Technology Resources
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It is often difficult, with today's technology, to find resources that will enhance our teaching. I have found a few that work for me in conjunction with my Activboard; these resources would also work with just a computer and a projector.

1. The first site is one that I mentioned in my first article on Activboards. Promethean Planet (www.prometheanplanet.com) is a teacher-driven site that was developed to go hand in hand with an Activboard. The site has seven distinct categories ranging from a members section to resources to professional development. There are areas for all classes K-12 and for all of the subject areas. In a 14 month time period, the site had over 4 000 000 uploads contributed by teachers from all over the world. It was from the Planet's website that I came across the next site that I believe can be useful.

2. LJ Create (www.ljcreate.com) is a site that is "... dedicated to creating practical and innovative teaching solutions ... to inspire today's learners." The most useful area, I've found, is science from elementary to high school. Many interactive applications and simulations can be downloaded for biological, chemical and physical science as well as a virtual eye, microscope, and electrical circuits. Although the different applications must be purchased, the LJ Create site is still worth it.

3. "BrainPOP (www.brainpop.com) is a pioneering developer of curriculum-based content that motivates and inspires children to learn and explore more. Hosted by an expressive orange robot named Moby and his teen companion Tim, BrainPOP movies cover an array of topics including Science, Humanities, English, Arts, PHSE and Citizenship, Design & Technology and Maths. BrainPOP's newly launched UK site offers hundreds of animated movies on many subjects, all building on a child's natural curiosity, helping them achieve greater proficiency in a range of academic areas."[1] With each animated movie are activities, quizzes, FYI's and more. Give the site a try and see how you like it,

4. Topmarks (www.topmarks.co.uk/) is another site that has a multitude of different topics that can be used on interactive white boards. There are both whiteboard resources and games that encourage learning. Included is a section on religious studies which I have not really found on other sites. It includes different religions and some of the facts about them that could be useful in RS classes. Probably the best part of this site is that it is free.

5. My last review is for the ExploreLearning website (www.explorelearning.com). I had the privilege to attend a professional development day last year to learn just what a gizmo was and how I could use it in my classroom. These interactive simulations are some of the best that I have seen and are all inclusive in the way that they work. Most Gizmos include a teachers' section, student exploration guide and assessment questions. Within the Gizmo itself there can be a number of items such as sliders, points to be moved, and ways to limit or expand the information that is shown. What I love is that these simulations can be used with

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[1] http://www.prometheanplanet.com/server.php?show=nav.3482

an Activboard or on individual student computers and that they usually have a quiz at the end that can be used for marks.

It is often hard to find new ways to present old information to students. Instead of trying to always create something from scratch, try looking around the net. As we become more familiar with searching for particular items, we find that it eventually becomes easier.