



# Picasa *in the Classroom*

Created by CUE and WestEd for Google



Get the tool: <http://picasa.google.com>



## What is it?

Picasa is a free application that helps you instantly organize, edit, and share all the pictures on your PC. It automatically locates all your pictures and sorts them into visual albums. Picasa also makes advanced photo editing simple. Picasa Web Albums allow photos from Picasa (or iPhoto on a Mac) to be uploaded to the web quickly and easily. Students and parents can then access an online slideshow (complete with captions) and download the pictures they like.

## Why use it?

Students can use Picasa to:

- Organize and manage photos for projects and reports.
- Quickly edit photos and other images.
- Share photos of school events with friends and family.

Teachers can use Picasa to:

- Create an album for each student.
- Quickly create a slideshow for open house.
- Share field trip photos online for parents.

## Instructional Ideas

**Elementary.** Take pictures of student work, presentations, or field trips throughout the year and quickly turn them into a slideshow that you can play at open house or during parent conferences.

**Middle School.** Students can create a historical photo album by taking pictures of themselves in historical costumes and settings. Then apply sepia tones or black & white effects to make them look like old photos and print them out - or share them as a web album.

**High School.** Journalism students can keep all photos for each edition of their newspaper or magazine in one location on their classroom PC, adding descriptions and captions that make them easy to find, re-use, and share.



## Expert Tip

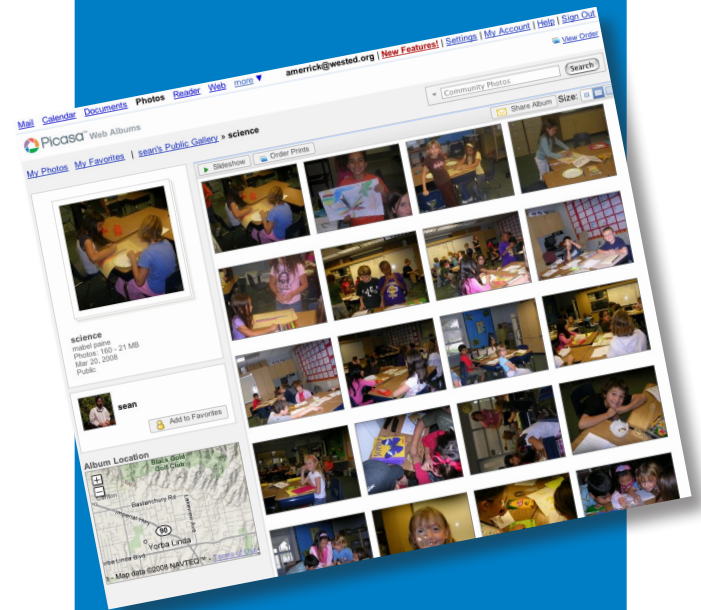
You can send your pictures to a local drugstore and have professional quality prints within hours. Just click "Order Prints," select a store near you, and Picasa will upload your photos directly to the store.

# Picasa in Action

**Project:** Taxonomy Skills

**Grade/Subject:** 7th grade Life Science

In *Classroom Instruction That Works*, Marzano, Pickering, and Pollock suggest that “representing similarities and differences in graphic or symbolic form enhances students’ understanding of and ability to use knowledge.” Science students can compare and contrast images of various animals and plants in Picasa by adding captions. Then they can organize the images into albums that represent either existing taxonomies - or classifications that students create themselves. In this way, students exercise their powers of observation and learn science by doing what scientists do. In addition, the visual medium is a vocabulary development aid for many students, especially English learners. Extend the assignment by sharing students’ albums via Picasa Web and asking students to evaluate each other’s work.



## Additional Resources

### More about Picasa

- Picasa in Education  
<http://picasained.wikispaces.com>
- Adobe Digital Kids Club  
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/lessons/index.html>
- 10 Tips for Capturing Great Photos  
[http://education.apple.com/education/ilife/howto/digitalphoto\\_tips/](http://education.apple.com/education/ilife/howto/digitalphoto_tips/)
- Example Web Album: Googlers visit the school of GCT Cheryl Davis.... during a file drill.  
<http://tinyurl.com/5sy98h>
- Example Web Album: These 3rd Graders documented a “day in the life” in their classroom and shared it online.  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/seanwilliams10/Science>

### Complementary Tools

- Picasa Web Albums Uploader (for iPhoto)  
[http://picasa.google.com/web/mac\\_tools.html](http://picasa.google.com/web/mac_tools.html)
- Blogger
- Google Earth
- Google Maps
- Google Sites
- iGoogle

*In order to comply with federal law and the Google Terms of Service, students need to be over 13 years of age to use any product which requires a Google Account. Students may participate in product use if the account is owned by a parent or teacher and that parent or teacher is present when the product is being used.*

<http://www.google.com/educators>