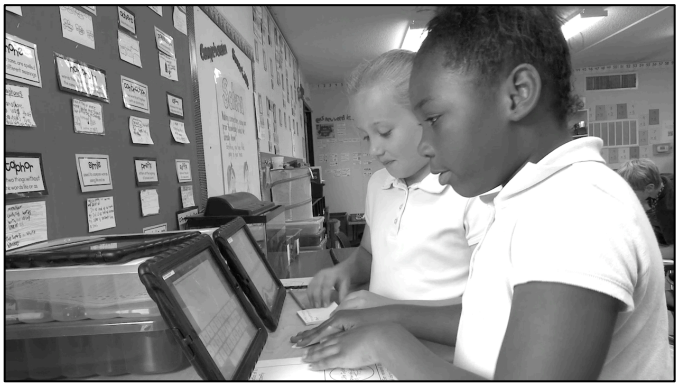
# Using Technology to Research and Write About Butterflies

*Technology in the Classroom*

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT NETWORK



**Technology in the Classroom Series**

In these videos, teachers use technology to create personalized, real-world learning experiences for their students.

**Pre-Viewing Discussion Prompt**

How do students benefit by creating their own books using the information they gather from their research?

**About this Segment**

Students in Ms. Sherry Musci's 2nd grade class at St. Andrew's School of Math and Science use iPads to research the life cycles of caterpillars and butterflies and create their own online book using the app Book Creator.

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**Identifying Effective Tech Implementation**

Below are three approaches for using technology in classrooms. Read through them before viewing this segment.

As you watch this segment, check each indicator that you observe. Characteristics from more than one of these approaches may appear in the same lesson.

**Ineffective**

- ☐ A focus on tech more than content – "edutainment"
- ☐ A focus on student engagement more than improved learning

**Emerging**

*Apps and devices replace traditional paper-based activities—a necessary but not final step in tech integration.*

- ☐ Creating, editing, and presenting work digitally instead of on paper/posters
- ☐ Online drill games and flashcard apps rather than paper worksheets and flashcards
- ☐ Class discussions through forum threads and chats as well as in whole-class conversations

**Effective**

*Technology serves the lesson content, personalizing and enriching student learning in previously impossible ways.*

- ☐ Apps that allow each student to self-guide and self-pace through a unit
- ☐ Collaboration with other schools and with government/business entities
- ☐ Activities and projects that serve a purpose beyond the grade (e.g., secondary students create digital learning materials for use in tutoring younger students; first graders film their persuasive presentations and send them to the manager of Petco to convince him to donate a pet for their class)
- ☐ Applications that demonstrably improve achievement, especially that of low-SES students and students of color

| **Identifying and Applying Good Tech Practice in This Video** | |
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| *What are 2-3 effective principles/strategies for implementing technology that you observed in this video?* | *How will you apply them in your teaching?* |
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**Resources**

4th grade: Drawing textual evidence to support analysis. Edivate. https://www.pd360.com/ - resources/videos/7187

November, A. (n.d.). Clearing the confusion between technology rich and innovate poor: Six Questions. Retrieved October 8, 2015, from http://transformlearning.avila.edu/ctl/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2015/09/ClearingtheConfusionbetweenTechnologyRichandInnovativePoorSixQuestions.pdf

Teachthought. (2015). 7 characteristics of teachers who use technology effectively. Retrieved October 5, 2015, from http://www.teachthought.com/technology/7-habits-of-highly-effective-teachers-who-effectively-use-technology/

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