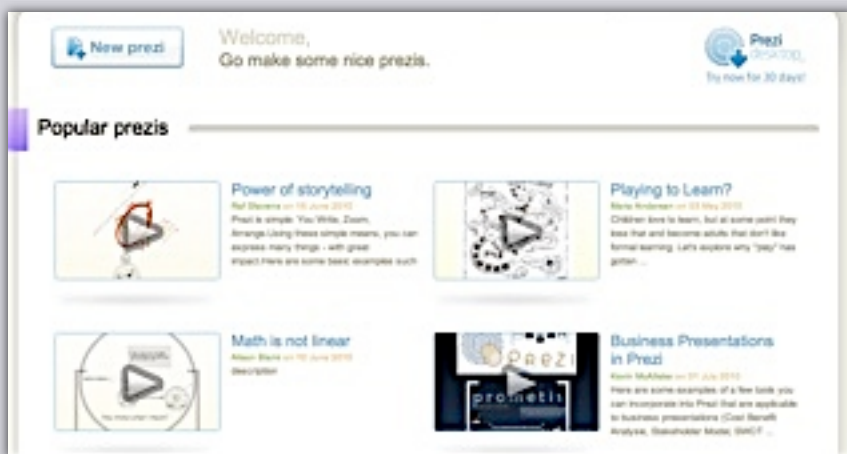
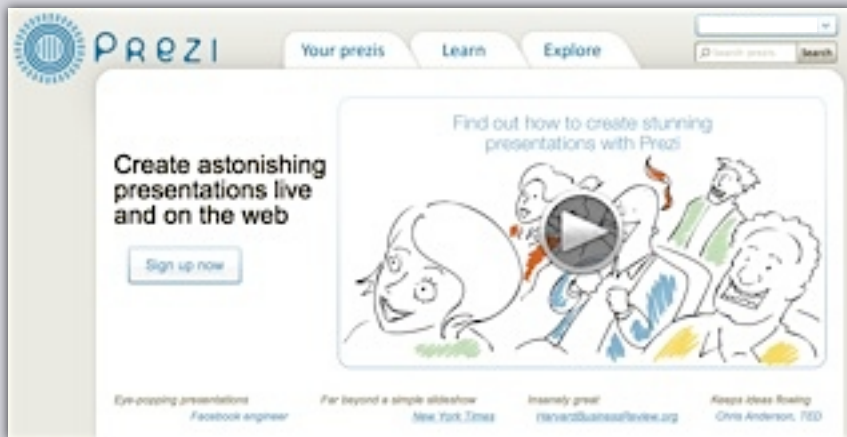


The Digital Diet

A small byte of





What Is Prezi?

Prezi is an online tool for creating presentations. It works with the “zoom in, zoom out” technique to create a dynamic and entertaining alternative to the standard slideshow. Its basic service is free to use with an account signup, and for a charge you can update to 5 more professional versions, which include Pro with 2 GB storage space, desktop publisher, and offline presenting, and also EduPro which is a powerful tool available for those with established educational credentials only.

Presentations are storyboarded using the wheel menu in the top left corner of the Prezi canvas, which is like a whiteboard you place your ideas on instead of using slides. You can then add text and images, embed video, and choose different colors and templates for the shows you are constructing. You can completely control the size and angle of your text and images using Prezi’s “Zebra Wheel” feature.

It’s also portable—users can work on their presentation anywhere anytime, and when it’s completed, it can be published and shared, or it can be embedded into a blog.

Check out www.prezi.com to begin making your own zooming presentations.

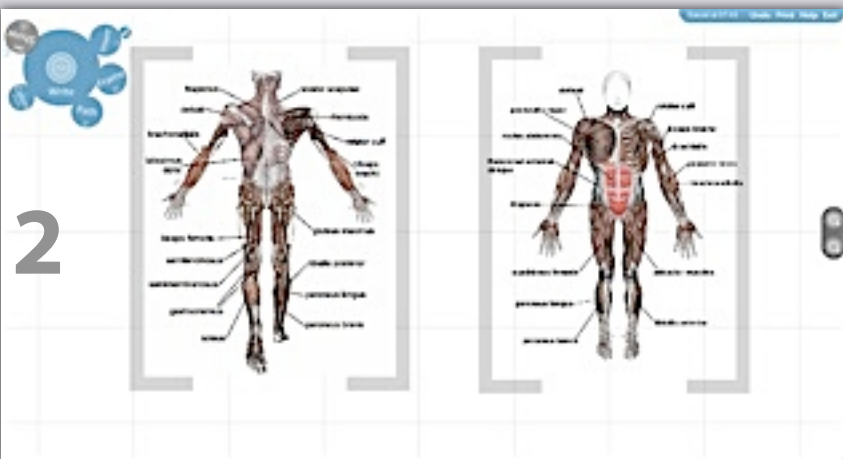
Getting Started

Go to www.prezi.com to sign up for your free account. You can either take a quick tutorial, view other Prezi creations, or start making your own right away. Click on “New Prezi” to get started.

You create a name and theme for your presentation, and then you’re whisked off to the main whiteboard canvas to begin creating. Double-click at any spot on the canvas to add text, and click on the text (or images you upload) to bring up the Zebra, which allows you to place, tilt, and make your input bigger or smaller.

The navigation menu at the top left corner offers options for your formatting, and when you are ready to organize your Prezi, click on the “Path” option. You are then able to click on every element in the order you would like it to be zoomed in on during your presentation, and Prezi automatically creates a numbered path in blue indicating how your presentation will be shown. To see it in action, click on the “Show” option. You can share it, or embed it into a blog as well.

Prezi is pretty unique in its non-linear format. However, if you prefer the more traditional slideshow formatting, some good alternatives are things like Zoho Show at show.zoho.com, Empressr at www.empressr.com, and Apple iWork’s Keynote.



Prezi in the Classroom

1. Bringing the World Back Home

Presentations made in Prezi can make for unique student projects about interesting filed trips. In Example 1, a student has created a show based on the things they saw and learned on a youth exchange trip to the city of Kyoto, Japan.

Using Prezi, the student organizes information about traveling and finding your way in the city of Kyoto, as well as a little about the city's rich history and ancient traditions. They have chosen a picture background, and arranged highlights of the trip in a circular frame. As Prezi's pre-set path zooms in on each picture, the student discusses it briefly, and then zooms out and in to the next picture in the path.

2. A Terrific Teaching Tool

Prezi is great for making a standard classroom lecture or discussion more engaging. In Example 2, the students are studying muscular anatomy, and the teacher has created a diagram using free source imagery of the human muscular system. When discussing a particular area of the anatomical structure, or the glossary of terms for the lesson, the teacher uses Prezi to zoom in and create focus and reinforcement of the selected points.

Most lectures are linear and line structured, but Prezi's application of dynamic pathways really mixes up the look and feel of the learning experience. The teacher is careful not to use the "tilting" option too much (Example 1). Although it looks good when used sparingly, it can lose people if used too much, and take away from the impact of the presentation.

3. Versatility In Action

In addition to image and text, you can also embed videos into your Prezi, and create frames to group ideas together. To use video, you can either convert a created video into a Flash file (.flv or .swf), or copy and paste the URL of a video from YouTube into an empty text box (this only works when the Prezi is online). In Example 3, a group of students have created a blog as part of a larger community awareness project. One of the areas they cover is the local waste water treatment process.

Using Prezi to map out the production line and embedding videos for emphasis, they show the key points of how waste water is processed locally. The students embed this presentation for viewing on the blog, and it offers a full range of interaction—it can either be watched in autoplay mode, or viewers can just click on whatever area they wish to see. Prezi takes them directly there to read text or view the embedded video.

How Do You Use Prezi to Develop the 21st Century Fluencies?



Solution Fluency—For presentations in problem solving, Prezi offers a good way to showcase design and delivery. As students are presented with their unique challenges, Prezi can be used to effectively illustrate the plan of action about how an issue can be resolved or improved. It has an effective visual interface for making the crucial points come alive and remain memorable.

Information Fluency—As information is gathered and organized, Prezi uses custom path rendering to create a sensible and logical representation of the data used. Also, it is important when creating any presentation to use relevant and useful information for the concepts that are being embellished, and Prezi is no exception.

Collaboration Fluency—Students can easily work in groups creating presentations in Prezi. They can bring their individual contributions to the table for consideration and development as everything is arranged and storyboarded on the Prezi whiteboard.

Creativity Fluency—With Prezi's capacity to incorporate different media, coupled with the zooming techniques that make it so special, creativity has a lot of room to shine. From embedding videos and images and using the provided templates, to the total control of the Zebra Wheel function to place input in any kind of positioning for appeal, Prezi is all about getting creative with visuals.

Media Fluency—Presentations done in Prezi have the non-linear advantage—they become more dynamic than slideshows, and flow in more captivating formats. This can have a tremendous effect on how a message is delivered using this particular tool, and how it is absorbed and remembered. Prezi's power as a digital medium comes from its absence of traditional slideshow and powerpoint predictability, and how it can shape ideas into something with clarity and purpose.

The Digital Citizen—There is always a call in creating presentations for public viewing to practice professionalism and courtesy. As with other media such as blogs and wikis, a custom presentation becomes an extension of the student's persona, ideas, and values. How are they conducting themselves as future presenters for larger organizations, or other groups with influence over the issues they present? Are sources properly cited and recognized? Are the efforts of a team of collaborators given due recognition?



the book

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21st Century Fluency Project

This resource is the collaborative effort of a group of experienced educators and entrepreneurs who have united to share their experience and ideas and to create a project geared toward making learning relevant to life in our new digital age. Our purpose is to develop exceptional resources to assist in transforming learning to be relevant to life in the 21st century. At the core of this project are our [Curriculum Integration Kits](#)—engaging, challenge-based learning modules designed to cultivate the essential [21st century fluencies](#) within the context of the required curriculum. For more information please visit our web site www.21stcenturyfluency.com.