Creating WebQuests

Technologically, creating a WebQuest can be very simple. As long as you can create a document with hyperlinks, you can create a WebQuest. That means that a WebQuest can be created in Word, Powerpoint, and even Excel! If you're going to call it a WebQuest, though, be sure that it has all the critical attributes.

A real WebQuest....

- is wrapped around a doable and interesting task that is ideally a scaled down version of things that adults do as citizens or workers.
- requires higher level thinking, not simply summarizing. This includes synthesis, analysis, problem-solving, creativity and judgment.
- makes good use of the web. A WebQuest that isn't based on real resources from the web is probably just a traditional lesson in disguise. (Of course, books and other media can be used within a WebQuest, but if the web isn't at the heart of the lesson, it's not a WebQuest.)
- isn't a research report or a step-by-step science or math procedure. Having learners simply distilling web sites and making a presentation about them isn't enough.
- isn't just a series of web-based experiences. Having learners go look at this page, then go play this game, then go here and turn your name into hieroglyphs doesn't require higher level thinking skills and so, by definition, isn't a WebQuest.

QuestGarden

To make it easier to create great WebQuests without having to master a web editor, QuestGarden was created by Bernie Dodge. QuestGarden provides step-by-step direction and examples. Supporting documents in Inspiration, Word, PowerPoint, etc can be attached to your WebQuest. Hosting is provided, and you can also download a zipped archive of your lesson and move it to another server. Subscribers can also start with an existing WebQuest created by one of QuestGarden's 52000 members and modify it easily to meet their needs. You can find more information here and enter the site here. Cost: $20 for 2-year subscription. 30-day free trial.

Sample WebQuests created with QuestGarden:

- Dinosaurs Before Dark
- Museum of Mesopotamia
- Gimme Shelter: Homeless in America
- I Want YOU for the U. S. Army

Other Online Authoring Systems

Site	Description
Filamentality	Filamentality is a fill-in-the-blank tool that guides you through picking a topic, searching the Internet, gathering good Internet links, and turning them into online learning activities. Support is built-in along the way through Mentality Tips. In the end, you'll create a web-based activity you can share with others even if you don't know anything about HTML or serving web pages. Cost: Free. Sample Product: Italian Unification
zWebQuest	zWebQuest (formerly called InstantWebquest) is a web based software for creating WebQuests in a short time. Cost: $0. Sample product: The Fantastic Four and World War III
PHPWebQuest	PHP Webquest is a Webquest Generator that allows teachers to create webquests without the need of writing any HTML code or using web page editors. The program supports images uploading, and resizes images is neccesary. A HTML editor is provided in order to format the texts for the pages. Cost: Free. Must be installed on your own server. Sample project: La Catedral de Madrid
	Online tool for creating simple WebQuests, especially appropriate for younger elementary students. Cost: $27/year. Sample product: Colonial America
TeacherWeb	

www.Zulan.com

one of the easiest sites to create webquests—also lots of templates to use