Unit 1: Introduction to MinecraftEdu

Content Area: **Technology**
Course(s): **Technology**
Time Period: **Generic Time Period**
Length: **Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Unit Overview

This unit will get students up and running in Minecraft, navigating the world, building their own creations, and collaborating with each other to explore and solve puzzles. Students will explore a Tutorial World with six zones. The first five zones teach students basic skills they will need in MinecraftEdu, and the sixth zone opens them up to the world of Minecraft where they can practice their new skills in an open-ended environment.

Standards

Click on Standards Tab to "Associate Standards" with this unit.

TEC.5-8.8.1.8	All students will use digital tools to access, manage, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to solve problems individually and collaboratively and to create and communicate knowledge.
TEC.5-8.8.1.8.D.1	Model appropriate online behaviors related to cyber safety, cyber bullying, cyber security, and cyber ethics.

Essential Questions

- How can collaborating help me solve problems?
- How can playing MinecraftEdu connect to other areas of learning?
- How does working collaboratively help me be more creative?
- Why is it important to set rules on how to act toward other players in the game?

Application of Knowledge: Students will know that...

- MinecraftEdu is a "sandbox" game where players have the ability to create and modify the game.
- There are rules and goals for the classroom community -- playing MinecraftEdu at school has a different purpose than playing at home.
- Working collaboratively can help solve problems.

Application of Skills: Students will be able to...

- Collaborate and communicate with peers to design and solve puzzles in MinecraftEdu’s Tutorial World
- Collect blocks and place blocks to create a simple structure

- Demonstrate competency at building and learn about different types of building materials and tools
- Demonstrate competency with basic movement controls
- Move the player and navigate in the world.
- Navigate the world of Minecraft and build their own content

Assessments

Successful completion of Tutorial

Suggested Activities

Students will complete the Tutorial in MinecraftEdu. There are 6 Zones for the Tutorial:

Zone 1: Basics (join world, learn to move and jump character)

Zone 2: Obstacle Course (incorporate movement through course -- including running, jumping, swimming)

Zone 3: Brickyard (find hidden objects, explore surroundings, use ingenuity to solve how to exit brickyard through locked doors and maze)

Zone 4: Digging and Building (Each student explores an assigned lane to travel down -- students lean to dig, pick up and drop blocks -- view creations in three dimensions)

Zone 5: Shapes (students work in teams of 2-4 to copy shapes using building materials)

Zone 6: Campground (Students have the opportunity to modify the world)

Activities to Differentiate Instruction

Students who are having trouble in the early steps can follow the teacher character until they get the hang of moving their own character.

Students move at their own pace throught the tutorial. Students who are experts at Minecraft can help others or spend more time exploring the Brickyard or creating in the Campground.

Integrated/Cross-Disciplinary Instruction

Social Studies -- Explore real life buildings, i.e. Roman Coliseum, Globe Theater, or have students create models of real life places themselves.

Math -- practice ratio and proportion

Science -- learn about survival, management of resources

Language Arts -- create worlds based on stories

Resources

MinecraftEdu Tutorial World

Sample lesson with step-by-step instructions for Tutorial World: http://educade.org/lesson_plans/getting-started-with-minecraftedu

MinecraftEdu World Library: http://services.minecraftedu.com/worlds

Handouts:

MinecraftEDU Controls:
http://services.minecraftedu.com/worlds/sites/default/files/worlds/26/material/controls_26.pdf

Minecraft Crafting
Recipies: http://services.minecraftedu.com/worlds/sites/default/files/worlds/26/material/crafting_recipes_26.pdf

Teacher Cheat Sheet: https://www.dropbox.com/s/ggi0lviuy58ws2w/Teacher%20Cheat%20Sheet.pdf?dl=0

Teacher resources:

Teaching with MinecraftEdu: http://services.minecraftedu.com/wiki/Teaching_with_MinecraftEdu

SLJ Article featuring 5 Outstanding
Worlds: http://services.minecraftedu.com/wiki/Teaching_with_MinecraftEdu

MinecraftEdu Resources: http://minecraftedu.com/resources

Educade.org