

Finding Educational Events and Sites In the Second Life® Environment

Once you are in Second Life® what next? How can you make the most of this interactive format to learn and grow as an educator? Second Life is full of learning opportunities though it takes a while to find when and where they occur. There are many ways to connect with Second Life Educational groups you can;

- * join the group to get in-world notices
- * visit the location in SL™ and check their in-world calendar
- * visit the group's website or blog

The following is a list of **some** educational institutions that have created a presence in the Second Life® community. They are listed in alphabetical order. As you begin to explore the Second Life environment it might be worth your while to visit one each day. For additional examples of education at work in SL™ please use the additional resources located at the end of this document.

Bowling Green State University Virtual Campus

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/BGSU%20Creation/254/255/33>

Bowling Green State University has created an online center for its faculty and students. Faculty can host in world office hours, distance learners can have discussions and attend class. The University has created a Zen garden, music walk, planetarium and writing center and a freebie store. The writing center offers information on writing tips as well as office hours for writing consultants. There are 4 islands; BGSU Collaboration, Creation, Interaction and Writing. Additional information can be found at <http://www.bgsu.edu/secondlife/>



Campus: Second Life

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Campus/155/141/28/>

Campus Second Life is the creation of Pathfinder Linden. Educators may apply for an acre to use for free for one semester through the Campus: Second Life program. This allows educators to explore the Second life platform for possible uses in education. The Island also houses exhibits on education in SL and a Public sand box for people to practice building skills. For further information please look at the following web site.

Campus Second Life: http://www.simteach.com/wiki/index.php?title=Campus:Second_Life



Discovery Educator Network

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Eduisland%20II/128/128/22>

The Discovery Educator Network (DEN) is a global community of educators connected by many means; the DEN website, Second Life community, webinars and the face to face learning opportunities. DEN members are very interested in teaching, learning and media. The DEN in SL offers support to new arrivals, weekly workshops and a chance for you to share what you know. The DEN is always looking for people to present, please feel welcome to get involved. The DEN in SL weekly sessions meet on Wednesday 5pm SLT.



Check out the DEN in SL blog <http://blog.discoveryeducation.com/secondlife/> and join the Google Group <http://groups.google.com/group/den-in-sl>

EdTech Island Boise State University

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/EdTech/109/135/25>

EdTech Island is the work of Boise State University. It was originally designed to support their students and faculty it has expanded its efforts and is a great place to learn about teaching and learning in Second Life. You can take classes for fun and grad credit. They offer resources, tools and teaching strategies for working in Second Life. Please check out the EdTech Island Wiki: <http://edtechisland.wetpaint.com/>



Exploratorium

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Exploratorium/148/119/22>

San Francisco's [Exploratorium](http://www.exploratorium.edu/worlds/secondlife/), has created interactive science exhibits the main exhibits are on Exploratorium and Splo. When you land at the main teleport site you will see signs to take you to different exhibits. I was particularly drawn to the Destination Mars exhibit. Destination Mars is a planetarium style show demonstrating the results of a meteor hitting Mars. Well worth the trip. To see upcoming events and exhibits check out the Exploratorium's website <http://www.exploratorium.edu/worlds/secondlife/>



Global Kids Island

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Teaching/224/160/25>

Global kids is an organization that works with youth in the real world to promote leadership and global connectedness. With the advent of the Second Life environment they have moved into the teen grid to collaborate with kids there. This venue on the main grid is where they share what is happening on the teen grid.

<http://www.globalkids.org/>



Heart Murmur Sim

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Waterhead/123/56/32>

The Heart Murmur Sim is just one of the many medical training centers in Second life – this one is used to train nurses to recognize the sounds of heart murmurs.

For a tour of the sim watch the following video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJY2lwbzop4>



Info Island

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Info%20Island/72/133/34> &
<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Info%20Island%20International/119/243/34>

Info Island is an archipelago of islands devoted to information, reading and learning. They are created and maintained by a collaborative network of librarians and educators. The lead developer of these islands is Alliance Library Systems of Illinois. The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Library contains a collection of scripts and other tools for teaching in Second Life. Alliance is also active on the teen grid.

To find out more check out <http://www.infoisland.org/>



International Schools Island

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/International%20Schools/65/94/24>

Shamblesguru Voomon and Takeme Homewood created International Schools Island in Second Life to support K-12 educators, though the focus is on International Schools all educators are welcome. There is also an in world group you can join to keep up on news and events. The group is called International Schools (K-12)

Blog: <http://internationalschoolsisland.blogspot.com/>

Website: <http://www.shambles.net/secondlife/index.htm>



ISTE

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/ISTE%20Island/107/66/30>

The International Society for Technology in Education has 4 islands in Second Life. They have socials every Thursday at 6 pm SLT (9 pm eastern) they also frequently have speakers on Tuesdays. During NECC's annual conference this year you can attend events here in SL. Many of ISTE's affiliates have headquarters on these islands.

For events <http://secondlife.iste.wikispaces.net/>



Jokaydia

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/jokaydia/113/144/23>

This sim as a wonderful edusquare with information about many educational related sims worth investigating. Jokaydia has an active community and many events.

Website: <http://jokaydia.com/>



The Learning Experience

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Akamu%20Cove/129/144/22>

The Learning Experience (TLE) Educational Network's motto is "Where Knowledge & Education Are Always Free" This virtual second life University is an active community focusing on creativity, study, education and knowledge in an engaging environment.

Web Site: <http://www.tleinsl.com/>

Blog: <http://tleinsl.blogspot.com/>

Calendar: http://tleinsl.com/index_files/TLECalen.htm



NMC Campus

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/NMC%20Orientation/109/113/39>

The New Media Consortium has a series of Islands and hosts numerous events. I would recommend visiting the NMC – Orientation Island. This island has an excellent over view of using the client, and various teaching tools in SL. The New Media Consortium is made up of 200 colleges, universities, museums, and businesses, exploring new media and technologies. To visit the NMC campus please join the NMC Guests group.



To find out more about NMC in RL and SL please visit the following links; NMC Campus Observer <http://sl.nmc.org/> the NMC main Website <http://www.nmc.org/> and their wiki http://sl.nmc.org/wiki/Main_Page

NOAA's Virtual Island

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/NMC%20Orientation/127/112/39>

NOAA has created a wonderful place to experience weather phenomena. Be washed out by tsunamis, ride into the eye of a hurricane and fly on a weather balloon. View a real-time 3D weather map of North America.

NOAA's out reach Site <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/outreach/#sl>



Ohio University Second Life Campus

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Ohio%20University/20/39/24>

Ohio University has an extensive collection of islands. They use the facility as part of their distance education program and for staff to offer online office hours. Well worth a little time to explore. Ohio University has an extensive wiki detailing the events and history of their project. http://vital.cs.ohiou.edu/vitalwiki/index.php/Ohio_University_sims



Second Health

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Second%20Health%20London/127/220/25>

Second Health is the work of Imperial College, London and is part of the Health Islands archipelago. The sim is also used to explore ways to communicate medical needs and the future of health care. Take time to explore the adjacent islands where medical students learn through simulation how to diagnose and treat patients.



For more information please look at the second health blog. <http://secondhealth.wordpress.com/>

Spaceport Alpha

Spaceport Alpha is one of the science islands. Their neighbors include NASA and Science School. The Spaceport contains two great places to visit: the International Spaceflight Museum and the Planetarium.

International Spaceflight Museum

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Spaceport%20Alpha/48/78/24>

The International Spaceflight Museum has a tremendous display of rockets, places to watch NASA video and you can even ride a rocket. You can observe planet alignments of the past and future. The Museum hosts exhibits and conducts events. To keep up to date on events please see the following. <http://slispaceflightmuseum.org/drupal/>



Planetarium

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Spaceport%20Alpha/24/53/22>

The planetarium holds only few avatars but gives a very informative presentation, a good way to brush up on your astronomy before you need to teach the topic. If you select the map you will see other islands worth exploring such as the mars landscape, Splo of the Exploratorium. Visit the SciLands website <http://www.scilands.org/> for more information



Svarga

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Svarga/128/128/0>

Svarga is a closed virtual eco-system. The environment contains interdependent species of artificial virtual life. It is an experiment in Biology and programming. The design is so complete the organisms contain genes that can mutate. I recommend taking the tour offered at the Islands entrance.



Terra Incognita

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Terra%20incognita/156/100/33>

Terra Incognita is the work of Deck Mah. It is geared to facilitate learning and reflection. The many areas are structured to for small and large groups and are quite inviting. There is a beach, resource center, even a submarine.



TNC

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Eduisland%205/172/17/22>

The Teacher Networking Center is a place for educators to meet, share, collaborate and work together. Meetings are workshops are held to discuss real life issues in education.

TNC has two locations;

1. The Eduisland II building, contains many freebies for educators

slurl: <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Eduisland%20II/30/27/22>

2. Eduisland 5, Is the presentation site:

slurl: <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Eduisland%205/172/17/22>

Blog: <http://teachernetworkingcenter.blogspot.com/>



Vassar College

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Vassar/111/113/27>

Vassar College has a virtual campus that includes a recreation of the Sistine Chapel. This is an exquisite example or the artistry and replication that can be can exist in this virtual environment.

Vassar's campus is part of their distance education program and offers a place for online interaction for students and faculty.



Virtual Morocco

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Casablanca/149/90/26>

Virtual Morocco is a student produce simulation. Created by students from Johnson & Wales University after visiting Morocco. Take the tour by donning the info-fez. The sim contains an outdoor market, mosque, and gardens.



Virtual Pioneers

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Lighthouse%20Learning%20Island/6/135/24>

The Virtual Pioneers explore historical sims and discuss real life education issues. They are part of WNYRIC organization located on Lighthouse Learning Island. Lighthouse Learning Island only allows avatars to arrive in one location to get to WNYRIC right click on their sign at the arrival point and then choose teleport.

Ning: <http://virtualpioneers.ning.com/>



Additional Resources

EduMove.com <http://edumuve.com/tour/>

NMC has an SLED Calendar that is a pretty comprehensive calendar of events in SL: http://sl.nmc.org/wiki/SLED_Calender

Second Life in Education <http://slededucation.wikispaces.com/>

SimTeach: Top 20 Educational Sites in Second Life
http://www.simteach.com/wiki/index.php?title=Top_20_Educational_Locations_in

SLED - Second Life Education Wiki, by Linden Lab:
<http://teachernetworkingcenter.blogspot.com>

SLeducation Wiki: <http://slededucation.wikispaces.com/>