting they learned during the lesson.



Celebrate Sport

This lesson plan allows students to discuss what happens in sports like baseball/ softball, basketball, football, hockey, soccer, tennis and volleyball. They can then create a sporting scene on Kerpoof and report on it to the class, thus employing technology, visual probs, storytelling and, for grades 4-8, research skills.

Tips and Tricks

Introducing Kerpoof to new students

Since it's the beginning of a new school year, you'll want to start the year off right. If you're new to Kerpoof or to introduce Kerpoof to a new group of students, we have just the tools for you. We know that modeling a new task is the best way to explain it to students so we've created some easy demonstrations to help you model Kerpoof.

On our lesson plans page, you will find three lesson plans that introduce the Kerpoof activities. These lesson plans serve as tutorials, giving you step-by-step instructions for a classroom demonstration to get you and your students started. The demonstrations are designed to hit all the key features in order to make a picture, a story or a movie in Kerpoof. Practice once or twice on your own and your students will think you're an expert!

Idea Center

Classroom Creativity Ice Breaker

Use Kerpoof as a get-to-know-you activity for your students. Allow students to pick a scene that tells you and their classmates something about them. Have them create a picture in that scene. As part of the scene, they can use either the title feature or speech/thought bubbles to explain why they picked this picture to represent them.

Once they have printed their picture, they should write their name on the back and then present their picture to the class orally. All of the pictures can be hung on a bulletin board or wall for students to see. You and the other students can use the gallery of pictures as a memory device by trying to remember which picture represents which student. For even more fun, teachers should participate as well!

Integrating Digital Collaboration

"Participatory knowledge development is at the heart of the online world known as Web 2.0, where user-generated websites and content dominate. In this setting, children need to master not only the tools that allow collaborative exploration or invention, but also the social and communication skills needed to respond to and improve on others ideas, designs or creations. Many educators say that digital collaboration prepares tomorrows adults to take part in communities of practice."

-Joan Ganz Cooney Center, ["The Power of Pow! Wham!: Children, Digital Media and Our Nation's Future."](#) 2008

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