New on the Scene
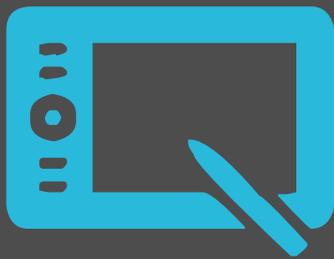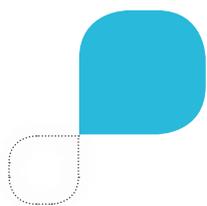
With so many interesting gadgets and tools on the market, it's easy to miss some of the great releases. Here are some of the latest offerings that have come to our editor's attention.
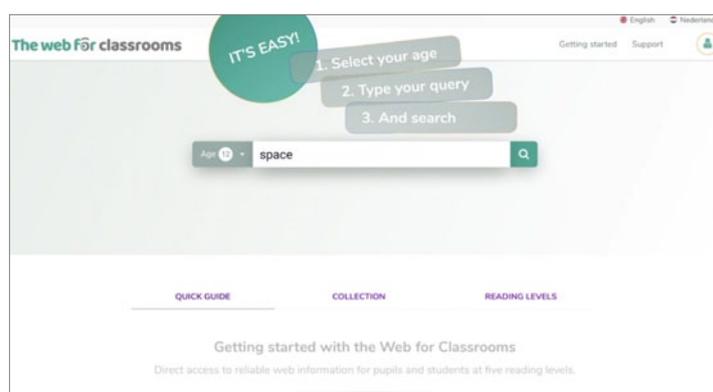
The web for classrooms

www.webforclassrooms.com

Although we can spend a lot of time disparaging teachers who give the advice 'just Google it to students, the truth is, the internet is a crucial source for information and a great starting place for research. The only problem is, Google doesn't make the internet all that accessible to young people and it expects that they are already digitally literate and able to determine what reliable content looks like.

Wizenoze, a company founded in Amsterdam in 2013, has put together a web for classrooms—the largest safe-for-school collection of online content for students aged 7–18. According to their website, the collection provides rapid access for students and teachers to over 6 million indexed pages of curriculum supportive online material from a vast range of respectable sources—all searchable by reading age. Furthermore, it is powered by the very latest in machine learning technology and curated to ensure that material retrieved is safe, age-appropriate and readable by the user—whatever their level of literacy.

The company puts forth the three main challenges for using the internet in education:

1. finding relevant information that is suitable for educational purposes.
2. finding readable information that is suited for their reading level.
3. finding reliable information among the vast amount of unreliable, fake information.

The web for classrooms resolves these very important issues using AI technology, and the sources have been verified by teachers for relevance to the curriculum and trustworthiness. It also keeps away distractions from social media and advertisers. This product ticks all the boxes for innovation, usefulness, safeguarding and relevance.
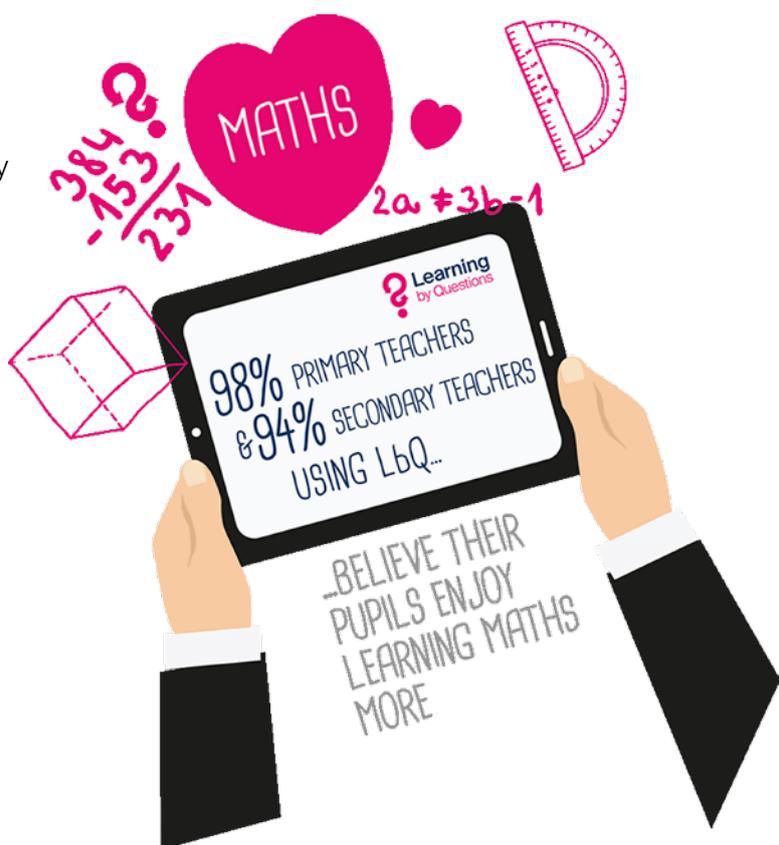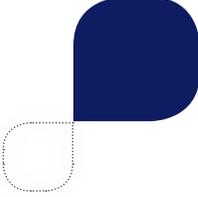
Learn by questions
www.lbq.org

This new offering for teachers, led by the founder of Promethean, Tony Cann CBE, is a cloud-based educational classroom tool and app that supports teachers through providing subject question banks.

Teachers can use the questions for regular lessons, or students can use whatever digital device is available (tablet, computer, laptop, etc.) and progress at their own pace and level through high quality Question Sets and receive immediate automatic feedback as they answer. The questions are designed to correspond with the national curriculum and question banks are being added each month. Teachers receive live analysis and results are saved to support assessment and planning. There are more than 750 question sets covering KS2 and KS3 maths, English and Science.

In addition to being a great time-saving resource that allows students to have all the practice they may need or want as they work toward achieving subject mastery, the questions are designed to challenge various levels of cognitive progression, moving beyond pure knowledge recall (stage one), into other levels representing greater depth of knowledge and problem solving, helping students apply knowledge to additional contexts or to demonstrate higher level concepts, such as scientific reasoning or analytical writing.
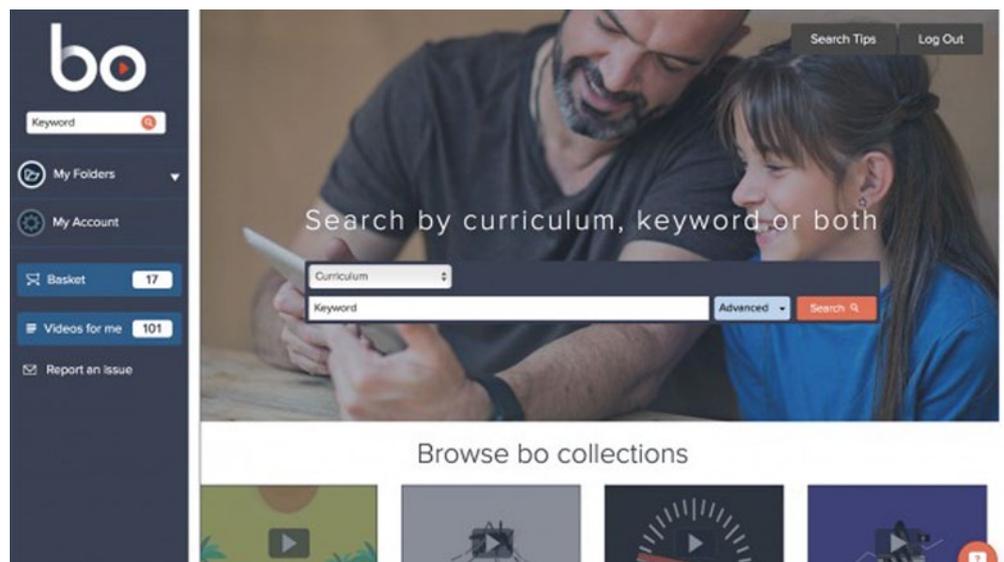
boclips

www.boclips.com

Video can be a very effective educational tool, but sourcing it and ensuring students have access to appropriate content can be time consuming and difficult. Boclips resolves this problem, making it easy for education providers to find, license and use video from some of the world's largest and most respected content providers, including the Smithsonian, TedEd, RedRock films and hundreds of others.

Boclips aggregates over 2 million rights-ready video clips onto a single cloud based platform. Proprietary algorithms then map these clips to the curricula and courses used by education providers around the world—ensuring relevant search results for courseware designers, instructors and students. All videos are rights-ready for education and updated daily.

High-resolution videos can be downloaded to be embedded into digital resources, or they can be streamed directly. There are various subscription plans that include packages for specific channels (i.e. YouTube Education or Century of Video News) that can be tailored to your needs and interests.

Video clips have been tagged to all topics in the UK curriculum and a version of the USA Common Core. Videos can be trimmed to refine specific material and are accompanied by full transcripts for students' reference and accessibility. This sounds like a huge time-saver and a way of really enriching presentations and streamlining teaching process.