

Ed Software Evaluation

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Title: Brain Pop

Type of Software: Discovery Learning: The user decides what videos to watch out of a wide variety of subject areas, so they get to determine what they learn while using the app. Not only do they get to choose videos, but the app also shows them suggested “related videos” that they could watch to extend their learning of the topic.

Version: 3.1.9

Publisher: BrainPOP

Target Audience: Ages 9-11

Curriculum/How it might be used in our class: This can be integrated into the curriculum in so many ways! One of our favorite ways is that teachers can use the quizzes as a form of assessment to see what students know about the topic. The videos can also be used to supplement lessons, introduce new topics, or engage students with the colorful cartoons and characters. We both feel like we would use this app in our classroom to supplement lessons. Kylie-I also feel like this would be a good closing activity after a lesson. Students could learn about a topic, such as proportions. Then, at the end of the lesson, I could play the video over proportions and have the students take the quiz at the end. Then, I could use the results from the quiz to decide what I should review the next day. We also think that these videos might be good to play at the very beginning of a lesson to get students engaged in the topic they will be covering that day. The videos might also be good to use as a refresher of material previously learned.

Possible Environments and Why: Teacher tool. The teacher can use this app to supplement lessons, make quizzes, and engage students with interesting videos. This could also be single user. Students could use this to help their own learning by watching videos related to what they are learning in school, or just to find videos to watch on their own that are still educational.

Cost: Free... unless you actually want to get any use out of it. Full Access is \$6.99 a month, and an Explorer version that does not give you many videos at all, for \$2.99 a month.

Paragraph Describing App: Brain Pop is an app that only features educational videos. It has two main characters in each video named Tim and Moby. These characters act as narrators and give information about the topic of the videos. Each day, Brain Pop has a “featured movie” that is randomly picked for students to watch. Along with each movie is a quiz over the content of the video. They are not required, but can serve as an assessment to see how much students retained from viewing the video. You can watch videos in the categories of: science, social studies, English, math, arts and music, health, and tech. You can also search for specific topics, and there is an option to see “related movies”, meaning, movies related to the movie you just viewed.

Impressions of Software: We love Brain Pop! However, we do not like that you have to pay for it. We discussed this, though, and for the amount of videos this app offers, we feel that the price is fairly reasonable. We think that it is very easy to use and easy to learn to use. We also love the amount of resources this app has. There are SO MANY videos to choose from, and so many topics covered.

Does it pass APPS: Yes! We think this app would be perfect to use in a Mid-Level classroom.