



# Google Wave *in the Classroom*

Created by CUE and WestEd for Google



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

## Google wave

### What is it?

Google Wave is an online tool for real-time communication and collaboration. A wave can be both a conversation and a document where students and teachers can discuss and work together using richly formatted text, photos, videos, maps, and more.

### Why use it?

Students can use Google Wave to:

- Collaboratively author and edit group projects with other students.
- Share documents, videos, maps, and more with fellow students - and with their teachers.
- Receive immediate feedback on their work in real-time.
- Extend student learning beyond the “Bell to Bell” School Day.

Teachers can use Google Wave to:

- Collaborate with colleagues on shared materials, lesson plans, and assessment data.
- Engage in real-time ongoing communication around school projects and events.
- Communicate with parents and share documents and files related to classroom assignments.

### Instructional Ideas

**Elementary.** Teachers can use Google Wave to discuss grade-level appropriate resources to share with students. For example, real world problems (and solutions) can be collected to share with students during a “Number Talk” lesson, in which students explain their own thinking about how to solve a math problem.

**Middle School.** Social Studies students can use a Google Wave to research a specific time period or series of historic events, including timelines, information on historical figures, and discussions of cause and effect. Teachers can publish finished student Waves on the web by embedding the Waves into a classroom Blog or Wiki.



### Expert Tip



Use the “Add Gadget By URL” icon (a green puzzle piece) to add an external gadget. Simply perform a Google search for “Google Wave Gadgets” to discover a variety of innovative Gadgets that will add functionality to a wave - such as an interactive white board!

**High School.** Student study groups can use Google Wave to extend their discussions of a particular work of Literature. A map inspired by Google Lit Trips ([www.googlelittrips.com](http://www.googlelittrips.com)) can be embedded to further enhance their understanding. Teachers can also provide thought provoking questions and feedback to help guide students.

## Google Wave in Action

**Project:** Student Literature Circles  
**Grade/Subject:** Middle School Language Arts  
**School:** Santa Clara Unified School District

Google Wave is currently being used as a collaborative tool to extend the student directed conversations taking place in their classroom Literature Circles. Through the use of Google Wave, small collaborative student literature circles can continue their discussions beyond the classroom. Students are using Google Wave as a Chat Room style discussion board to reflect and construct meaning around a specific piece of Literature.



**Project:** Frustration with Fractions  
**Grade/Subject:** Seventh Grade Pre-Algebra  
**School:** Santa Clara Unified School District

Pre-Algebra students are using Google Wave to discuss, plan, and develop their small collaborative group projects centered on the real world application of fractions. Students are able to share documents and resources directly in Google Wave. Students can discuss, analyze, and evaluate the work of their team members throughout every stage of their project development. Google Wave keeps an archive of every addition and change to their project. Students like having the ability to see how their work evolved over the course of the project. "It's pretty cool to see how we learned and changed things as we got better at working with fractions."

## Additional Resources

### More Examples

Google Wave "GCTs - How will you teach Wave in the Classroom"

<http://tinyurl.com/howwillyouteachwave>

About Google Wave - "The Long Video" and other tutorial resources

<http://wave.google.com/help/wave/about.html>

Dr. Wave - Introduction video

<http://wave.google.com/help/wave/drwave.html>

Official Google Blog - "Went Walkabout"

<http://tinyurl.com/wentwalkabout>

### Complementary Tools

- Google Lit Trips
- Google Maps
- Google Earth
- iGoogle
- Google Sites
- Google Docs
- You Tube
- Google Video
- Google Images
- Blogspot

*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>