

# iPad – iPhone – iTouch Apps Smackdown

*"A Review of Educational Science & Social Studies Apps"*



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## Common Core/Connecticut Standards

### Technology Standards:

#### 3. Technology Productivity Tools

- ❖ Students use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity & promote creativity.

#### Pre-K – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Performance Standards

- ✓ Use a variety of media & technology resources for directed & independent learning activities.
- ✓ Work cooperatively and collaboratively with peers, family members, and others when using technology in the classroom.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Performance Standards

- ✓ Independently operate school computers & demonstrate ability to use systems software & special features.
- ✓ Use content-specific tools, software and simulations (e.g., environmental probes, graphic calculators, exploratory environments, Web tools) to support learning and research.

### Science Standards

#### Grades pre-k – 5<sup>th</sup> Content Standards – Scientific Inquiry

- Scientific inquiry is a thoughtful and coordinated attempt to search out, describe, explain and predict natural phenomena.

### Social Studies Standards:

#### Standard 1: Content Knowledge

- Knowledge of concepts, themes and information from history and social studies is necessary to promote understanding of our nation and our world.

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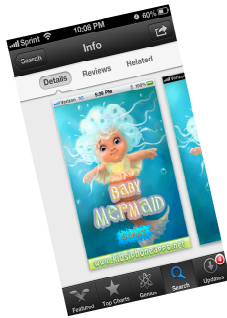
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Moon globe

Science Facts

Weather Maps



## Multiple subjects

Brain quest

Brain pop

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## U.S. State Capitals

By: Michael Quach

Cost: Free

Description: Browse through this cool FREE app and quickly learn the names of the state capitals in the 50 states of America.



### App Features:

- ✓ Save your favorite State Capitals
- ✓ Share your favorite State Capitals via Email
- ✓ SMS your favorite State Capitals
- ✓ Paste your favorite State Capitals into Facebook, Twitter, or Safari via copy/paste function.

Opinion: It wasn't one of my personal favorites. However, it is a great resource for students to use as a quick reference guide to learn the capitals of the U.S. States. The good thing is that you can share and copy your state and share the app.

You can download this App for free by clicking on this link:

<https://itunes.apple.com/app/id348623784?mt=8>

## Flag2Map: Geography Game of Europe

By: Kai Glib

Cost: Free

Description: Flag2Map is fun and addictive app that will drill you in the European map. With this map you will learn the European countries and all about their flags.



Opinion: I like this app and would use it in my classroom with student of all ages. This app promotes global learning in students as they locate European countries on a map and learn about their country's flags. This app can be used for future Flat Classroom Projects in that students can learn about the specific countries located in this app and create relationships with other students/classroom via mail, e-mail, skype, etc. I recommend this app, especially if teaching a unit in world maps, flags or European Countries.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/flag2map-geography-game-europe/id348354564?mt=8>



## History (One Day in History)

By: Eagle Capital LLC

Cost: Free - \$1.99

Description: "If you are interested in history then this program has been made for you. This app gives you an opportunity to know why a specific day is important in world history.



Opinion: I would use this with students in my upper elementary class. I will create a research project/activity in which students will be asked to research a specific date corresponding with the month and day they were born. Students could work independently and/or collaboratively with this app to research specific events that occurred in history on their birthday. I really like that the app gives a link directly to Wikipedia.

<http://appfinder.lisisoft.com/app/history-one-day-in-history.html>

# The Oregon Trail

## Oregon Trail: American Settler

By: Gameloft Games

Cost: Free - \$0.99

Description: **The Oregon Trail** is a classic game. This version allows you to revisit an all time favorite pioneering adventure using the “touch” experience.

**Oregon Trail: American Settler** is a follow up game to the classic Oregon Trail. Now that the settlers have conquered the trail, it is time to tame their frontier while families settle down and build anew home in the Wild West.

### A WILDER EXPERIENCE THAN YOU'VE EVER PLAYED BEFORE

- 8 skill-based mini-games, including 2 accelerometer-based challenges: hunting, fishing, river crossing, rafting, wagon repairing, telegraph, berry picking, and gold panning.
- Random events (disease, bandits, hitchhikers, etc.) faced by real pioneers increases the challenge.
- Side-missions add more excitement to your journey, affecting your westward trek.
- Refreshed with modern, colored graphics in a cartoonish style.

### FEATURES:

- ✓ Create and manage your own frontier town
- ✓ Relive memorable moments from The Oregon Trail!
- ✓ Place hundreds of buildings, livestock and crops
- ✓ Customize your character with various outfits
- ✓ Play hunting or fishing mini-games for resources
- ✓ Go prospectin' to uncover daily rewards
- ✓ Face the dangers of the Wild West: stampedes, hurricanes and more!
- ✓ Visit neighboring villages to gather hearts and use them to grow your village!

So go ahead, start playing for free and join the many other players who're already having fun on the frontier!

Opinion: These two apps are lots of fun and interactive. In my opinion, it is a fun way to engage students in working together, to communicate and make decisions as they lead their families through the Oregon Trail.

The Oregon Trail

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-oregon-trail/id307519882?mt=8>

Oregon Trail: American Settler

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/oregon-trail-american-settler/id460062770?mt=8>

## Pass the Past

By: The Virginia Department of Education

Cost: Free

Description: An educational game to help in preparing teacher candidates for the Virginia's Standard's of Learning Exam (SOL) with a focus on United States and Virginia history, civics, and geography.

Opinion: This app isn't for specific standard/content. It was designed to help teacher candidates in the State of Virginia study for their Standards of Learning Exams. However, I will use this app with students in upper elementary or middle grades if they are learning about the history of specific states. For example, if a group of students were assigned or elected to research the history of the State of Virginia, this would be a great app for students to use. The app can be modified to use in three different levels, easy, normal and hard.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pass-the-past/id392637590?mt=8>



## Stack the Countries

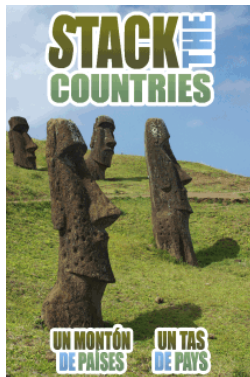
By: Dan Russell-Pinson

Cost: Free - \$1.99 (for the full version)

Description: Stack the Countries™ makes learning about the world fun! Watch the countries actually come to life in this colorful and dynamic game! As you learn country capitals, landmarks, geographic locations and more, you can actually touch, move and drop the animated countries anywhere on the screen. Carefully build a stack of countries that reaches the checkered line to win each level. You earn a random country for every successfully completed level. All of your countries appear on your own personalized maps of the continents.

Have fun Learning About the Countries of World:

- ✓ Capitals
- ✓ Landmarks
- ✓ Major Cities
- ✓ Continents
- ✓ Border Countries
- ✓ Languages
- ✓ Flags
- ✓ Country Shapes



Features:

- ✓ More than 1000 unique questions
- ✓ Track progress on personalized maps
- ✓ Play in three different languages (English, Spanish and French)
- ✓ Create up to six player profiles

Opinion: This is one of my favorite apps for students to learn Geography. With this app they not only learn about specific countries located in each Continent but also about specific facts and landmarks of such countries. Students challenge themselves in learning and answering questions correctly to reach their goal line as they stack the countries. I love that the app offers three different languages and allows for six different profiles to be stored. This is another app that I would use in a Flat Classroom. For example, as students earn a country by playing this game, they can engage in further research to learn more about that specific country. They can research traditions, school, etc. and then blog about their thoughts and feelings.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/stack-the-countries/id407838198?mt=8>

## Stack the States

By: Dan Russell-Pinson

Cost: Free - \$0.99 (for the full version)

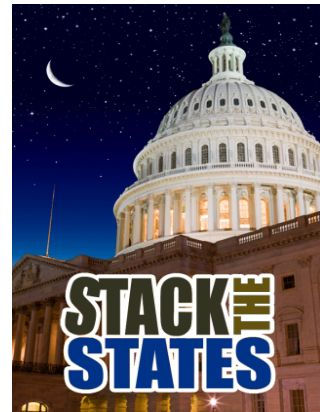
Description: Stack the States™ makes learning about the 50 states fun! Watch the states actually come to life in this colorful and dynamic game! As you learn state capitals, shapes, geographic locations, flags and more, you can actually touch, move and drop the animated states anywhere on the screen. Carefully build a stack of states that reaches the checkered line to win each level. You earn a random state for every successfully completed level. All of your states appear on your own personalized map of the United States

### Have fun Learning About the Countries of World:

- ✓ Capitals
- ✓ State Shapes
- ✓ Bordering States
- ✓ Nicknames, Flags, Abbreviations

### Features:

- ✓ Interactive Map
- ✓ Create up to 6 player profiles,
- ✓ Track your progress on personalized map.



Opinion: Just like Stack the Countries, Stack the States is a personal favorite; a wonderful app to teach students all about the 50 states, their shapes and where on the U.S. Map they are located. This app can be used together with the Stack the Countries App. as students engage in an interactive way and learn about the 50 U.S. States they can then move along and learn all about the different Countries. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/stack-the-states/id381342267?mt=8>

## THUD! Presidents

By: Ball & Sprocket, LLC

Cost: Free - \$2.99 (for the full version)

Description: This app is the first in a series of games that combines quizzes and puzzles in a test of brains and balance. To win a THUD! Students will have to answer questions about presidents with each level being challenging and tricky as they must balance and stack their answers before it all comes crashing down.

Opinion: This is another great app that allows students an opportunity to learn all about the presidents of the United States in a fun and engaging manner. THUD! Challenged students to think critically on their next move to ensure that they get their stacks of answers without the stacks coming down. I recommend this app.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/thud!-presidents/id560671241?mt=8>

## World Clock

By: Time and Date.Com  
Cost: Free - \$2.99 (for the full version)  
Description: The World Clock-Time Zones app can help you organize your favorite cities onto one page so that you can easily find out the correct local time, as well as get the most relevant time zone information about the city.

Opinion: This is another simple yet very accurate app that I would definitely use in my classroom. This app allows for students to view and learn the time zones in different cities from around the world. It is another app that I would use in coordination with a Flat Classroom project so students could compare the different time zones from different countries they may be participating in a Flat Classroom with. This app is very reliable and works in conjunction with <http://timeanddate.com/>.

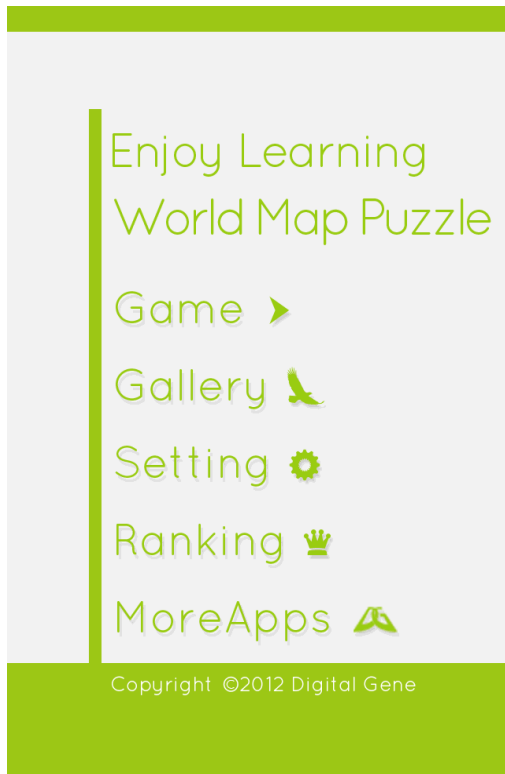
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/world-clock-time-zones/id403693694?mt=8>

## World Puzzle

By: Artishok Interactive

Cost: Free

Description: World Puzzle is a fun and educational way to learn where the continents and countries are located in a map.



Opinion: An interactive map in which students fill in the missing pieces of the map with the countries/continents provided. Students will navigate through the map until they locate where each continent/country belongs. Another great app that could be used in geography lessons.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/worldpuzzelite/id423653970?mt=8>



## BuildABird

By: Iridescent

Cost: Free

Description: The Build A Bird app aims to inspire users to be curious about the world. Specifically, the app will help users gain an appreciation for how birds have adapted their beaks, wing shapes and sizes, flapping frequencies, body size and feet to survive and thrive in specific environments.

Opinion: This is a wonderful science app. I would use it for younger and older students as they explore and learn about the many different types of birds, habitats, the body, beak, tail and wings. What I like most about this app is that prior to students building their bird, they can select the "learn" option, then select a type of bird which will lead to a very brief video on the bird. Students can then create their bird by selecting a bird and then navigation through the different icons in the app in selecting the birds habitat, body, beak, tail and wings. Students can challenge themselves or use the "hint" option.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/build-a-bird/id448759126?mt=8>

## Earth School

By: Yateland

Cost: Free - \$0.99

Description: How did the universe begin? How was life born on earth? Where did water on earth come from? Welcome to earth school, Earth School is an educational kids apps containing 18 different mini games. It will show the big bang to earth generation, from life beginning to dinosaur extinction.

Opinion: This app was designed for children between the ages of 2 and 6. It is an excellent app to expose younger children to environmental sciences and arouse their curiosity as they explore science topics such as the big bang, black hole, planet generation, birth of the Galaxy, evolution of species, Saturn's ring and fossil hunting.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/earth-school-hd/id525308500?mt=8>

## Human Body

By: Yateland

Cost: Free

Description: Best Human Body Facts! This cool app gives you tons of fun, odd, weird and awesomely interesting human body facts. Learn the many wonderful functions and intricate organs of the human body. Share these fun and useful tidbits of human anatomy knowledge and trivia with your friends.

Opinion: This app serves as a great way for students to research, analyze and learn quick facts on the Human Body. What I like about this app is that students can save their favorite human body fact, they can also share the app and e-mail/share the fact.

<https://itunes.apple.com/app/id427485285?mt=8>

## Baby Mermaid and Friends

By: Pavel Mamaev

Cost: Free

Description: Meet Rinka, a baby mermaid, who lives in the fountain at the main square of Elfishtown. Everyday, city dwellers and tourists from all over the magical world come to watch her perform. For her next show, Rinka decided to find co-stars and announced a talent competition for sea creatures. Four hilarious performers from the four corners of the Sparkling Sea came: a starfish, a cuttlefish, a spiky fugu fish and a sea horse.

Opinion: This app was one of my least favorite ones. However, very young children (ages 3 -5) will find this app interesting as they explore the creatures of the sea.

## Moon Globe

By: Midnight Martian

Cost: Free

Description: Moon Globe turns your iPhone, iPod Touch or iPad into a precision instrument for viewing Earth's Moon. Satellite imagery and topographic laser altimeter data are combined to render the Moon with realistic lighting in realtime 3D. Use the multi touch screen to manipulate the view.



Opinion: I really like this app. I would have students use this app when studying/learning about astronomy. I would also recommend this app for students learning about the phases of the moon or even when keeping a moon journal. Students can research additional information and recommended apps at <http://midnightmartian.com/>. This app has different features that allows the user to spin above the surface, or switch to see the moon as it appears on Earth by switching to the telescope mode. You can also adjust the display time and watch the sunlight shift over the lunar landscape. Moon Globe also shows you where the Moon and Sun are in the sky with its dynamic sky compass.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/moon-globe/id333180321?mt=8>



## Science Facts

By: Michael Quach

Cost: Free

Description: This cool FREE app gives tons of quick and concise snippets of fun and educational science facts. Learn some weird, fun, odd, interesting and mind-boggling facts on animals, humans, plants, space, nature, astronomy, mathematics, chemistry, biology, physics, technology, and more...

Opinion: This is another simple yet very informative app created by Michael Quach, who also created the Human Body App. This app is designed to provide quick and fun facts about science. It could be use as a great resource. You can e-mail or copy specific science facts.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/best-science-facts/id427430527?mt=8>

## Weather Maps

By: Daniel Tull

Cost: Free

Description: Full weather forecast maps for up to five days. Know whether you'll need your coat, umbrella or your favorite shorts.

Opinion: A simple app that provides weather for all of the Continent with the exception of Antarctica.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/weather-maps/id309229631?mt=8>

## Brain Quest

By: Workman Publishing Company, Inc.

Cost: Free

Description: With Casey, Jake, and Gizmo by their sides, kids can sail through the wisdom islands, trek through a snowy mountain pass, or launch into a space voyage—all while honing their skills in math, science, language, and history. Featuring fun and challenging curriculum-based questions, immersive graphics and soundscapes, and a trio of friendly companions, it's the app that turns learning into a game.

Opinion: One of my favorite apps to explore as it is designed for students in Grades 1 – 5<sup>th</sup> to explore multiple subjects such as Science, Social Studies, Language Arts and Math. Students can select their grade level but if they want a challenge they can go ahead and select a higher-grade level. I would definitely use this app in my classroom in many different ways. The content in this app reflects national and state curriculum standards.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/brain-quest/id515332138?mt=8>

## Brain Pop

By: BrainPOP

Cost: Free

Description: Learn something new every day! Bring learning to your fingertips™ with the BrainPOP Featured Movie app for the iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch. Watch a different animated movie every day, then test your new knowledge with an interactive quiz – free!

Opinion: Another one of my favorite apps. I love that this app gives a “Movie of the Week,” for students to play and watch. The movie of the week is on a specific subject (as the example above shows, the movie of the week is based on the subject of MARS). Students then answer questions based on the topic/subject and featured movie. They take quizzes and track their scores. This app is very visual and allows for students to engage in learning through the various multiple intelligences.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/brainpop-featured-movie/id364894352?mt=8>

## Brain Pop Jr.

By: BrainPOP

Cost: Free

Description: Brain Pop Jr. is an app that is deal for kids in K – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The BrainPOP Jr. Movie of the Week app spans subjects within Science, Social Studies, Reading, Writing, Math, Health, Arts and Technology. The gentle, humorous, and relatable characters Annie and Moby serve as guides through each topic, empowering kids to form their own ideas.

Opinion: Another one of my favorite apps, if not by far, my actual favorite. This is a great app for kids between the ages of 5 – 9 and higher. The content in this app enhances student's critical thinking as well as encourages them to make connections and ask further questions. I would use this app in my class as it contains multiple subjects that are sure to engage students. The Clip or Movie of the week sure is an added bonus to this great app.

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/brainpop-jr.-movie-of-the-week/id56371867?mt=8>



## References

iTunes/Apple/App Store