



## ED-U-BIT #14 Scrapbooking In Today's Classroom

Making scrapbooks has been a recognized “quiet time” activity used with children for many generations. Over the past decade, an abundance of supplies and publications about scrapbooking have appeared. As more adults have become involved in scrapbooking, there has been a resurgence of interest in scrapbooking with children. Scrapbooks are being created by individuals and groups of students as part of assigned projects in more and more classrooms. This ED-U-BIT provides helps for those educators interested in using this time tested activity with their students.

### **Manual Scrapbooking**

Traditional scrapbooks begin as blank books and are used for inserting miscellaneous collected items, stored and preserved. Many of the materials now commercially available for embellishing and making artistic products are targeted for this kind of scrapbooking. (Get some helpful tips on making a hard copy scrapbook from [Teaching Tips: Creating Scrapbooks.](#))

### **Computer Scrapbooking**

Digital scrapbooks are sometimes referred to as “digi scrapping” or “e-scrapbooking”. This is the art of using graphics software to create layouts that display photographs and images of other items (scanned or digital pictures). When printed and bound the paper version of digital books may look much like those traditional books created manually. (Get some helpful tips on making an electronic scrapbook from [Teaching Tips: Creating Scrapbooks](#))

### **Combination Scrapbooking**

Many teachers have students use a hybrid version of scrapbooks, with some pages or materials produced on the computer and some using the old “cut and paste” techniques. The contents of both manual and computer generated scrapbooks may come from the same place. Technologies now available to students are helpful in the gathering and reproduction of items determined appropriate for scrapbook projects. Using a digital camera, a scanner, a photo copier, or images from the web, the student can acquire an amazing assortment of materials to use. Even original items too bulky or valuable to be placed in a scrapbook can be reproduced and digitized, producing print or online images. (Get some helpful tips on the steps for using either approach from [Teaching Tips: Step by Step Process for Scrapbooking Activities](#))

## Why use Scrapbook Projects

Beyond the fact that making scrapbooks is a proven activity which interests young people, teachers have discovered that in creating scrapbook projects students...

- can gain a sense of time perspective and history by collecting and preserving concrete images and materials.
- practice organizational skills by the sorting process required in dealing with the multiple materials used in scrapbooking.
- can use visual images to express similarities and differences in areas where their language skills may not be as developed as their thinking skills.
- get experience in following directions through multi-phase projects which encourage involvement and creativity.
- with different interest and ability levels can work on the same project.

## Scrapbooking Projects across the Curriculum

Educators assign scrapbooks in the different content areas for different purposes.

1. A scrapbook might be used as a simple repository from the research phase of a topic under study. The scrapbook then becomes a presentation format used for sharing student-gathered information.
2. Many are familiar with the kindergarten teacher who has non-readers gather and present pictures from magazines to create their own version of an alphabet book.
3. A high school teacher may have English students tap into the numerous online resources about Shakespearean plays to create a class digital scrapbook about the well-known characters.

This ED-U-BIT describes even more ideas for use of scrapbook activities in different areas of the curriculum. This [list of activities](#) offers suggestions for more than thirty different projects in five subject areas for you to consider using with your students.

Even if you don't want to actually do scrapbooks, some teachers may have their students expand their awareness of these primary source items by examining examples of old scrapbooks which were originally created by famous people. (Note the [Teaching Tips: Exploring Scrapbooks of Famous People](#))

Clearly, scrapbooks are a recognized resource being used in today's classrooms. When used as suggested, the scrapbooking process and products add much to the learning equation.