**Wallwisher**

[**http://www.wallwisher.com**](http://www.wallwisher.com)

**Wallwisher** is an online post it board. It could be used for adding collaborative thoughts to projects (brainstorming), note-taking, practicing definitions or vocabulary, discussion about a topic, or a notice board about a special day, topic, or person. I used **Wallwisher** as a vehicle to post notes about landforms. We had been studying about landforms in science and so I gave the students an opportunity to post a landform that they would love to visit. During this activity they learned how to log on to network computers, narrow a search, link material, we discussed copyright issues, and they published their ideas. They were super motivated and actively engaged in not only their own work, but that of their schoolmates as well! Great tool for the classroom! Check out our page…[**http://www.wallwisher.com/wall/kEvceRPgQy**](http://www.wallwisher.com/wall/kEvceRPgQy)**.**

**flickr**

[**http://www.flickr.com/**](http://www.flickr.com/)

**Flickr** is an online photo sharing and management tool. It can be used to create virtual field trips, map studies, animal studies, study of current events, and for using photo diagrams. The possibilities are endless! I used **flicker** by uploading a picture we had taken from the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. From the Arch, many landmarks can be seen. I tagged six landmarks and wrote short descriptions of each. These landmarks were also linked to other pictures from other people as well, making my one picture an opportunity to continue research in many directions. This application would be a great visual opener to almost any study.

**nspringer67**

**St. Louis from the Jefferson Expansion Memorial Gateway Arch**

**Wordle**

[**http://www.wordle.net/**](http://www.wordle.net/)

**Wordle** is an application that takes submitted words and rearranges them by size, shape, font, color, and importance into a “word cloud”. It is a terrific tool that could be used as an introduction of a topic, brainstorming ideas, summary of a topic, and many other uses. I used Wordle by taking a quote from Abraham Lincoln and wordleing (is that a word?) it. My intention is to create an introduction to a study on Abraham Lincoln by questioning the students about whether they know who may have said these famous words. I am hoping that when the students see the colors and words, especially those emphasized, they will come close in their guesses. It will be a great way to discuss their thinking out loud and what influenced their ideas! Always a great thing in the classroom!! <http://www.wordle.net/show/wrdl/4207940/Lincoln>

Discussion:

I think the research, collaboration, and presentation tools are the most effective web 2.0 tools in the classroom. Websites like infoplease, pics4learning, and footnote, simplify the process of researching information and noting it properly. Older students especially benefit tremendously from research tools that are easy to use. Students become engaged at a much higher level when “sharing” their work becomes a group project in which everyone can see at any time. One of the web tools I spent some time with was Wallwisher. The students not only became more involved at school, they showed their parents and relatives as well when they got home. Several of them made their own walls and shared them with me the next day. The excitement that students exhibit when they see their work published immediately is priceless!