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Using technology effectively to teach about fractions.

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Summary: In this article, the authors describe classroom use of technology that successfully engaged fourth grade students (typically aged 9–10) in the United States in learning about fractions. The activities involved the use of an interactive simulation designed to support student learning of fractions, and whole-class discussion where students were prompted to reflect on their learning with the simulation. The authors found this discourse-rich environment coupled with simulation use to be motivating to students and supportive of their growing understanding of fraction ideas. Herein they describe the PhET Interactive Simulations Project at the University of Colorado Boulder and its suite of free interactive simulations, or "sims", for teaching mathematics and science and how these simulations can be effectively implemented in the classroom. (ERIC)

Classification: F40 U70
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