



## Ideas for Podcasting Topics for Elementary Grades

If you teach the following topics, here are ideas for types of podcasts (whole class, pairs, or individual) your students might create.

### Astronomy/Space

Students can do Internet research as well as use iChat for chats with local astronomy experts to get information for their podcasts.

#### Research links:

- <http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/StarChild.html>
- [www.windows.ucar.edu/windows.html](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/windows.html)
- [www.pbs.org/spacestation/station/training.htm](http://www.pbs.org/spacestation/station/training.htm)

The project could be a podcast infomercial promoting becoming a NASA astronaut or trying to “sell” a planet (as a real estate agent or a used car salesman), or it could be a role play of a newscast about exploring one of the planets or someplace in the solar system.

### Heritage

The project can focus on immigration to a state in the United States; students learn about their own heritage and to immigration to the state in general (requires students to ask questions of parents and other members of the community).

#### Research links:

- <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/globaltrek/index.htm>
- <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/index.htm>

The project could be a podcast in which students assume the role of an immigrant traveling to a particular area as their relatives might have done in the past.

### Weather

Students can study about severe weather, weather patterns, weather prediction, and so on.

#### Research links:

- [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)
- [www.fema.gov/kids](http://www.fema.gov/kids)
- [www.nationalgeographic.com/eye/hurricanes/hurrintro.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/eye/hurricanes/hurrintro.html)

The project could be a podcast in which students pretend to be interviewed after surviving a hurricane or tornado or in which they broadcast information about the local weather as if they worked at a radio station.

## Ideas for Podcasting Topics

### The American Revolution, Early Explorers, and Westward Expansion

Students study the American Revolution, the colonies, the early exploration of the United States, or westward expansion.

#### Research links:

- [www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty](http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty)
- [www.earlyamerica.com/series.html](http://www.earlyamerica.com/series.html)
- [www.pbs.org/wnet/colonialhouse](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/colonialhouse)
- [www.nationalgeographic.com/features/97/west/main.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/97/west/main.html)
- [www.pbs.org/lewisandclark](http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark)
- [www.pbs.org/ktca/farmhouses/homesprairie.html](http://www.pbs.org/ktca/farmhouses/homesprairie.html)

The project could be a podcast in which students assume the role of colonists, explorers, or pioneers, and tell about their travels and adventures.

### Plant and Animal Wildlife

Students take pictures with digital cameras of the plant and animal life around their community. The project could be a podcast on protecting their area's wildlife.

### Kindness

Students develop a set of questions to answer about kindness and acts of kindness; students take pictures acting out acts of kindness with digital cameras or with Photo Booth.

The project could be a podcast to share with kindergarteners and first and second graders about kindness.

### Other Ideas

**Art:** There are artists everywhere so meet some local artists and tell their stories using digital images of their work.

**PE:** Fitness, who cares? Create a podcast infomercial about the importance of being fit and how to accomplish your fitness goals.

**Health:** How do we stay healthy? (Include interviews with doctors, nurses, and so on.) Create a public service announcement podcast on nutrition (such as about portion size, calories, fast food vs. healthy meals cooked at home).

### Copyright-Friendly Image Websites for Enhanced Podcasts

Pics4Learning: [www.pics4learning.com](http://www.pics4learning.com)

Calisphere: [www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu)