VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP:
Harnessing the Power of Cisco TelePresence for Education

Through the power of video collaboration, barriers such as distance, geography, and time are virtually eliminated, and students have a world of opportunity at their fingertips. One way Cisco TelePresence® solutions are enhancing learning is through virtual field trips. Like their predecessors, video field trips enrich the curriculum, but they are also an improvement upon physical field trips in three important ways:

• Enabling opportunities that otherwise would not be possible due to time, distance, and budget constraints. Video virtual field trips provide access to museums, sports venues, and famous landmarks anywhere in the world, rather than limiting trips to nearby locations.

• Avoiding transportation costs while offering rural and underfunded districts equal access to authentic cultural experiences previously out of reach, and freeing discretionary funds for other vital school programs.

• Engaging the current generation of video natives who are stimulated more by interactive video than having a person come in to the classroom.

“Virtual field trips have opened up the world to my students and enhanced my teaching. I’ve learned the value of creating lessons that lead up to the virtual field trip and culminating lessons that follow.”

Tammy Giffis
Evergreen Elementary School, Oregon

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Virtual Real-World Field Trips

Here are just a few examples of how schools are taking advantage of virtual field trips:

Making Connections with Experts
The mission of the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) is to support, advance, and enhance lifelong learning through the use of collaborative technologies and innovation. CILC helps students and teachers connect with subject matter experts on a wide range of topics using video and collaboration as a facilitator. One program connected authors with children by using Cisco TelePresence technology to enable authors, such as Janet Taylor Lisle, Gray D. Schmidt, and Susan Beth Pfeffer, to speak to students in K12 schools, engage in collaborative discussions about books, and inspire students to learn more about writing. Through their efforts, CILC is helping students connect with a wide range of experts to gain a real-world perspective from real people.

Cisco Virtual Field Trip Video Starter Package
Get started today with the Cisco® Virtual Field Trip Video Starter Package. The package includes the necessary server hardware and software for secure communications to external content providers, and one classroom endpoint (optional endpoints to choose from). The package can be expanded to support more simultaneous video field trips from your school or district, and to meet other video conferencing needs. Contact your local Cisco account manager for further details, and expand your school beyond its walls and around world.

Limited Only by Your Imagination
With the proper tools in place, the opportunities for virtual field trips are limited only by your imagination. Students are having conversations with park rangers on Ellis Island while touring the Statue of Liberty, speaking to scientists at NASA about space exploration, and even receiving instruction about the human brain and using the actual specimen—without leaving their classroom. The opportunities are endless. Virtual concerts, such as Bridging the Gap, conducted by the Urban Entertainment Institute, are connecting music students across the country, and the New York Hall of Science has allowed students from around the country to dissect cows’ eyes, learn about the phases of matter, and study the science of sports; all from their classroom. Need more ideas? Check out A Teacher’s Ultimate Destination for Virtual Field Trips in the Education Database Online for a list of virtual field trip destinations.

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For More Information

cisco.com/go/edutelepresence

cisco.com/go/educollabevolution

cisco.com/go/telepresence

Rialto Unified School District
In California, the Rialto Unified School District implemented Cisco TelePresence to empower students to take virtual field trips to museums and interact with guest lecturers from remote locations. Since the integration was finalized, students at Rialto Middle School have used Cisco TelePresence for virtual field trips to NASA and the Great Barrier Reef. During another virtual field trip, students interacted with middle school students from San Diego to learn about Chinese culture.

Pro Football Hall of Fame
A core mission of the Pro Football Hall of Fame is to educate the public on the growth of professional football as an important part of American culture. The Educational Outreach Program integrates the history of professional football with classroom studies. The recent initiative, called the Heart of a Hall of Famers education series, provides students with a firsthand look at how legendary NFL players achieve success on and off the field. Through the use of Cisco TelePresence technology, classrooms around the country have the opportunity to talk face to face with Hall of Fame players, such as Art Monk of the Washington Redskins, to not only learn about the NFL, but also the values and qualities that it takes to be a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.