Effective Usage of iPads for Teaching of Elementary Mathematics

Sandra Alon

11/30/12

alons@wpunj.edu

## What are iPads?

- iPads are mobile learning devices.
- They are wireless computer tablets with touchscreen technology made by Apple©.
- They allow users to access:
  - > the internet
  - > email
  - digital books
  - Applications (AKA apps)



Image courtesy of Apple Inc.

iPhones and iPads equipped "apps" tend to keep children occupied.

The popularity of these devices continues to grow.

- More than 9.9 billion apps have been downloaded for free or sold via the iTunes store as of January 2011 (Apple, 2011).
- The development of apps for children has expanded dramatically during the past year.

<u>However</u>, there is not a great deal of research investigating the impact of these devices on children's learning.

YET These Handheld tablet computer designed, developed, and marketed by Apple, Inc are infiltrating the education system



• In recent years, various public schools have incorporated these devices into their curricula (e.g., at the Chicago Elementary Public Schools, students are now using iPads during daily classroom learning as well as for formative assessments, to improve student performance and engagement:

http://www.govtech.com/education/iPads-In-The-Classroom.html)

## **Applications**

- o Applications (apps) exist for all uses:
  - Subject-specific education
  - > Arithmetic
    - American States and Capitals
  - Skill-specific education
    - Word Wizard
  - Productivity
    - □ Pages
  - Reference
    - □ Encyclopedia Britannica
  - News
    - National Geographic Magazine
  - Arts/Entertainment
    - □ Comic Book!

Arithmetic Apps



## American States & Capitals

o Cost: \$0.99 (wryIP, LLC)



### **Word Wizard**

Cost: \$2.99 (L'Escapadou)









Cost: \$9.99 (Apple)



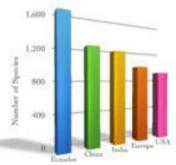


### Spectacular wildlife.

Our countal bird list includes the Gull-billed Tern, Snowy Plover, Esmeraldas Woodstar, Pacific Royal Flycatcher, Collared Antshrika, Gunyaquil Woodpecker, Plumbeous Kite, Laughing Falcon, and Chilean Flamingo.

About 1,000 kilometers off the mainland lie the Galapagos Islands, where you can take in many geographical points of interest, from beautiful beaches to ancient rock formations, active volcanoes, lava caves, and other lava flow formations. In terms of birdlife, you're likely to see Greater Flamingos, Great Frigure Birds, Red- and Blue-footed Boobies, Finches, Short-eared Owls, Storm-petrels, Flightless Cormorants, and Galapagos Pengsins.

With more bird species than many larger countries have, Ecuador is one of the top birding destinations in the world.





certainly not limited to birds. During your travels you may also spot butterflies, fox, pursa, jaguer, ocelots, monkeys sloths, antesters, spectacled bear, mountain tapirs. iguaras, grckos, tortoises, linards, and anaconda. And Ecuador has more frag and orchid species than any other place on earth.



## Encyclopedia Britannica

o Cost: FREE! (Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc.)



## National Geographic Magazine

Cost: FREE! (National Geographic Society)



SMART TRAVELER

### Museum Season Preview



LONDON The Gharies
Dickens Museum reopens
in time to fete his 200th
Christmas with a fresh
look, seasonal readings,
and mulled wine at the
Camden house where the
Victorian novelist (above)
wrote Oliver Tuist.



LONG ISLAND The Parrish Art Museum recates November 10 to a dramatic structure in I Hamptons' Water Mill Swiss architects Herzo; and de Meuron showin William Merritt Chase paintings (above).

BERLIN On December 6, 1912, a German archaeolog time—the Queen Nefertiti bust (left). The Neues Mu "In the Light of Amarna" (December 7 to April 13).



TAP ON STORY

La Bonne Vie in Paris

Finding Peace in South Africa

Spirited Away in Kyoto

My Grandfather in Tangier

Steppe by Steppe in Mongolia

Finding a Lost Soul in Mexico

Reborn in the Bay Area
syELLEN GILCHRIST

Letting Go in Uganda



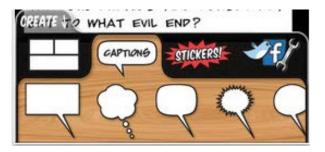




## Comic Book!

o Cost: \$1.99 (3DTOPO Inc.)









- TECHNOLOGY CAN BE A POWERFUL TOOL WITH INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL FOR ALTERING ESTABLISHED FORMS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING.
- The usage of iPads has spread rabidly with the hope of improving student performance and motivation as well as altering learning environment to be more engaging and interactive.
- In order to prevent these iPads to become a fad and sit in a closet or a table (similar to the computers) there need to be clear goals and plans regarding why iPads are needed and how they can be integrated effectively into school curriculum.
- Pensky (2001) refers to today's children as digital natives, a term for "native speakers of the digital language of computers, video games and the internet."
- Children born in the new millennium and growing up with these new digital technologies are likely to "think and process information fundamentally differently from their predecessors" (Pensky 2001a, Oblinger & Obloinger, 2005). Therefore, one good way to reach digital natives is through communication in their native language.

## Goals for using technology

- 1. Make schools more efficient and productive than they currently are
- 2. Transform teaching and learning into an engaging active process connected to real life
- 3. Prepare the current generation for young people for the future workplace.
- 4. Students must be given 21st century tools that simulate authentic work environments.
- Cuban (2001)

To facilitate technology integration into daily instruction to improve teaching and learning, the administrators must establish and maintain a learning community where all faculty members continue to develop professionally and in which technology becomes integrated as a means for teaching and leaning (carr,2011)

## ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS

• In order to better understand how to help teachers develop the capability to effectively incorporate iPads technologies into their student-centered instructional practices, it is critical to understand the students' and teachers' attitudes and beliefs toward technology integration.

## Suburban School

### I. Students' Beliefs and Attitudes toward iPads:

	Math, Language Arts, Reading, Social Studies	Math Only
Questions	Mean Score	Mean Score
I enjoy using the iPads	3.73	4.00
Use of iPads in schools will better prepare me for my life as an adult, both as an individual, and as a community member.	3.74	3.55
iPads give me opportunities to learn new things.	3.57	3.55
I enjoy school activites that involve the use of iPads.	3.85	4.00
I think iPads are difficult to use	1.75	1.15
Using iPads increases my motivation to complete school work.	3.15	3.84
The iPad provides too many distractions and is not conducive to improve learning	1.37	1.15
N	22	20

Strongly Agree: 4, Agree: 3

Disagree: 2, Strongly Disagree: 1

### I. Teacher Perceptions and Attitudes:

Questions	Mean Score
I believe iPads are a valuable tool to use with my students	3.67
I believe ipads are a valuable tool for enhancing my teaching practice	3.57
The greatest impact of iPad initiatives is on academic improvement.	3.50
Positive changes will happen if you provide every student with an iPad	3.20
Positive change will happen if you provide every teacher with an iPad.	3.00
I believe that textbooks will be replaced by electronic media (including iPads) within 5 years.	2.88
I believe that the role of schools will dramatically change because of iPads within 5 years.	3.13
I believe that I am a better teacher when I use an iPad.	1.80
If my district offered iPad based professional development activities, I would use them.	3.75
Student time on the iPad is time well spent	3.13
The iPad can help accommodate different learning styles.	3.75
The iPad provides too many distractions and is not conducive to improve learning	2.13
N	10

Strongly Agree: 4, Agree: 3, Disagree: 2, Strongly Disagree: 1

## Results of **Teacher** Survey

### I. Teacher Needs:

Questions	Mean Score
I need access to more iPads for my students.	3.00
I need access to a more reliable or faster Internet connection.	3.25
I need more apps that can be used for educative purposes.	3.57
I need more training with iPad technology.	3.88
I need more training with curricula and pedagogy that integrates ipad technology.	3.88
I need more compelling reasons why I should incorporate iPad technology into my classrooms.	2.71
I need more time to learn to use the iPad and the Internet.	3.25
I need to be able to try out technology enhanced curriculum units in my classroom before I feel comfortable with them.	3.38
I need more time to change the curriculum to better incorporate iPad technology.	3.57
N	11

Strongly Agree: 4

Agree: 3 Disagree: 2

Strongly Disagree: 1

### II. Teacher Perception and Attitudes:

Questions	Mean Score
I believe iPads are a valuable tool to use with my students.	3.67
I believe ipads are a valuable tool too for enhancing my teaching practice.	3.57
The greatest impact of ipad initiatives is on academic improvement.	3.50
Positive change will happen if you provide every student with iPads.	3.20
Positive change will happen if you provide every teacher with iPads.	3.00
I believe that textbooks will be replaced by electronic media (including iPads) within 5 years.	2.88
I believe that the role of school will dramatically change because of iPads within 5 years.	3.13
I believe that I am a better teacher when I use an iPad.	1.80
If my district offered iPads based professional development activities, I would use them.	3.75
Student time on the iPad is time well spent.	3.13
The iPad can help accommodate different learning styles.	3.75
The iPad provides too many distraction and is not conducive to improve learning.	2.13
N	11

Strongly Agree: 4

Agree: 3 Disagree: 2

Strongly Disagree: 1

Please list the 3 most important things you need immediately in terms of professional development to maximize your use of the iPad:

- Apps, Apps, Apps; Districts have professional develop curriculum for subject areas. Perhaps, the district should have a committee that can develop an "app curriculum"
- Knowledge of other apps that are educationally beneficial.
- Training; Time to review apps; Personal iPads.

# What do you think has been your biggest challenge while participating in the iPad initiative at your school?

- I have not always received the applications I request.
   Many of my apps are either free or self-purchased. For me, to plan effectively, I believe the district should have ready available apps for me to choose from.
- Inability to use other programs and discuss with others who have used other helpful educational programs.
- Providing the iPad for each student, tech support, funding for apps, finding apps for specific lessons.

## Findings

- Increased student- to- student discourse during the practice sessions (Some related to finding solutions; some related to social interactions).
- Re-enforcing understanding of content knowledge.
- Students appeared to be more motivated and engaged when using iPads in the classroom.
- As shown in the surveys, both teachers and students view iPads as easy and valuable tools to learn, which have the "potential" to improve learning outcomes.

### HOW ARE iPads USED TO ENHANCE MATHEMATIC INSTRUCTION

## MODELS OF USING IPADS IN THE K-12 SCHOOLS

### Model 1. every day every where model

iPads are distributed to every student or a specific group of students. And thus, students are responsible for them. iPads are used in the classroom and are taken home.

#### Model 2. Student - centered model

Students had their own iPad in a cart located in the classroom and took our the iPads during classroom session, as indicated by the teacher.

#### Model 3, teacher -centered model

A teacher could check out his/her iPads and occasionally demonstrate concepts on a Smarboard or document camera. Students were called up to manipulate the screen.

### Model 4. Technology - centered model

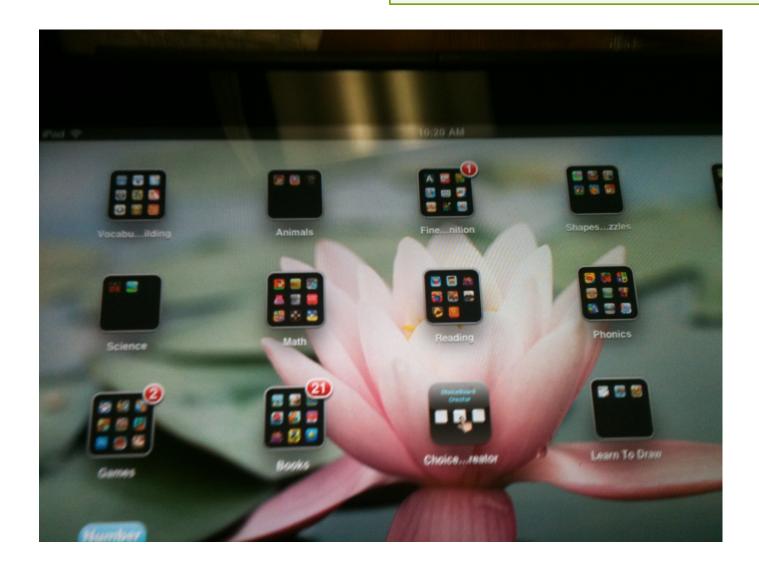
technology specialist kept the iPads in a cart in the technology department and brought them as requested by the teachers. Students used the iPads for specific activities occasionally.

## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS





- students with down syndrome.
- Special Education teacher with two teaching assistants. The teacher used almost 60 applications.
- Individualized lesson: Each child had a different type of application, as based on his / her IEP.



# • EXAMPLES OF APPS APPROPRIATE FOR SPECIFIC MATH CONTENT

### **GEOMETRY**

### MEASUREMENT

- GIVES MEANING TO NUMBERS ON A RULER
- Research indicates that when students see standard rulers with the numbers on the hash marks, they often believe that the numbers are counting the marks rather than indicating the units or spaces between the marks.

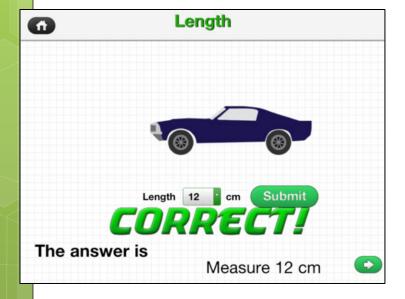
## EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

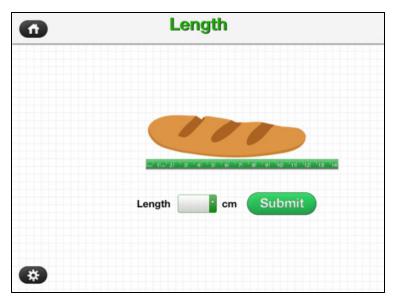
- The lessons "Measurement":
  - Lesson regarding Measurement →
  - Demonstration of how to use a ruler on the Board and how to use the app on a SmartBoard >
  - Activity with ipads by using the
  - "Measure" app.

## Elementary School

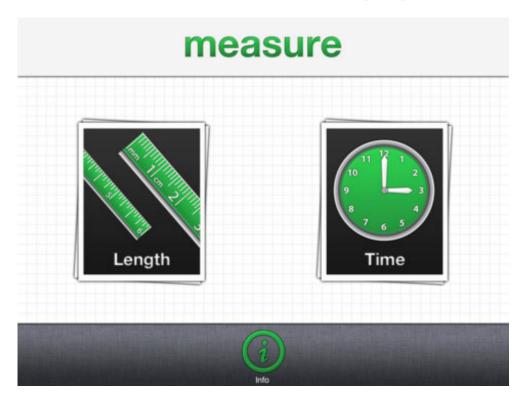








## Experience the app.



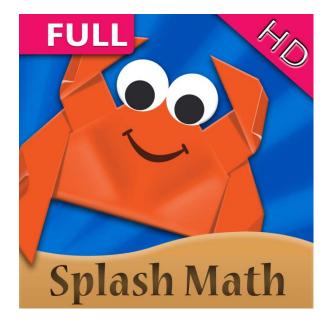
### **SPLASH MATH**

NUMBER SENSE AND PLACE VALUE

### INSTANT FEEDBACK

option for intervention and remediation





## **HUNGRY FISH**

Composing and Decomposing Numbers



## MULTIPLICATION SUSHI MONSTER

• PRACTICE VS DRILL



## CHICKEN FRACTION COOP ESTIMATION GAME (FREE)

- CONNECTING FRACTIONS AND DECIMALS
- KEY IDEA:
- DECIMAL FRACTIONS ARE SIMPLY ANOTHER WAY TO WRITING FRACTIONS. BOTH NOTATIONS HAVE VALUE. MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IS GAINED BY UNDERSTANDING HOW THE TWO SYMBOLS SYSTEMS ARE RELATED



## Thank you

• alons@wpunj.edu