

# Simple K12

Integrating different mediums into curriculum can grab the attention of students and help hold their interest. If you have internet access in the classroom, you can stimulate the learning process by introducing educational webcams to your classroom. So, what exactly is a webcam?

A webcam is a device used for video capture. Once connected to a computer, webcams display video footage via the internet. A live webcam specifically provides real-time, or live, coverage. Webcams can enhance learning by bringing new sights and sounds to the classroom. Allowing students to observe a penguin habitat from underwater, or people watch in New York City may seem impossible. However, with the assistance of webcams, students can have both of these experiences and more without leaving the classroom.

## Tips for Webcam use in the classroom:

- **Preview beforehand.** Always view the webcam before introducing it to your students. Not only is safety an issue, but some cams may only be operable at certain times, or require the downloading of new software to your computer.
- **Explore your options.** The first relevant webcam you find may not be the best one available. Look at a handful before you decide which one, or ones, to use.
- **Prepare your students.** Explain what they are about to view, what they should be looking for, and if they should be writing their observations down.
- **Expect the unexpected.** Some webcams, especially live cams, may not always show helpful footage. For example, a zoo's webcam may be taping a certain lion habitat when the lions are actually asleep in their den.
- **Continue the experience.** Have a related discussion or activity after viewing the webcam to ensure that students get the most out of the experience.
- **Repeat if necessary.** One of the advantages of webcams is you can always come back for another viewing!

