

TRC News

SPRING
2015

Build a better lesson: be a better teacher.

The Teacher Resource Center (TRC) is a heavily-used collection of teaching materials for pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 classrooms. Fresno State teachers in training use the materials to create lessons/units for teacher education coursework and field experiences. Every teacher is a better teacher when s/he draws from the full spectrum of curriculum materials. Teachers in training who go beyond the textbook are more likely to do so when they become professional educators and are also more likely to create lessons that are standards-based, effective, engaging, and fun. Local schoolteachers and residents also may use the collection. Visit the TRC's website at www.fresnostate.edu/library/TeacherResourceCenter.

Hands-on Teaching Materials Classification

A classroom teacher needs to engage students for eight hours each day and 180 (or more) days each year. Not an easy task. A recent study asked teachers what kinds of education experiences they remembered:



Specimen (a part or sample which is typical of a group of objects): rabbit skeleton, fossils, meteorite, walking stick, ostrich egg.

hands-on activities topped the list. Educational achievement is increased — and students' attitudes toward subject matter is improved — when instruction with concrete materials is provided by teachers knowledgeable about their use. The best teachers make hands-on activities a regular and integral part of their teaching. Incorporating a functional robotic arm or a Mayan culture kit leads to instant engagement.

There are many different types of hands-on teaching materials: specimens, artifacts, models, realia, exact models, build-up models,

working models, scale models, cutaway models, transparent models, instructional kits, etc. This newsletter highlights types of hands-on teaching materials most commonly used in pre-K–12 classrooms. (J.S. Soulier is the originator of hands-on teaching materials classification. Reference his book, *Real objects and models*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Educational Technology Pubs.)



Artifact (a real object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest): foreign coins, Civil War stamps, World War II steel pennies.

Realia (common, ordinary items from real life): seashells and leaves.



Teacher Videos

Tell me how to teach and I will probably forget; show me how and I will probably remember. Reading about or listening to someone tell you how to teach subtraction will not be as effective as watching a real teacher teaching a real class. And as every teacher knows, there's a lot more to teaching than pedagogy. Disciplining, motivating, storytelling, reading aloud, conducting parent-

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Teacher Videos, *continued*

teacher conferences, and leading productive classroom discussions are but a few of the essential tasks a teacher must master. These skills will be acquired more efficiently if one reads, listens, and observes. There are many teaching videos available online. The vast majority of these are unscreened and unorganized, but an ever-increasing number of websites, like *www.teachingchannel.org*, offer screened and organized videos.

Although most of the videos we own contain content aimed at preK-12 students, the TRC also has a lot of teacher videos and professional development videos aimed at teachers: sample titles are listed below.

General Teaching Related Skills

- *Best Practice Video Companion: Watching the Seven Structures That Create Exemplary Classrooms*
- *Classroom Moments: Video Clips*
- *Teach Like a Champion: 49 Techniques that Put Students on the Path to College (K-12)*

Discipline

- *35 Classroom Management Strategies: Promoting Learning and Building Community*
- *Fred Jones Tools for Teaching: Discipline, Instruction, Motivation*
- *Teaching: Keeping Control of the Class*
- *Teaching: Managing Student Conflict*

Special Needs

- *Common Psychological Disorders of Adolescence*
- *Students and Self-destructive Behavior*
- *"You're Going to Love This Kid!": A Professional Development Package for Teaching Students with Autism in the Inclusive Classroom*

Bullying

- *Bully R rating*
- *Bully PG-13 rating*
- *Bullying. Gaining Insight*

Specific Teaching Related Skills

- *Children Tell Stories: Teaching and Using Storytelling in the Classroom*
- *Observation: The Key to Responsive Teaching*
- *Teaching: Constructive Effective Questions*
- *Unwrapping the Read Aloud: Making Every Read Aloud Intentional and Instructional*

Subject Specific Skills

- *2nd Grade Writer's Workshop*
- *Deepening Comprehension with Action Strategies: Role Plays, Text-Structure Tableaux*
- *Improving Comprehension with Think-Aloud Strategies*
- *Inside the Writing Traits Classroom: K-2 Lessons on DVD*
- *Mathematics with Manipulatives*
- *Next Step Guided Reading in Action: Grades K-2: Model Lessons (featuring Jan Richardson)*
- *Nicole Chase: 3rd Grade Science*
- *Primary Math: Measuring Area*
- *Signing Time Classroom Edition*



Exact model (size, shape, weight, color, and texture are the same as the object being modeled): Tyrannosaurus Rex tooth and claw.



Model (a three-dimensional representation of a real thing or a concept, typically on a smaller scale than the original): consequences of methamphetamine use, addition.



Mike Tillman, Head of TRC, welcomes your suggestions: call 559.278.5788, email miket@csufresno.edu, or stop by his office in the TRC (east side of 3, north).

TRC Collections By the Numbers

Total items: 47,026

Nonfiction Life Cycle Books: 103

Harry Potter (Unabridged) Audio CDs: 99

Common Core Activity Books: 98

School Discipline items: 86

Collections of Geometry Models: 13

Types of Globes: 8

Tagua Nuts: 5

Bats: 2

1
2
3



Build-up model (parts are put together systematically; promotes active learning): robotic arm, molecules



Working model (one that shows how things function): fulcrum, planetarium.



Scale model (a physical representation of an object that is mathematically proportion to the original): Triceratops skull, sweet cherry blossom, Rodin's "The Thinker."



Did you know?

Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) reviewed 1,082 young adult books in 2014. Thirty-eight titles (3.5%) were awarded Perfect Tens: a 5 for quality (hard to imagine it better written) and a 5 for popularity (every young adult who reads was dying to read it yesterday). The TRC acquires all VOYA Perfect Tens.

The Madden Library's new book display (1st floor, north) now includes TRC books.

Best Websites for Teaching & Learning at www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/best-websites is compiled by the American Association of School Librarians and includes tools and resources in categories of media sharing, digital storytelling, social networking and communications, curriculum collaboration and content resources.

California Young Reader Medal Awards are given for four age groups. Every year school children across California read each of the nominees

for their particular age group and vote for the book they like best. The books are especially appropriate for reluctant readers. The TRC acquires all California Young Reader Medal nominees.

Free Borrowers Cards

Full-time, certified public school classroom teachers (pre K-12) are eligible for a free Madden Library borrower's card. Cardholders may borrow items from all of the Library's collections, including the Teacher Resource Center. Up to 30 items may be borrowed at one time.

Audio Books

Audio books benefit audio learners. They improve listening skills. When combined with a print version of a book, they facilitate multisensory learning and model fluent reading. They may even include related sound effects or music.

The TRC acquires unabridged (word for word) audio books. Each has an accompanying print edition so students can listen to the audio version and read the print version simultaneously. The audio version of a book is filed next to the print version in our open stacks. Titles include *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*, *Maniac Magee*, and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.



Instructional Kit (a collection of grade level and subject specific educational resources): trees, Maya of Guatemala.

Educational Kits

Educational kits such as our Classroom Video Kit (at right) provide teachers with enough equipment and ideas to engage an entire class. Everything a teacher needs, except imagination, is included. Our Listening Center Kit includes all the equipment a teacher needs to produce and integrate high quality, digital audio: multimedia player/recorder with remote control, head-phone splitter for use by up to 10 students at a time, six sets of headphones, 6" inch pop filter, condenser microphone, microphone shock mount, USB flash drive, and activity books.

Future educational kits will incorporate a high speed scanner, Classroom Jeopardy, a document camera, laptop accessories, etc.

Where & When

The TRC is on the east end of the 3rd floor in the Library's North Wing, directly above Starbucks. More than 90% of our collection, including textbooks, activity books, children's literature, and all types of media, are located in our open shelving area and are available all hours the Library is open. Hands-on teaching materials and teacher tools are located in the TRC Heiskell Reading Room (hours at right).

Cutaway model (the outer section of the model can be removed to display the interior structure): brain, teeth.



Transparent model (a viewer is able to see the inside and outside of a model simultaneously): heart, sinuses.



Many thanks to Lisa Black for the photos in this issue.



Classroom Video Kit: Five video cameras, lenses, microphones, tripods, rechargeable batteries, SD memory cards, activity books, etc.

During fall and spring semesters, the Heiskell Reading Room is open the following hours:

Mon. – Thurs. 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat. 1 – 5 p.m.; and Sun. 2 – 6 p.m.

When the Reading Room is closed, but the rest of the Library is open, go to or call the Circulation Desk (278.2551), 1st floor lobby. Let them know you want to check out Reading Room items.