



HYPERSTUDIO[®] IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

What is HyperStudio?

HyperStudio is a multimedia authoring program students can use to combine text, graphics, sound, animations, movies, and more into meaningful projects. The program can be used across all curricular areas but offers special advantages for foreign language classrooms, where teachers are confronted with the challenge of teaching four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Student-created HyperStudio presentations can be effectively used to demonstrate and reinforce their knowledge of the target language and culture using a variety of skills and resources.



Why Use HyperStudio?

HyperStudio is a fun and rewarding way to get students to practice their language skills. Designing and orchestrating a multimedia project requires them to use higher level thinking skills and teaches skills needed in today's workplace. HyperStudio is also an excellent vehicle for creating electronic portfolios that demonstrate a student's progress in the target language at various levels.



How Can HyperStudio be Integrated into the Curriculum?

Assigning students to create a multimedia project requires the same research and writing tasks, but more creativity and complex planning, than a paper-based report, and will result in a more interactive and engaging product. Oral presentations (spoken in the target language) of HyperStudio projects shown on an overhead projector are also effective teaching tools as they help focus the attention of the audience and can be a confidence-booster for students unaccustomed to speaking to large groups.

Teacher-created presentations can be used to present new material, review old material, or create make-up work for absentees or students in need of remediation. The advantage is that students can get the extra practice they need by taking the disk home or to the library, without requiring the presence of the teacher.

HyperStudio and Cooperative Learning

If you are working with a limited number of computers, you may want to combine HyperStudio with cooperative learning. Divide the class into several groups, each with a topic to cover, and let them take turns using the computer while the other groups are completing their research and planning. Advance planning on the part of both students and the teacher is the key. Make sure each student has a responsibility. Although every group member works on every stage of the project, it is important for each individual to be charged with a specific task. For example, you might have leader, one or more proofreaders, a technician, one or more artists, a monitor (to make sure materials get put away and stacks backed up by the end of the period), and a gatekeeper (to make sure everyone is doing his/her share of the work).

Always have plenty of research/planning activities for students to do when the computer is not available. The last thing you want on your hands is a group of idle students looking for entertainment! Student project files can be saved to floppy disk, zip cartridge or network fileserver.

Sharing Student Projects

Demonstrating student projects at open house or parent-teacher conferences is an excellent way to share what you are doing in your classes and to gain public support for activities and programs in your school district. HyperStudio also offers a "player" version that can be used to show the student's work to parents at home. Projects can also be transferred to videotape. The best student projects can be published on your school's website for viewing by students and teachers the world over.

Sample Lesson Plan: La Familia

First-year Spanish students will use vocabulary learned in class thus far to create a HyperStudio stack portraying their family. Students will pair up with other students to review their stacks and answer written or oral questions on what they've learned.

Required vocabulary: padres (padre y madre), hermanos (hermano y hermana), perro/gato, abuelos (abuelo y abuela), tíos (tío y tía), primos (primo y prima). Step-family members may be included.

Required elements:

- A paragraph of 3-4 sentences in Spanish about each member of the immediate family
- One-sentence recorded introductions in Spanish of each member of the immediate family
- Photos, clip art, and/or scanned artwork representing family members
- A final card consisting of a brief quiz/questionnaire (recorded or written) about the information presented in the preceding cards

Teacher evaluation:

- content (required elements)
- accuracy (written and spoken Spanish)
- overall look and design



More Project Ideas (in the target language):

- the student's autobiography
- research projects on assigned cultural topics (advanced students)
- "All About Me," a portfolio where students add a card to the stack for each unit of study: family, likes/dislikes, house, school, friends, etc.
- vocabulary flashcards with testing functions
- an ABC stack with 6 or 8 letters, each letter with 2-3 paragraphs of information, graphics, sounds, music, etc.
- a final composition project, to be eventually published online, with illustrations and sounds
- a 6-card stack summarizing what students have learned from their keypals, incorporating 4-5 grammatical points studied in recent chapters
- a "living" book where students write a short children's story or a poem and illustrate it
- a promotional presentation on the advantages of studying a particular language
- a presentation to illustrate a five-minute oral report (advanced students)
- a multimedia trip to the target country, including art, photos, text, music, sound, and video
- teacher-created stacks to help students review vocabulary and grammar before a test

Internet Resources

Web sites that have useful information and resources for multimedia projects:

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| http://www.hyperstudio.com | Roger Wagner Publishing's site for HyperStudio |
| http://fllc.smu.edu/Staffpages/caroline/Media.html | Directory French radio & television stations |
| http://www3.mistral.co.uk/latrobe/spain.htm | Directory of sites for Spanish tourism & culture |
| http://ml.hss.cmu.edu/lirc/OLA.htm | Audio archives in various languages, Carnegie Mellon |
| http://www.gen.com/gamp/news/live.htm | German American Meeting Point - radio, TV, culture |
| http://www.webcom.com/~nltnet/yellowp.html | Media Online Yellow Pages - resources for Europe (Asia) |
| http://www.accessasia.com/xroad/xrjptr.html | Culture & tourism for Japan |
| http://chinatourpage.com/index1.html | Chinese tourism & cultural information |
| http://www.liii.com/~hajeri/newsstand/arab-news.html | newspapers, television and radio from arab nations |

•A special thanks to Barbara S. Andrews, Maumee City Schools, OH, for the content, project ideas, and lesson plan included above•