

Learning Objects

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*What are Learning Objects?

- **Digital content** - small units of learning (content broken down into **small chunks** that provide material for one discrete lesson within a larger framework)
- **Self-contained** - can be used independently
- **Interactive** - requires that students view, listen, respond or interact with the content in some way
- **Reusable** in different learning contexts, different courses
- **Can be aggregated** - can be combined into larger collections to match specific learning needs
- **Metatagged**: descriptive tags allows them to be found easily by a search

Why use Learning Objects?

- Engage **different learning styles** - usually highly visual, often interactive, sometimes with audio
- Clarify **difficult concepts**
- **Combine** as appropriate to match specific learning needs
- Allows for "**just in time**" learning - can help fill individual knowledge gaps
- **Cost effective**: more efficient to develop small chunks
- **Already available**: numerous learning objects are available and free to use

Examples

Population Clock Continuously updated estimates of World and U.S. populations	www.census.gov/main/www/popclock.html
Earth & Moon Viewer	www.fourmilab.ch/earthview/vplanet.html

<p>View either a map of the Earth showing the day and night regions at this moment, or view the Earth from the Sun, the Moon, the night side of the Earth, and various other options.</p>	
<p>Identifying Key Words in Math Word Problems Uses Flash to present concept of terms used in simple math problems. Univ. of Wisconsin.</p>	<p>www.wisconline.org/objects/ABM1401/</p>
<p>Initiating Conflict Resolution: How to Plan an Effective Opening Statement Uses Flash to present concept of conflict resolution. Univ. of Wisconsin.</p>	<p>www.wisconline.org/objects/LDD502/index.html</p>
<p>Ever and Never A learning object for ESL students. Univ. of Wisconsin.</p>	<p>www.wisc-online.com/objects/index.asp?objID=ESL1803</p>
<p>Using the "Auto-Sum" feature in Excel Karen Jolly and Distance Ed, Portland</p>	<p>spot.pcc.edu/~kjolly/Excel_2003/Beg_Demo/AutoSum.html</p>

Community College	
<p>Body Wall Formation in the Chick Embryo Diagrams and animation to illustrate how cells migrate during the process of body wall and limb formation in the chick embryo. Ann Burke, Wesleyan University.</p>	<p>learningobjects.wesleyan.edu/projects/musc_dev</p>
<p>The Zen Garden Project This in-depth look at actual Japanese gardens contains information on the history, aesthetic character, and philosophical context of the Japanese Garden.</p>	<p>academic.bowdoin.edu/zen/</p>

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* Characterizations of learning objects modified from the University of Wisconsin learning objects site, www.uwm.edu/Dept/CIE/AOP/learningobjects.html



Greg Kaminski, IMS, 3/31/05
gkaminsk@pcc.edu