

Title: Wikids Talking Encyclopedia - iPhone

Version (if there is one or if it is one of a series): 3.5

Publisher or Producer: KidkeDoo Ltd.

Target Audience (if your opinion differ from the publisher, state that): 4+

Type(s) of software with your justification: Discovery learning because there are many different topics and subjects that users can choose from. There is no required order for things to be learned in or any other obstacles to choosing what you want to learn about. You simply click whatever you are interested in.

Curriculum(s) - How does it (or can it) fit into the curriculum -Possible environment(s) and Why: This app could be used in a science or social studies environment, but I feel like it would be better for kids to use at home or on their own time due to how basic it is. The app does teach about different animals, body parts, landmarks, and countries, however, which is all useful information to the science and social studies curriculum.

Cost: The app itself is free, but you are given very limited access unless you get the in-app purchase, which costs \$7.99.

Write a paragraph or two describing the software: The first page of the app shows two different boards that you can click on. One has a few letters on it and the other has pictures. If you click on the board with the letters, the entire alphabet will come up. When you click on a letter, that letter is spoken to you, and pictures of words found in the Wikids Encyclopedia that start with that letter are shown. You can then click on one of the pictures. The word chosen will also be spoken to you, followed by a sound effect that is associated with that word. For example, when you click “bat”, the word “bat” is spoken, followed by an audio of the sound bats make. A slideshow of several pictures of the word chosen is shown next to the word, as well as a short paragraph definition of the word. After the sound effect is played, the definition is spoken aloud. The other option found on the home screen next to the alphabet section is the board with pictures on it. When you click on this board, different subjects are shown instead. The same words that were found in the alphabetized section are in this section as well, the only difference is the categorization. In this section, you can choose between subjects such as animals, countries, the human body, musical instruments, nature, and more. The same things happen when words are clicked on in this section.

Write a paragraph or two on your impressions of the software and possibly how you see the software being used in your class: I did not think that this software was as good as it could have been. The graphics were not great, and I think that older kids would be bored with it. I did think that the definitions were appropriate for the age range, and the pictures and sound effects added some extra learning opportunities. Although I would probably not use this software in one of my lessons, the app could be used on classroom iPads by students in free time or technology free time. Exposure to some of these words and topics could be beneficial to students. If the word was found on the app, it could also be useful for students to use when researching a word that they are unfamiliar with in class.