

BrainPOP

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Publisher: BrainPOP®

Version: 3.1.9

Target Audience

The app has a 4+ age rating, but it also suggests that it was made for ages 9-11. However, we believe that it was made for ages 9 and could continue to greatly educate children all the way up to age 13. The information is too complex for a 4-year-old, yet is so advanced that children beyond the age of 11 could still benefit from it. BrainPOP is a tutorial and drill and practice software. It is a tutorial software because it is a great introductory method. It can be used to introduce subjects to students in a way that easily grasps their attention and to give them background information about what they will be learning for the day.

It can be a drill and practice software as well because the video could be played for students after a lesson to further reinforce everything that the teacher has taught. The more methods that teachers use to teach students the same subject, the more likely they are to remember it. After using the video as a review mechanism, all BrainPOP videos give students practice through quizzes. The quiz gives them the practice and implementation of skills that they need to fully be successful.

Curriculum

BrainPOP could be used with a single user/in a one computer classroom during centers and even through the Smartboard for the entire class as a whole to see. It would be good for students to use BrainPOP during centers because students still get to have their “computer time” while learning something fun and entertaining. It would be good for everyone to see it as a class also because it assures that we are all on the same page. It even leads to great class discussion or review on the subject. We love that all of the topics fit into the curriculum because the entire app is based on the curriculum. BrainPOP is the perfect mix of education and entertainment.

Cost

There is a free version as well as paid version. The BrainPOP Explorer Subscription is \$2.99 and the BrainPOP Full Access Subscription is \$6.99. The licenses



state that the age requirement to subscribe to the app is 18 years or older. It is available for single users who are of age and for teachers to show for educational purposes.

Software

BrainPOP is an app that shows students videos on a wide-range of subjects such as Science, Social Studies, English, Math, Arts & Music, Health, and even Engineering and Technology. The videos do not speak very broadly about these subjects but go into depth in a way that is easy to understand and also comical and entertaining. The subjects break down into more subheadings that get more specific in their learning content. This perfect balance of education and entertainment is perfect for young students. Because of the educational emphasis of the videos displayed on this app, we would label its software as a tutorial. It is a great “attention grabber” and introduction to a lesson.

After the video ends, there is an option to replay the video or to take the quiz. Both of these features are what gives this app the ability to also be a drill and practice software. It allows students to replay the video as many times as needed in order to make sure they remember it. It even quizzes them and shows that what answers they got right or wrong at the end of it. We find that there is no greater way to review than by repetition and assessment, also known as drill and practice.

Impressions

When we first began playing the app, we genuinely had a lot of fun because it brought back a lot of childhood memories for us. Some of the most important things that we have learned in school have started with BrainPOP videos. We loved the diversity of the subjects that ranged from African American and Women’s History all the way Energy Technology and Art Concepts. The app displays so much cultural diversity and teaches students about people and things from around the world -- not just in America. The language was very appropriate for 9-13 year-olds and the jokes used were very funny and engaging. We even thought it was great that the videos were not too time-consuming because young children have short attention spans. The backgrounds and sounds were very enhancing to the app and not distracting at all. We can definitely see BrainPop being played on the Smartboard and being used to review for upcoming tests. One review stated that the free movies were not good enough and that the free version should include more movies, however, We feel that the free version was still very educational. We also appreciated that the full access subscription was not as expensive compared to other apps.



Does the software pass?

Because of the introductory/review and assessment aspects of the app, it passes as a tutorial as well as a drill and practice.

