

National Online Learning Day on September 15

NationalDayClassroom.com

Here are some lesson ideas for teachers to use, from elementary to high school:

For All Grade Levels

- **Reflect on Digital Learning:** Start the day with a discussion. Ask students to think about something they recently learned to do—it could be anything from a new recipe to a video game trick. Then, lead a discussion on the role digital tools played in their learning.
 - How many examples involved a digital tool?
 - Did a digital tool make the process easier or more effective?
 - Could they imagine doing it differently with a new digital tool?
- **Virtual Field Trip:** Take a virtual tour of a museum, national park, or even a different country. Many museums and institutions offer free online tours and curated educational content.
- **Digital Scavenger Hunt:** Create a list of things for students to find and photograph or record on their phones or tablets. The scavenger hunt can be academic (e.g., "Find a picture of a historical artifact from ancient Rome") or creative ("Take a picture that represents the theme of gratitude").
- **Collaborative Digital Project:** Use a tool like Google Docs, Jamboard, or a collaborative whiteboard to have students work together on a single project. This could be a group story, a brainstorm for a new science experiment, or a mind map of a historical event.



Elementary School

- **Online Games for Learning:** Use educational websites and apps that feature games for math, reading, spelling, and other subjects. A quick search for "free learning games for kids online" will provide many options.
- **Digital Storytelling:** Have students use a simple app or website to create their own digital story, complete with drawings, photos, and voice recordings. They can tell a story they've written or create a non-fiction presentation about an animal or a historical figure.
- **"Show and Tell" Digitally:** Give students a theme and have them find an item at home that fits. They can then take a picture or video of the item and share a short explanation with the class, either live or by submitting it ahead of time.

Middle and High School

- **Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy:** National Online Learning Day is a perfect time to talk about digital responsibility. Have students investigate how and why copyright law has changed over time and apply this information to current events. You could also have a discussion about their digital footprint and what a positive online presence looks to them.
- **Create a Digital Presentation:** Challenge students to use a creative online tool (like Canva, Google Slides, or a video editor) to summarize a topic they've recently learned about. The presentation could be a persuasive argument in five slides, a video about a historical figure, or a series of infographics explaining a scientific concept.
- **Online Research Day:** Dedicate the day to having students conduct online research on a topic of interest. They could then create a digital presentation to share their findings with the class. This is also a good opportunity to teach them how to evaluate online sources for credibility.
- **Virtual Guest Speaker:** If possible, invite a guest speaker to your virtual classroom. This could be an expert on a topic you're studying, a professional who uses online tools in their work, or a representative from an online learning company.
- **Design a "Rube Goldberg Machine":** For a STEM-focused lesson, challenge students to work in groups to design a virtual Rube Goldberg machine using a design program or simply by drawing it out. The goal is to create the most inventive and intricate machine to perform a simple task.