

Kerpoof Scholastics News

March 2008



Welcome to the fifth Kerpoof Scholastics Newsletter. We decided to send the March newsletter out a week later than usual so that we could announce some really exciting new features that went live on Kerpoof today. Check out the [New Activity Launch](#) and [New Features](#) sections for more information!

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 me with comments or suggestions. You can call me at 720-220-7824 or e-mail me at caryn.jones@kerpoof.com.

Sincerely,
Caryn Jones
Director of Education Services
Kerpoof
www.kerpoof.com

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Kerpoof launches a new activity

Adobe, eat your heart out! Super Doodle is new and improved and allows for assisted free hand drawing in a Web browser. Our beta test went so well that we've added new features and launched it as a main activity on Kerpoof. Check out the fill tool and the eyedropper tool to duplicate colors, just like in PhotoShop. Automatic shape detection allows anyone to create perfect circles, squares, triangles and stars with a mouse. It's amazing!

There are two cool new ways to use Super Doodle in

Kerpoof. First, look for it under Make a Drawing. Draw and paint your own pictures. You can even choose and mix colors. Best of all, you can now save your drawing to your gallery. And you can print it, e-mail it or get it made into a t-shirt, mug or professionally printed greeting card.



Ready...set...draw! You can also add your own drawing to anything you create in Kerpoof! Look for the pen tool in the left-hand toolbar to use Super Doodle in Make a picture, Make a Movie, Make a Story or Make a Card. Kerpoof will add your drawing to your scene. In a movie, your new drawing can even move, say something, emote or rotate, just like other characters and objects!

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Meeting educational standards using Kerpoof

In these days of high-stakes testing and growing responsibility to teach to national, state and district standards Kerpoof may seem like a luxury item. But there are hundreds of ways to use Kerpoof to meet curriculum standards in everything from technology to science, language arts, math and social studies.

In the coming weeks we will be changing the navigation on Kerpoof Scholastics and you will see a new section devoted to standards. We will be posting some ideas on ways to meet national standards and we will continually add ideas for new states. We've started with [Washington State](#) and [Texas](#). We'll likely move on to Florida, Virginia and California from there. Look for a pdf of ideas on meeting your state standards as time goes on.

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Other new features at Kerpoof

- We've put a flyer online that explains what Kerpoof is and gives some basic information about what's available for schools. You can access it from the Kerpoof Scholastics home page or by [clicking here](#). Give it to colleagues you want to introduce to Kerpoof or to administrators you want to convince that Kerpoof is a great tool for your school.
- Kerpoof's caption text tool now lets you choose the color, style, font, text size of your writing. You can even choose a new border style or have no border at all. Some of the new font options allow upper and lower case so students can practice using correct casing. Check it out in any Kerpoof activity except Super Doodle, but that capability is coming soon.
- You can now access Kerpoof in half a dozen languages other than English! By choosing a new language on the Kerpoof home page you can access Kerpoof in Russian, French, Chinese, German, Spanish and Italian. One young lady in a focus group last week was almost in tears because she could use Kerpoof in Russian, her native language. Let us know how this affects students in your classes! We would also appreciate hearing any corrections or additions to these translations if you're fluent.
- We've added some animated prompts in the Kerpoof Animation Studio to guide new users. If a user doesn't do something right away, Kerpoof will activate this help feature. Prompts encourage users to drag in characters, drag methods to the timeline and more.
- In the next few weeks the Kerpoof Store will appear on Kerpoof. In the Kerpoof store users can "buy" special scenes, characters or effects for scenes and other fun tools using the "koins" they've earned while playing or working in Kerpoof. If your students are logging in, their koins are being saved and they will have a nice account to use when the store opens.

Be the star of Kerpoof Scholastics

We want you to share your best tips, tricks and ideas with your colleagues. Submit a tip or trick on using Kerpoof or computers in general in your classroom OR a specific idea on how you have used Kerpoof in your classroom. If we use your submission in one of our upcoming newsletters you will be credited in the newsletter AND you'll receive a \$25 gift card to Target.



Just e-mail your submission to [Caryn Jones, Director of Education Services](#). Be sure to include your name, school name, and the grade/subject you teach.

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New lesson plans available at Kerpoof

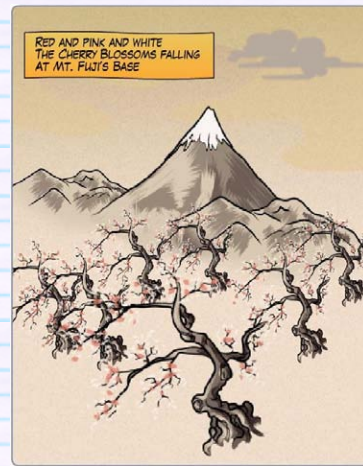
There are two new lesson plans available at Kerpoof Scholastics. Take a look and be sure to check back each month for new lesson plans.

Haiku for You

April is National Poetry Month. Celebrate with this haiku assignment on Kerpoof! Learn about Japanese culture and the art of writing Haiku, then practice writing your own.

Celebrate the Seasons

Explore the weather and the seasons with your PK-2 class in the Kerpoof Animation Studio. Watch a video of Oscar the dog talking about weather and the seasons, then make a movie that depicts today's weather. Students can then either color a picture of their favorite season or, if they're slightly more advanced, color a picture and write three sentences about their favorite season on the provided worksheet.



Lesson plans coming in March

- Movie Math Madness
- Ecosystems and Habitats (just in time for Earth Day!)

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Tips and Tricks

Need prizes? Presents? Make personalized stuff!

You can make t-shirts, mugs and greeting cards using your Kerpoof artwork. We've partnered with Zazzle.com to provide this opportunity. Greeting cards start at just \$3.50 and personalized t-shirts are only \$18.85. You could even use a t-shirt as the prize for a student story or movie contest.

Student choice in Buddy Draw

Maybe you have your students sign on to your classroom group so that they can chat and work together. But there might be someone who is working on a masterpiece and they don't want someone else to contribute. How do they tell someone that they don't want to Buddy Draw?

It's simple. They should see a lock tool in their left-hand toolbar. Clicking that locks your scene so other members of your group cannot come in and draw with you. Students should remember that the lock is scene based so if they enter another scene and still don't want to Buddy Draw they need to lock that scene as well.



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Idea Center

Explore Irish folktales and legends for St. Patrick's Day

Use Kerpoof's Irish fantasy land scene to talk about leprechauns, pots of gold and other Irish legends and folktales. You can also talk about fairies, rainbows and more. Here's a question for your students: If you have 9 four-leafed clovers, how many leaves do you have? And more questions: How many pots of gold are there in the picture? If they each have 50 pieces of gold, how many pieces of gold would you have? What would you do with the gold? There is also new St. Patrick's Day card in the Make a Card feature.



Authentic assessment tasks for history/social studies

We've had several classes use Kerpoof as an authentic assessment task for history/social studies. They use our scenes to create pictures that explain things like the causes of the Revolutionary War. Characters talk about everything from "no taxation without representation" to the reasons why the Pilgrims came to America. Remember, authentic assessment tasks can help you judge not only whether students have learned the facts, but whether they understand what the facts mean in a bigger picture. What can your students show you that they've learned using Kerpoof?

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