

## **Creating Virtual Tours**

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### **Introduction**

During this session, you will discover how to implement a virtual tour into your curriculum. This project was designed for senior elementary majors enrolled in Social Studies Methods for Elementary Teachers, who will be teaching in grades K-6. This project could easily be utilized in K-Higher Education settings. Some questions we will address are:

- What are virtual tours?
- Why use virtual tours?
- How can virtual tours be utilized in an educational setting?
- How an educational virtual tour is designed?
- How to evaluate existing virtual tour sites for validity, credibility, and accuracy?

This project helped each individual student to further develop content and pedagogical skills using the Indiana Standards and various technology tools to create a virtual tour as a means of bringing a destination in Indiana, the United States, or the World into the classroom. Like a “real” field trip, a virtual tour can be either a meaningful learning experience that helps students acquire content and master important processes or an excursion with little educational values. A discussion will occur that relates the positives and negatives of such an endeavor. Virtual tours are becoming a valuable asset to the classroom teacher, due to funding issues, transportation, and other limitations places on taking actual field trips outside the school environment. Virtual tours provide flexibility in design in aligning curriculum to the national/state standards. These elements will be further discussed during our session, along with discussion of our assignment with examples of students’ work. In utilizing virtual tours there are unending possibilities of places a classroom can visit around the world!

## *2008 ASCUE Proceedings*

You will have access to the materials, tools, tutorials and resources to create your own virtual tour, in addition to having concrete examples via our web pages:

[http://www.franklincollege.edu/pwp/vmast/Virtual\\_Tour/01\\_Index\\_Virtual\\_Tour.html](http://www.franklincollege.edu/pwp/vmast/Virtual_Tour/01_Index_Virtual_Tour.html)