

LESSON PLAN 63 : GREAT WAYS TO USE MYFAV.ES

Objective: Create a webpage with links to selected websites

Age range: 8-16



WHAT IS MYFAV.ES?

Myfav.es lets you easily create a simple webpage that contains icons that link to your favourite websites. Formerly Fav4, choose from hundreds of popular sites or simply set up your own.

YOU WILL NEED

Computer and Internet connection.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Research, presentation, decision-making, general computer skills, internet navigation.

METHOD

Using the site is really, really easy ...

1. Go to Myfav.es.com
2. Choose from the pre-loaded sites in 'Featured Sites' and 'All Sites'.



These cover the Web's most popular sites, such as search engines, social networking, email, blogging services, and popular Web 2.0 tools. Alternatively, search for sites by name or category. When you find one you want on your page, simply click it and the icon/link is automatically added.

3. If you can't find what you're looking for, you can create your own 'Fave'. Select your icon (the one you think is most appropriate), enter the URL and colour, and hit 'Save'. Again, the link will be automatically added.



4. Click 'My Fav4s' to see the links you've selected to appear on your webpage. You can edit URLs and icon colours, although not the icon itself. To remove, drag to the waste bin at the bottom of the page. Click 'See your page in action' to see do just that.



5. Your choices are now saved and appear under the URL 'myfav.es'. To change it, click 'Site Settings' in

the bottom right-hand corner of the page which will take you to the settings page, where you can make edits.



Claim your custom URL now!

6. Customise the design of your page.

WATCH THE 'INTRO' VIDEO

It's still based on Fav4 (the maker's say there's a new, updated one coming soon), but this video on our site gives a good introduction to what the service is all about. interfaceonline.co.nz



SHOULD YOU SIGN UP?

You can create a page without signing up. However, by choosing to create an account – which you can access with your Facebook, Twitter, Google or Open ID details – you'll get a number of perks, such as your own custom URL.

TWO GREAT WAYS TO USE MYFAV.ES

1. **Make it your homepage** – once you've picked your favourite sites, you can set the page as your homepage. Then you have all your most-used links right at your fingertips. This is how the site suggests you use the service – and it's a good enough reason. However, we think there is another way that this tool can be used in the classroom.
2. **Themed sites** – you can create a webpage with sites that are related in some way, perhaps by theme or topic. They could be links that you want students to use for an assignment, or a group of resources that the class can use when searching for information, or completing a particular project, approved sites for general surfing, local news sites, favourite blogs ... any number of things. But the idea is the same – the page contains the only links students are allowed to use.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Discuss with your class what sites they would choose to go on their homepage – get them to explain how and why they would choose them.
- Give students a topic and ask them to identify websites that would be suitable to use as resources to find out more about it. It could be a class subject, or assignment, or perhaps a recent news item that you want to explore.



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