**Digital tools for educators Factsheet: TED-Ed**

Logo

Description automatically generated

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** | **TED-Ed** |
| Link | [Lessons Worth Sharing | TED-Ed](https://ed.ted.com/) |
| Cost | Free |
| What it does | ‘TED-Ed is TED’s youth and education initiative. TED-Ed’s mission is to spark and celebrate the ideas of teachers and students around the world. Everything we do supports learning — from producing a growing library of [original animated videos](https://ed.ted.com/lessons?content_type=animations&direction=desc&sort=featured-position) , to providing an international platform for teachers to [create their own](https://ed.ted.com/videos) interactive lessons, to helping curious students around the globe [bring TED to their schools](https://ed.ted.com/student_talks) and gain presentation literacy skills, to celebrating innovative leadership within TED-Ed’s global network of over 650,000 teachers.’ |
| Uses for ACL | Varity of written and video resources covering many different subjects. Allows you to supplement learning with interesting and fun resources.  You can create your own collections, customise the videos and create lessons while learners can also make their own talks.  Allows learning outside of the classroom |
| Benefits | Can use existing resources and create your own  Consistence in learning  Show concepts, not just tell  Students can also create and share  A variety of subjects and expert learning can be shared  Manage collections for quick access  Regularly updated with new learning  Usable on all social media (You Tube, TikTok, Pinterest, Facebook & Instagram)  Easily accessible  Free |
| Alternatives | You Tube  FutureLearn  edX  Coursera  Khan Academy |
| Devices it works on | Browser based |

**What Common Sense has to say**

[TED-Ed Review for Teachers | Common Sense Education](https://www.commonsense.org/education/website/ted-ed#:~:text=Between%20the%20high%2Dquality%20videos,the%20best%20content%20on%20television.)

You can use TED-Ed's videos and lessons to supplement almost any subject with video learning, basic knowledge checks, and discussion questions. Simply browse by topic or subtopic or search by keyword. You can also filter by target age, content type, subtitles, and more. The content is remarkable and comes from some of the world's best minds -- students are likely to engage with it right away. Videos can be great to watch as a class or to include as part of a flipped classroom.

If you register (for free), you can also customize existing video lessons for your own purposes, or create your own lessons from scratch using videos on the site (the TED-Ed-created ones are of high quality and are a great way to begin a lesson for your students) or with a YouTube link. Then add in informative text, content from the video you want to quiz students on, additional resources, and any discussion questions appropriate for your class.

Interested students can sign up to create TED-style talks as well, on their own or with the class, or you can start a TED-Ed Club at your school. Teachers can sign up for a Masterclass where they can learn how to give their own talks.

TED-Ed is a website featuring a curated series of educational videos and lesson plans on a huge variety of subjects. From the folks at TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design), whose TED Talks have featured some of the world's brightest minds, TED-Ed is a place where students can get some of that same inspiration. Students can use keyword searches to find content or browse by theme, including some ongoing video series, such as Math in Real Life and Superhero Science. There's also the Earth School "immersive learning adventure." Lessons are available for students of all ages, and the library is extensive enough to have something for practically any subject focus. In addition to each video (the Watch section), lessons include Think, where students answer some questions about the video; Dig Deeper, which is a listing of additional related resources; and Discuss, which includes guided and open-ended discussion questions.

Registered teachers and students can take any existing lesson and easily customize it for their own educational purposes. Or, they can create their own video lesson from scratch, based on a video in TED-Ed's library or from a YouTube link. Teachers and students are then walked through each step of how to create the lesson, and there's a management area for students to keep tabs on their lessons and discussions. The site also includes a conduit for students to create their own TED-style videos, and educators can register for a program to give their own talks, sharing their unique knowledge.

Between the high-quality videos and the extensive collection of lesson plans, TED-Ed is a great resource for students and teachers looking for inspiration, education, and maybe even some fun. The videos and animations are highly engaging and as well produced as some of the best content on television. While a few students might get bored or frustrated with videos on more advanced topics, the site generally does a great job of presenting complex content in comprehensible ways. For example, "The Basics of the Higgs Boson" describes the implications of this newly discovered fundamental particle using funny, kid-friendly animations.

Video topics run the gamut and will engage students' sense of science and the humanities, from the lives of penguins to "Music and Creativity in Ancient Greece" and beyond. Many topics of interest that aren't usually included in curricula are here, such as Design, Emotional Health, Personal Finance, Linguistics, and Anthropology. Videos by TED-Ed are continually added to the collection, and people can also use lessons created and shared by others. Teachers looking to work videos into their standards-based curricula would benefit from support to help them find videos with Common Core-aligned content, however.

While the TED-Ed-made videos are top-notch, some of the publicly shared ones vary in quality. Also, the quality of the non-video portions of each lesson may vary considerably, and may not add much depth to the lesson. Students may need to demonstrate understanding in other ways.

**Also see…**

[What Is TED-Ed And How Does It Work For Education? | Tech & Learning (techlearning.com)](https://www.techlearning.com/how-to/what-is-ted-ed-and-how-does-it-work-for-education)