PowerPoint Project Ideas

When using starter projects in the classroom, it's a good idea to create three versions: (1) empty version that can be modified for use with different content, (2) a version with content ready for students to use, (3) an exemplary, completed project that can serve as a sample. You may also wish to create a tutorial version that contains ideas, explanations, definitions, and elaboration. In other words, create a tutorial that introduces or reviews the key concepts within the context of an example.

Speakernotes Uses
Copy and paste quotes from websites or other sources. Be sure to cite the source. Then, use this information in a "bubble project" in the body of the slide. For example, "I am the wildflower of Virginia. I was selected because… "

Bubbles
Use the cross section books for ideas. Use the digital camera to photograph individual pages.

Manipulating Objects
Many activities involve students moving objects (wordart, pictures, sounds) on the PowerPoint slide.

Choosing Objects. Provide students with lots of objects to select or delete for their projects. Consider all kinds of visuals such as clip art, photographs, line drawings, charts, graphics, etc. To delete objects, simply select the object and press the delete or backspace key.

Organizing Objects. Provide students with objects and ask them to categorize such as beginning sounds, types of rocks, types of transportation, etc.

Matching Objects. Provide students with lots of words and visuals. Then, ask them to organize and match the items. They can delete any items that don't apply.

Sequencing Objects. Students can sequence pictures and Wordart. For example, students might place items in order from first to last or oldest to newest. Consider building a timeline and asking students to place objects in the correct location. You can also use their approach for cycles.

Powerful Literacies and Learning Spaces

Let's put it all together. Designing effective, efficient and appealing PowerPoint Learning Spaces involves more than just building a PowerPoint Sidekick. The most effective learning spaces combines authentic assignments and hands-on learning with technology tools to create synergy in the classroom. Consider activities that involve students in asking questions, solving problems, and conducting inquiries.

As students are learning about the inquiry process and specific information skills, it's helpful to provide Inquiry Guides that help students through a specific task.

Inquiry Guide: Fossils

After reading the story about Uncle Joe's fossil, your job is to do a web search to help you identify the rock.

Before you begin, write down clues from the story that will help in your search. As you explore, be sure to investigate words you don't know and use Google images to locate photos of unknown fossils.
Then, go to the next page to share your findings.

On the right you'll find the two photos we took of the fossil. You can resize these pictures. Then add your own visuals.

Finally write a letter to Uncle Joe about what you found. Use the space below to take notes that will help you include facts in your letter.