

## Tools and Resources for Continuing Collaboration Between International Classrooms



- **Web Tools to Facilitate International Communication**
- **Initiatives and Organizations that Support Collaboration between Global Classrooms**
- **Lesson Plans and Student Resources with an International Focus**
- **Other Opportunities for Educators**



*Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)*  
*International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP)*



## Web Tools to Facilitate International Communication:

- **Groupsite:** A web portal for TEA and ILEP programs that was recently unveiled by IREX. Provides a platform to upload and share lesson plans, photos, and resources. Hosts web discussions between TEA and ILEP alumni teachers. Content is secure and only available to TEA and ILEP alumni. You will receive an email invitation to join.
- **Social Networking:**
  - You are welcome to join the IREX groups on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Many of our international teachers are members and check these social media sites regularly.
- **Photo Sharing Sites:**
  - Upload photos so that they may be viewed over the internet
  - [Picasa Web Albums](#) (Google), [Flickr](#), [Snapfish](#), [Facebook](#), [Zoomr](#), [Photobucket](#), [Photoshop](#)
- **Video Sharing Sites:**
  - Upload videos so that they may be viewed over the internet
  - [YouTube](#), [SchoolTube](#), [Google Video](#), [Vimeo](#), [BrightCove](#), [PhotoBucket](#)
- **Video Chat:**
  - Free video and computer-to-computer conferencing; some sites offer computer to phone calling anywhere in the world for a very low rate per minute
  - [Skype](#), [G-Chat](#) (sponsored by Google), [iChat](#) (Mac only), [TokBox](#), [Vsee](#) (Windows only)
  - View this list of 50 creative ways to use Skype in the classroom  
<http://www.teachingdegree.org/2009/06/30/50-awesome-ways-to-use-skype-in-the-classroom/>
- **Document and Template Sharing Sites:**
  - Allow interactive same-time editing of documents and presentations; in most cases, also allow you to track changes by editor. Offer templates of documents, certificates, etc. to download
  - [GoogleDocs](#), [Scribd](#), [DocStoc](#), [Microsoft Office Online](#), [Gazhoo](#)
- **Blogs**
  - allow for short informal comments or longer posting; can upload pictures, text, sound bytes and video clips
  - [EduBlogs](#), [Wordpress](#), [Blogspot](#), [Blogger](#), [LiveJournal](#)
- **Podcasts**
  - develop audio content that you can upload and listen to over the internet
  - [GarageBand](#) (Mac), [Adobe Soundbooth](#), [SnapKast](#)



## Initiatives and Organizations that Support Collaboration between Global Classrooms:

Below are well-established organizations and initiatives that aim to connect U.S. and international educators in a variety of ways, ranging from coordinating thematic photo sharing projects between schools, or facilitating old-fashioned letter writing exchanges.

- **iEARN (International Education and Resource Network)** is the world's largest non-profit global network that enables teachers and youth to use the Internet and other technologies to collaborate on projects that enhance learning and make a difference in the world. (<http://iearn.org/>)
  - Students create a joint mural with a school in another country
  - Students curate "A Day in a Life" photo exhibits
  - Students interview family members about how events from world history
- **WorldWise Schools** is a Peace Corps program for schools, offering speakers on global topics, correspondence with a current Peace Corps volunteer, lesson plans, teacher guides, videos and global education links. (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/>)
  - Peace Corps volunteers are matched with U.S. teachers to exchange ideas, stories, pictures, and artifacts from their experiences
  - Returned Peace Corps volunteers visit classrooms to speak about their experiences
- **The Global SchoolNet** aims to improve academic performance through content driven collaboration. Links teachers and K-12 students in meaningful project learning exchanges worldwide to develop science, math, literacy and communication skills. (<http://www.globalschoolnet.org/>)
  - The U. S. Department of State sponsors the "Doors to Diplomacy" educational challenge to encourage middle school and high school students to produce web projects
  - Other projects include an International CyberFair and student-produced newspapers that reach a global audience
- **People to People International's School and Classroom Program** connects teachers and their students with similar-age classrooms in other countries to facilitate pen pal exchanges. (<http://www.ptpi.org/programs/SchoolClass.aspx>)
- **International Studies for Indiana Schools (ISIS)** is an innovative distance-learning program using interactive video (IAV) technology to connect international students, scholars, and specialists with elementary, middle, and high schools. (<http://crlt.indiana.edu/isis>)
  - Available free-of-charge to K-12 teachers, in Indiana or any state, whose school has access to IAV technology.
  - All programs are "tailored," originating with teachers who contact the Program Coordinator to request the development of IAV programs focusing on particular topics.
- **Omprakash Foundation** facilitates communication, collaboration, and mutual learning within a diverse international network of social actors. (<http://www.omprakash.org/classroomportal>)
  - Sponsors a database of global Partners (organizations, individuals) who can help teachers enrich their school's academic curriculum and service-learning programs.
  - Offer grants to help qualified applicants build lasting relationships with international Partners



## **Lesson Plans and Student Resources with an International Focus**

The following websites contain lesson plans or educational materials designed for teaching students about global issues and weaving international themes into subject-specific curriculum.

- **[The United Nations' CyberSchoolBus](http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/)**: a collection of U.N. Global Teaching & Learning Project resources including lesson & project plans on many global issues; an Information Database; Global Issues briefing papers for students; Peace Education units; Poverty Curriculum and more. (<http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/>)
- **[TeachUNICEF](http://youth.unicefusa.org/teachunicef/)** is a portfolio of UNICEF-focused resources designed and collected by UNICEF's Education Department for educators, afterschool instructors, and parents. TeachUNICEF resources cover grades PK-12, are interdisciplinary, and align with national standards. The units, lesson plans, stories, and multimedia cover topics ranging from the Millennium Development Goals to water and sanitation. All TeachUNICEF resources can be downloaded for free. (<http://youth.unicefusa.org/teachunicef/>)
- **[WorldView Magazine Lesson Plans](http://peacecorpsconnect.org/discussion-guides-worldview-magazine)**, which is a source of news and information relating to the developing world. The materials are suitable for high school level and higher and were written by Dr. Angene Wilson and her graduate students at the University of Kentucky. (<http://peacecorpsconnect.org/discussion-guides-worldview-magazine>)
- **[The Center for Teaching International Relations](http://www.du.edu/ctir/)** is the outreach arm of the University of Denver and the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. CTIR has a 40 year history of helping K-12 educators teach about global affairs. (<http://www.du.edu/ctir/>)
- **[National Geographic Society](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/)** offers online activities, maps, lesson plans, educator network, TV programs, and a searchable database (<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/>)
- **[Outreach World](http://www.outreachworld.org/)**: Interdisciplinary, cross-regional and standard-specific units, lessons and instructional aids designed by teachers and scholars (<http://www.outreachworld.org/>)
- **[Asia for Educators](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/)**: Classroom materials and teaching guides on Asia for use by faculty and students in world history, culture, geography, art, and literature at the undergraduate and pre-college levels. Search for content by subject area, document type, or time period. Features several multimedia units on Asia-related topics, as well as maps, timelines, and primary source readings. (<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>)
- **[UN Works](http://www.un.org/works/)**: This website puts a human face on serious issues (Business, Children, Development, Education, Emergencies, Environment, Health, HIV/AIDS, Human Rights, Labour, Peace and Women) by telling stories about real people. Filled with resource links for teachers and students who want to learn more about the issues and get involved. (<http://www.un.org/works/>)
- **[African Studies Center of Boston University](http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/index.html)**: Resource Library for educators wishing to improve their teaching about Africa: curricula, lesson plans, videos, slides, children's books, handouts, maps, posters. (<http://www.bu.edu/africa/outreach/index.html>)

### Other Opportunities for Educators Interested in Internationalizing their Classrooms:

- **[Global Exploration for Educators Organization](http://www.geeo.org/pages/show/25)**: Founded in 2007, GEEO is a 501c3 non-profit organization that helps and encourages educators to travel abroad. (<http://www.geeo.org/pages/show/25>)
- **[Fund for Teachers](http://www.fundforteachers.org)** is a non-profit organization that has sent over 2500 teachers from 47 states to study and travel throughout the United States and 91 other countries on seven continents since 2001. They offer a hundreds of grants each year for fully paid fellowships. ([www.fundforteachers.org](http://www.fundforteachers.org))
- **[Earthwatch Educator Fellowship](http://www.earthwatch.org)** allows teachers to head into the field to learn about cutting edge research and conservation efforts, develop professional skills, and make a difference. Earthwatch Educator Fellows receive funding to join one of their Earthwatch expeditions worldwide. They join a team of other Educator Fellows and/or volunteers and work alongside leading environmental scientists, actively supporting their work, learning field research methods, and helping conserve threatened natural and cultural resources. ([www.earthwatch.org](http://www.earthwatch.org))
- **[Keizai Koho Fellowship](http://www.us-japan.org/)**: Since 1980, the Keizai Koho Center (Japan Institute for Social and Economic Affairs) in cooperation with the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) has sponsored a Fellowship tour to Japan for educators in the U.S. and Canada. The Fellowship allows teachers to learn firsthand about contemporary Japanese society and enhance their classroom teaching of global perspectives. Highlights of the fellowship include visits to Japanese schools, major companies, and industrial facilities. In addition, sightseeing excursions are planned to allow the fellows to learn about Japanese culture and society. (<http://www.us-japan.org/>)



*Please note that IREX provides this list of websites, tools, and opportunities listed above as a resource, but does not take responsibility for the content or accuracy of the information found on these online tools and sites.*