

Virtual Reality

What's the Gist?

Using mobile devices and a companion VR headset (such as Google Cardboard), provide students with a frame of reference for the lesson or spur that creative “spark” for an assignment.

For many lessons, simply having students stroll through the ground view of a location on Google Maps can provide engaging supplementary content for history or social studies lessons. It can also be used to provide inspiration for students who are trying to improve their descriptive writing, such as coming up with ideas for a setting.

What will I need?

- iOS or Android Mobile device: iPod Touches, iPhones, and Android phones
- Virtual Reality Headset. We like Google Cardboard (\$15)
- One of the many VR Apps available on iTunes or Google Play.

How Do I Dress this Assignment Up?

- Vacation or Guided Your – Have students explore an environment for a “vacation” or task them with giving a tour to fellow students through a city, town, or other route. Providing students the freedom to choose their own location may spur the interest for thorough and enlightening research on buildings, landmarks, and culture of the location. ([WG 1.2 & 1.3](#))
- Online Scavenger Hunt – With the aid of Google Maps, students can be tasked with answering questions with coordinates of relevant or related locales. The less information provided as a hint, the more research will be required for them to determine the location. ([WG 5.4, 6.2](#))
- Using various exploration apps designed for VR headsets for reference, have students work on their descriptive writing skills or write a story based on a single or various locations. ([Writing 3.1](#))
- Explore Cells – Having students visually explore a three dimensional model of a cell (or many other microscopic objects) can reinforce concepts and improve retention ([H.B.2](#))
- Body Systems – With other VR apps, students have the ability to explore the cardiovascular system, the central nervous system, the digestive system, etc.