

Updated
Periodically!

40+

Interactive
Websites for
Virtual Field
Trips & Tours

Now with some
AR/VR links!



Would you like a digital copy of this list? You can download it, remix it, copy and paste it, share it in Google Classroom, whatever you need.

Find it in my public Google Docs folder here:

<https://goo.gl/pagVcC>



Thank you for downloading this FREEBIE! If you need creative geography projects and activities, please consider my store for five-star resources.



You will find the following popular resources there:

[50 States & Capital Cities - Worksheets for upper elementary classes](#) - These worksheets are good tools for teaching students about the fifty states and their capital cities. In this packet, you will find eight worksheets and visual aids.

[100 Social Studies Research Questions for upper elementary and middle grades](#) - Consider purchasing this bundle of four 25-question assignments that you can use as a set of daily activities, a set of bell ringer assignments, or as a single research assignment. There are 100 questions to use in your classroom. All answers are included.

[The Aquarium Map Scale Project](#) - In this project, students will design a walk-through aquarium full of exhibits containing their favorite marine mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and more!

[The Create-a-Country Project](#) - Both parts of this assignment require students to think critically to earn full credit. The first part of the assignment requires them to define their country's unique characteristics. The second part is a map-making assignment in which they take the displayable characteristics from part one and illustrate them on a blank piece of paper. This can be a very powerful and engaging project!

[Pirate Pete's Treasure Map Project](#) - This map project is a fun, quirky way to allow students to demonstrate cartography and map reading skills. Let "Pirate Pete" guide your students through a culminating project about fundamental map skills: absolute location, the compass rose, the map key (or legend), and map symbols.

[The World Cultures Theme Park Map Project](#) - This is a five-page packet that provides detailed instructions for the world cultures theme park project. In this project, students will apply information they know about world cultures and then create a theme park reflecting those cultures in a unique, fun way.



Virtual tours and field trips provide students with opportunities they may not get to experience otherwise.

Where else can you “take a trip” to see Sistine Chapel, the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, or the African grasslands — all in one day?

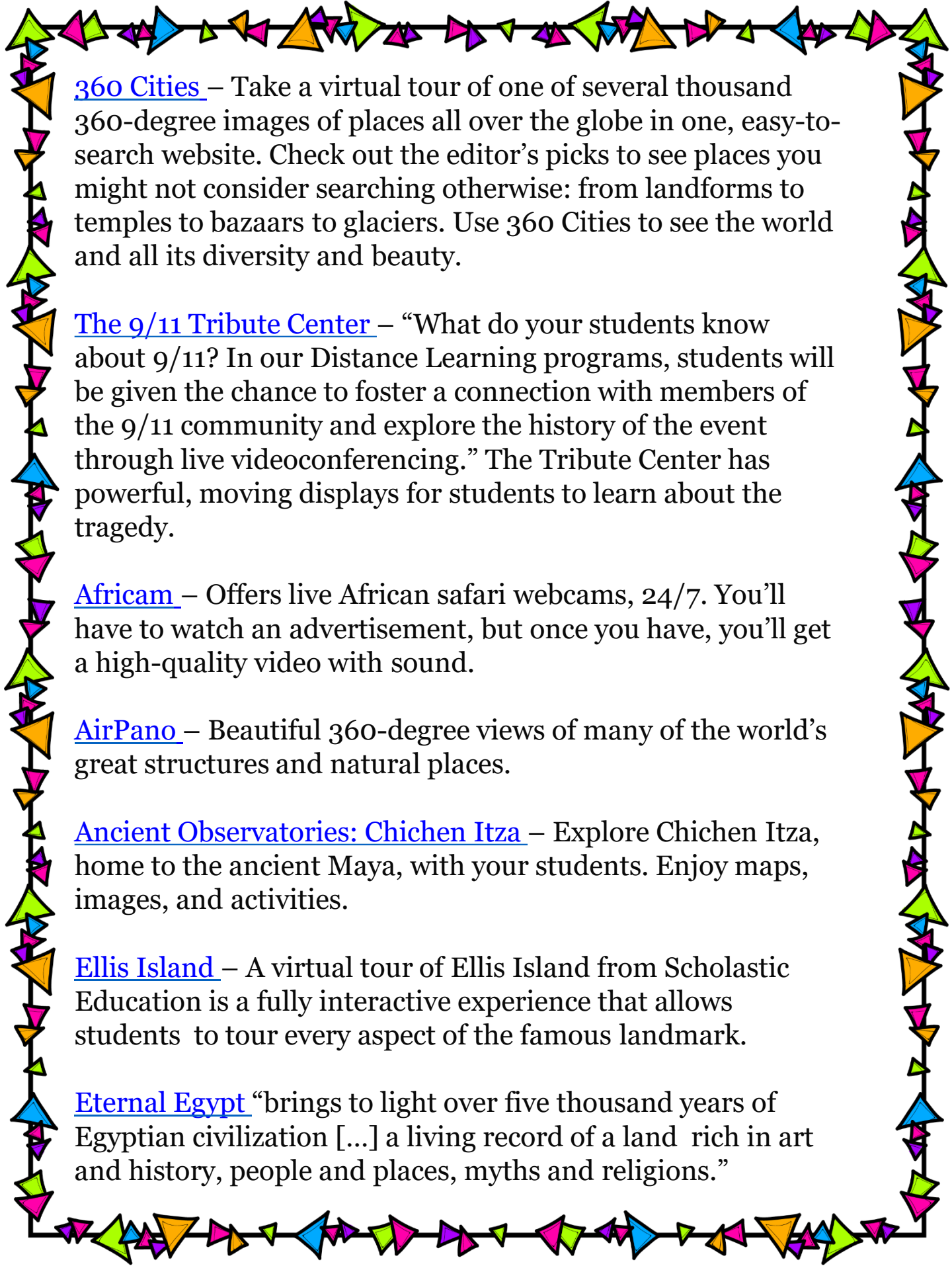
These tools may also challenge students to think critically about the places they visit. For example, a virtual trip to Pompeii requires students to consider the quality of life in an ancient city. A trip to the Roman Colosseum will allow them to appreciate and question the empire’s design decisions.

Simply, virtual tours and field trips can spark your students’ interest and motivate their learning in a specific content area.

The following websites are worth considering for these interactive experiences. Some are built as all-inclusive virtual tours with text and audio; others provide only imagery which can be adapted to fit the needs of a lesson. Some sites, if you have a Polycom system or something similar, can beam the live experience right into your classroom with a live guide!

A word of advice before you proceed: web links can break, websites will “time out,” and the digital world changes quickly. I try to update these links periodically. Please let me know if you find a broken link or outdated resource.

Thanks! Enjoy!



[360 Cities](#) – Take a virtual tour of one of several thousand 360-degree images of places all over the globe in one, easy-to-search website. Check out the editor’s picks to see places you might not consider searching otherwise: from landforms to temples to bazaars to glaciers. Use 360 Cities to see the world and all its diversity and beauty.

[The 9/11 Tribute Center](#) – “What do your students know about 9/11? In our Distance Learning programs, students will be given the chance to foster a connection with members of the 9/11 community and explore the history of the event through live videoconferencing.” The Tribute Center has powerful, moving displays for students to learn about the tragedy.

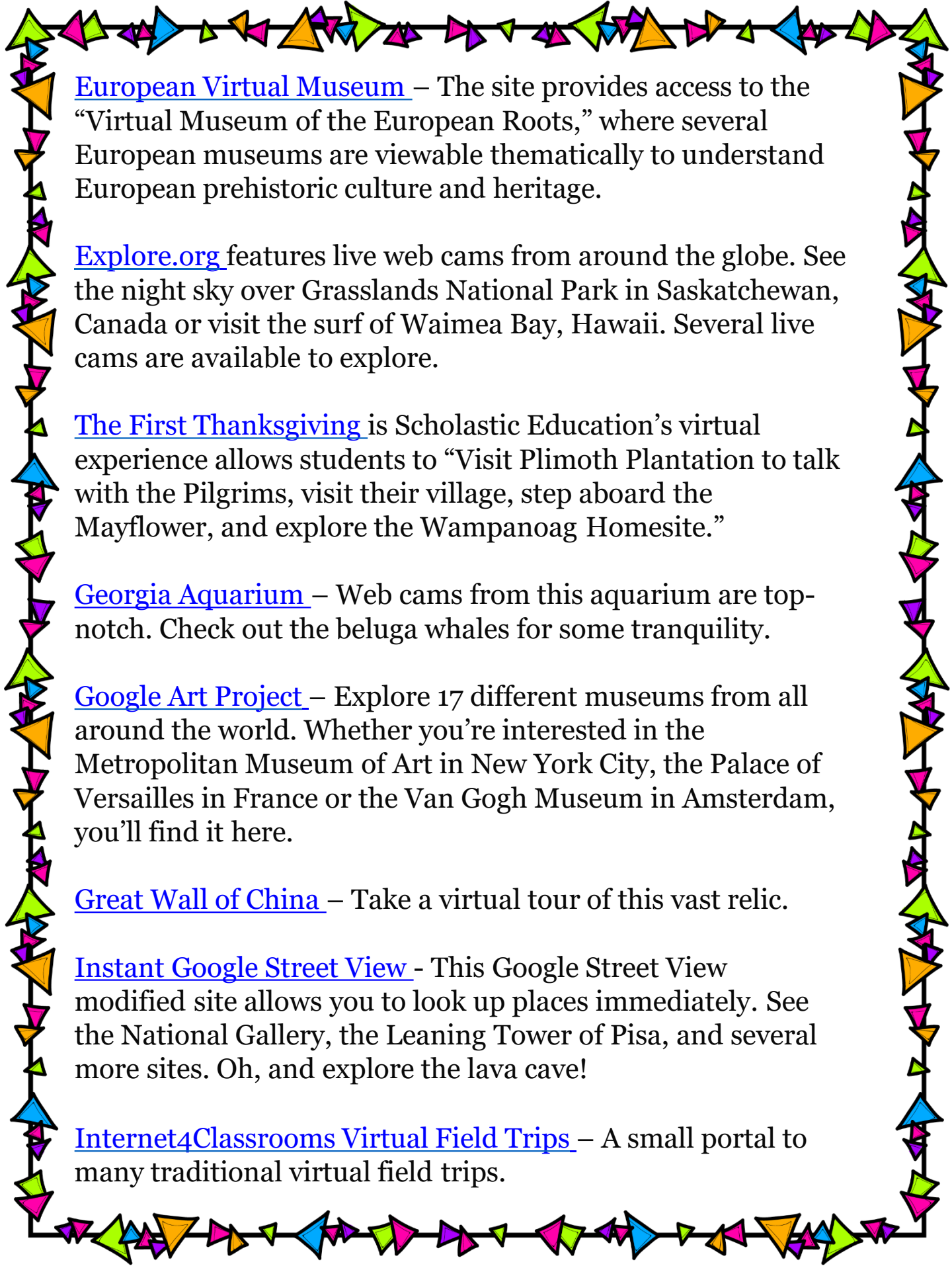
[Africam](#) – Offers live African safari webcams, 24/7. You’ll have to watch an advertisement, but once you have, you’ll get a high-quality video with sound.

[AirPano](#) – Beautiful 360-degree views of many of the world’s great structures and natural places.

[Ancient Observatories: Chichen Itza](#) – Explore Chichen Itza, home to the ancient Maya, with your students. Enjoy maps, images, and activities.

[Ellis Island](#) – A virtual tour of Ellis Island from Scholastic Education is a fully interactive experience that allows students to tour every aspect of the famous landmark.

[Eternal Egypt](#) “brings to light over five thousand years of Egyptian civilization [...] a living record of a land rich in art and history, people and places, myths and religions.”



[European Virtual Museum](#) – The site provides access to the “Virtual Museum of the European Roots,” where several European museums are viewable thematically to understand European prehistoric culture and heritage.

[Explore.org](#) features live web cams from around the globe. See the night sky over Grasslands National Park in Saskatchewan, Canada or visit the surf of Waimea Bay, Hawaii. Several live cams are available to explore.

[The First Thanksgiving](#) is Scholastic Education’s virtual experience allows students to “Visit Plimoth Plantation to talk with the Pilgrims, visit their village, step aboard the Mayflower, and explore the Wampanoag Homesite.”

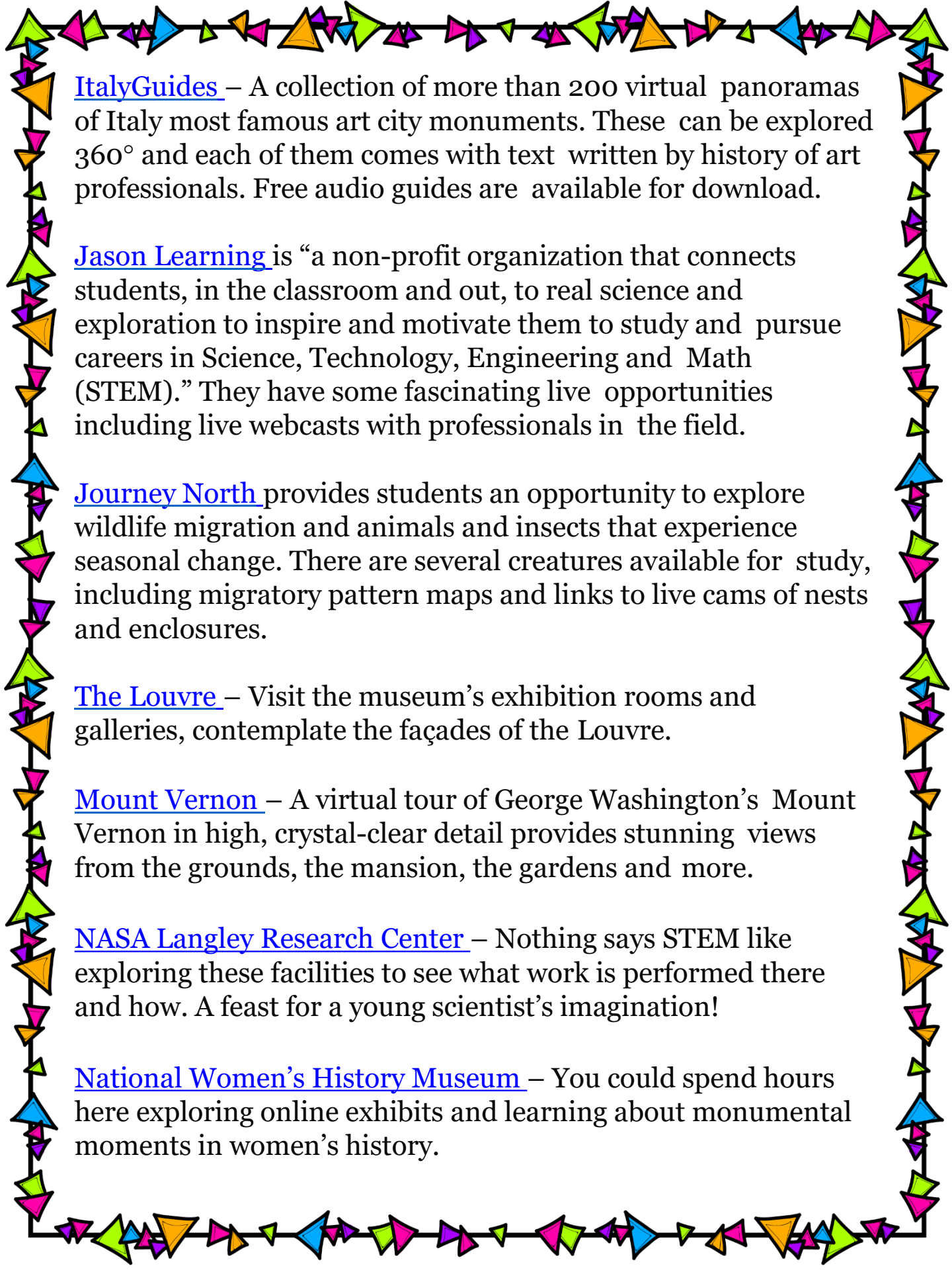
[Georgia Aquarium](#) – Web cams from this aquarium are top-notch. Check out the beluga whales for some tranquility.

[Google Art Project](#) – Explore 17 different museums from all around the world. Whether you’re interested in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Palace of Versailles in France or the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, you’ll find it here.

[Great Wall of China](#) – Take a virtual tour of this vast relic.

[Instant Google Street View](#) - This Google Street View modified site allows you to look up places immediately. See the National Gallery, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and several more sites. Oh, and explore the lava cave!

[Internet4Classrooms Virtual Field Trips](#) – A small portal to many traditional virtual field trips.



[ItalyGuides](#) – A collection of more than 200 virtual panoramas of Italy most famous art city monuments. These can be explored 360° and each of them comes with text written by history of art professionals. Free audio guides are available for download.

[Jason Learning](#) is “a non-profit organization that connects students, in the classroom and out, to real science and exploration to inspire and motivate them to study and pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).” They have some fascinating live opportunities including live webcasts with professionals in the field.

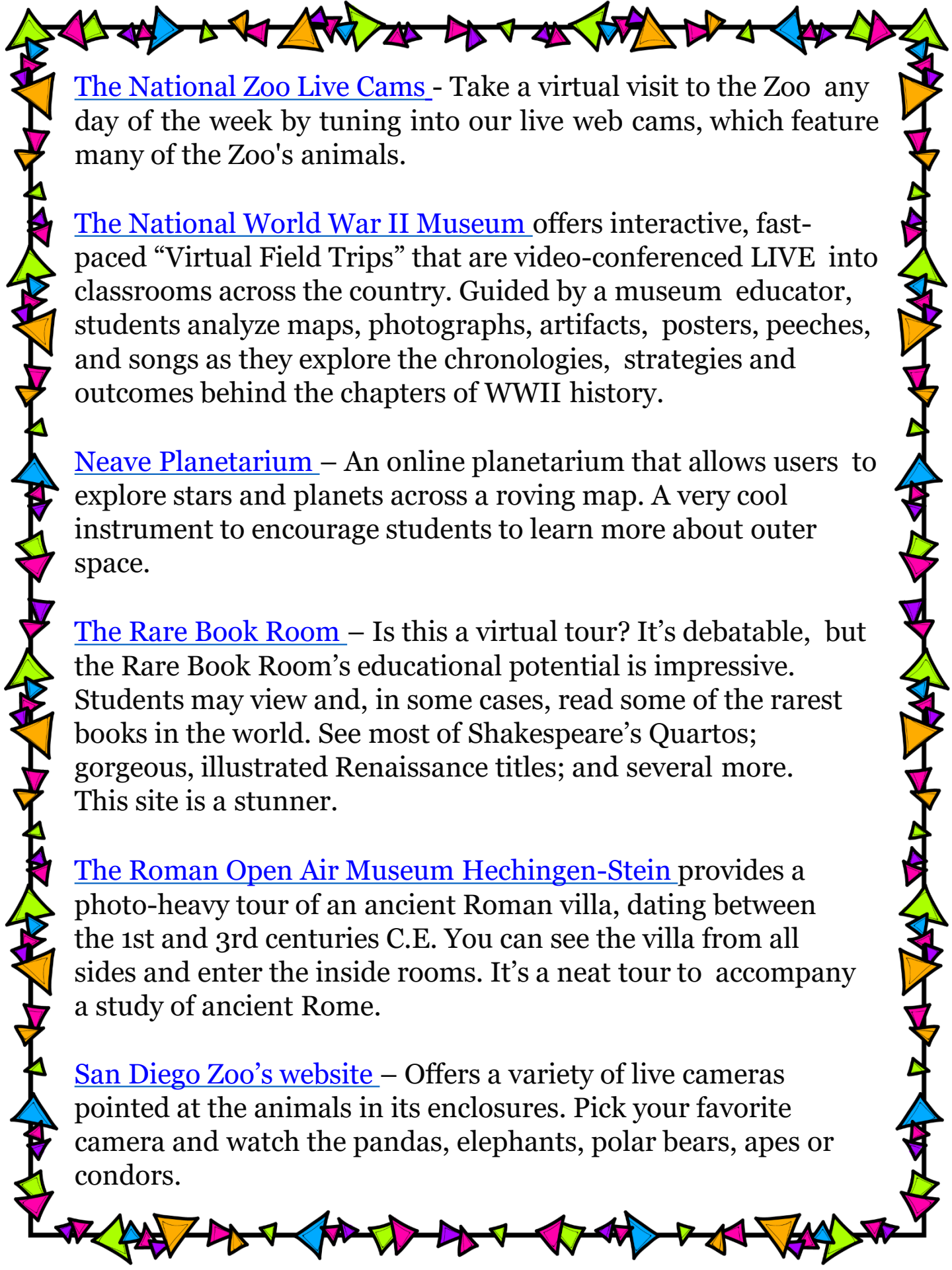
[Journey North](#) provides students an opportunity to explore wildlife migration and animals and insects that experience seasonal change. There are several creatures available for study, including migratory pattern maps and links to live cams of nests and enclosures.

[The Louvre](#) – Visit the museum’s exhibition rooms and galleries, contemplate the façades of the Louvre.

[Mount Vernon](#) – A virtual tour of George Washington’s Mount Vernon in high, crystal-clear detail provides stunning views from the grounds, the mansion, the gardens and more.

[NASA Langley Research Center](#) – Nothing says STEM like exploring these facilities to see what work is performed there and how. A feast for a young scientist’s imagination!

[National Women’s History Museum](#) – You could spend hours here exploring online exhibits and learning about monumental moments in women’s history.



[The National Zoo Live Cams](#) - Take a virtual visit to the Zoo any day of the week by tuning into our live web cams, which feature many of the Zoo's animals.

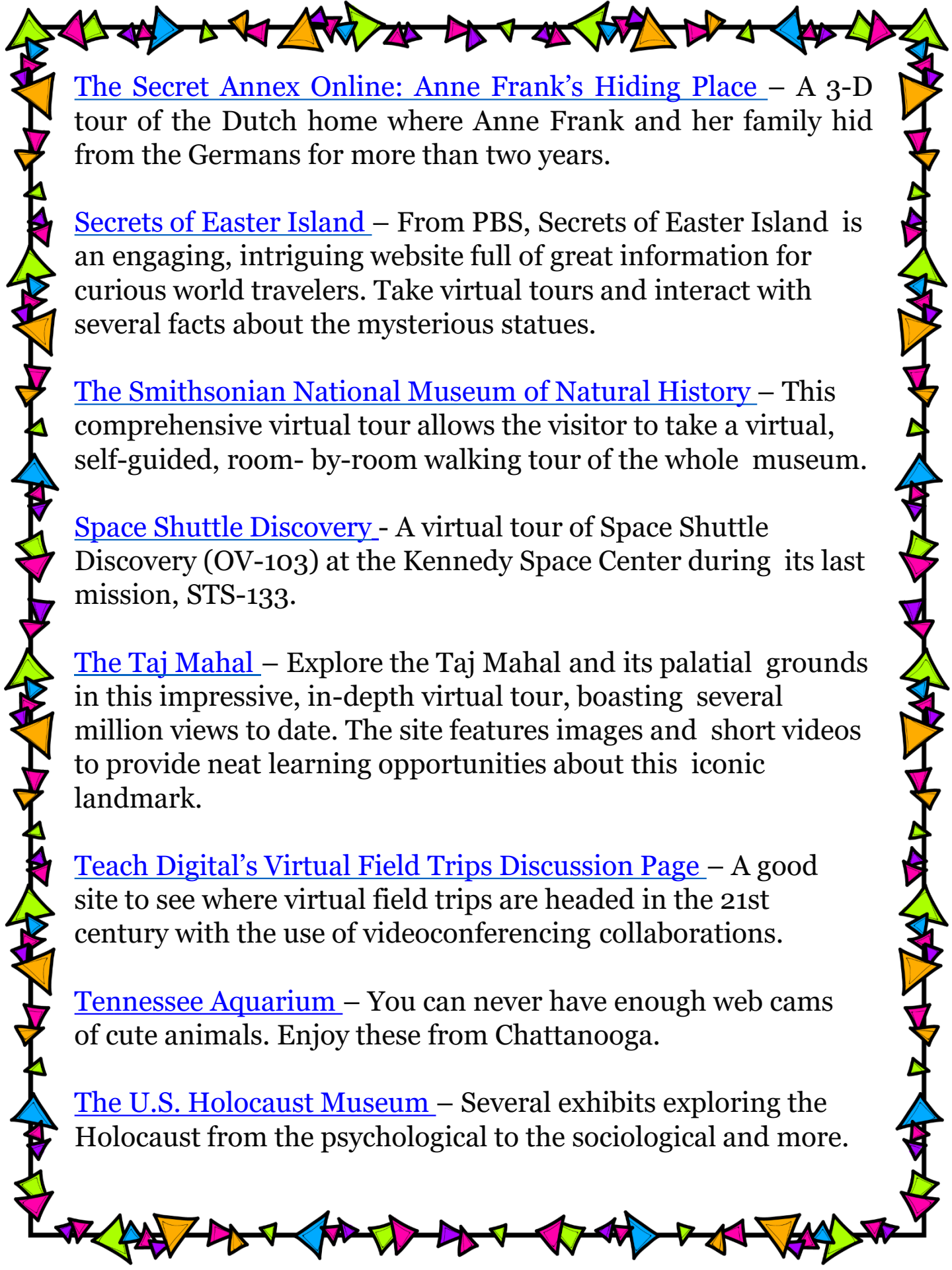
[The National World War II Museum](#) offers interactive, fast-paced “Virtual Field Trips” that are video-conferenced LIVE into classrooms across the country. Guided by a museum educator, students analyze maps, photographs, artifacts, posters, speeches, and songs as they explore the chronologies, strategies and outcomes behind the chapters of WWII history.

[Neave Planetarium](#) – An online planetarium that allows users to explore stars and planets across a roving map. A very cool instrument to encourage students to learn more about outer space.

[The Rare Book Room](#) – Is this a virtual tour? It’s debatable, but the Rare Book Room’s educational potential is impressive. Students may view and, in some cases, read some of the rarest books in the world. See most of Shakespeare’s Quartos; gorgeous, illustrated Renaissance titles; and several more. This site is a stunner.

[The Roman Open Air Museum Hechingen-Stein](#) provides a photo-heavy tour of an ancient Roman villa, dating between the 1st and 3rd centuries C.E. You can see the villa from all sides and enter the inside rooms. It’s a neat tour to accompany a study of ancient Rome.

[San Diego Zoo’s website](#) – Offers a variety of live cameras pointed at the animals in its enclosures. Pick your favorite camera and watch the pandas, elephants, polar bears, apes or condors.



[The Secret Annex Online: Anne Frank's Hiding Place](#) – A 3-D tour of the Dutch home where Anne Frank and her family hid from the Germans for more than two years.

[Secrets of Easter Island](#) – From PBS, Secrets of Easter Island is an engaging, intriguing website full of great information for curious world travelers. Take virtual tours and interact with several facts about the mysterious statues.

[The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History](#) – This comprehensive virtual tour allows the visitor to take a virtual, self-guided, room- by-room walking tour of the whole museum.

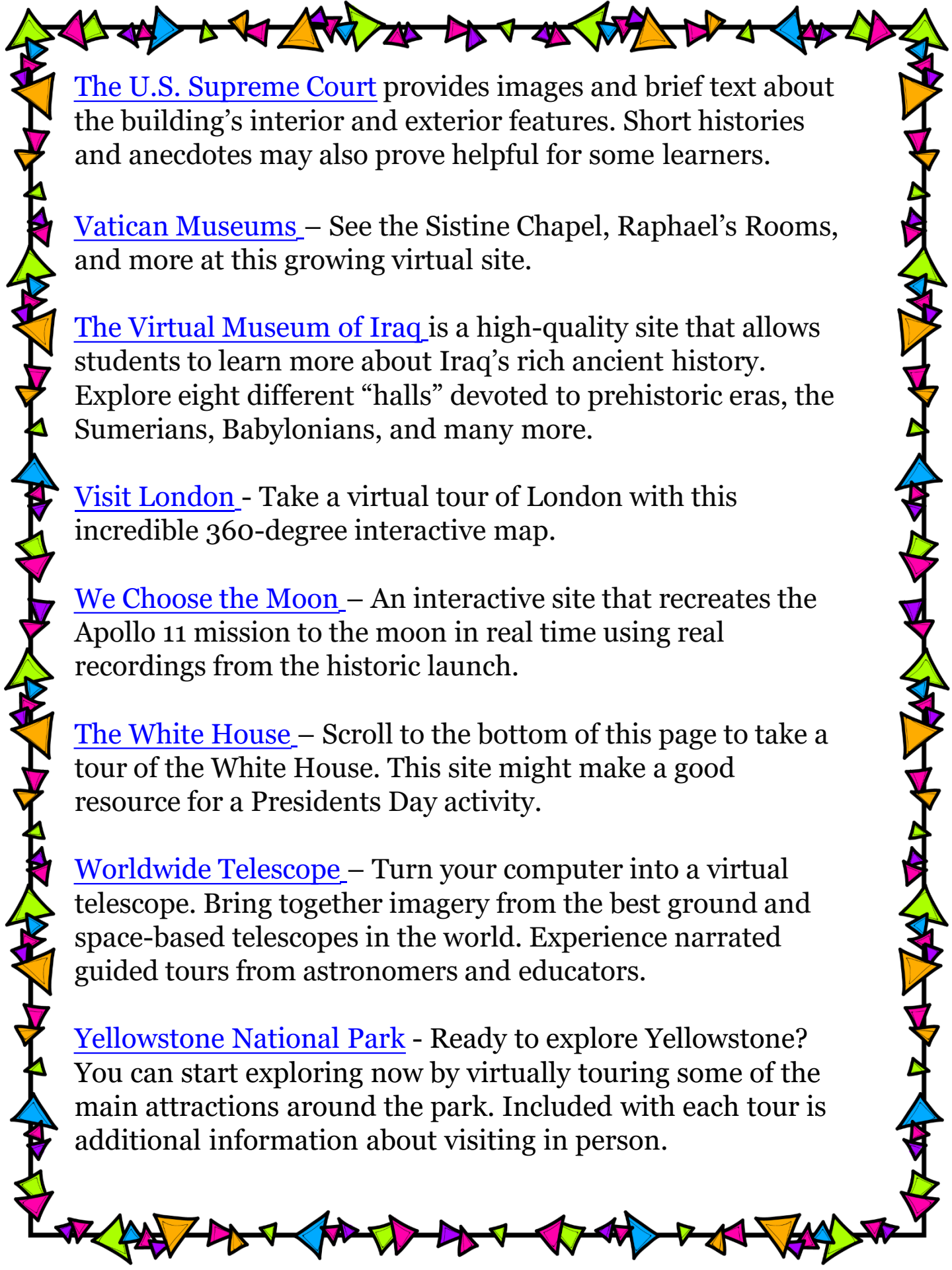
[Space Shuttle Discovery](#) - A virtual tour of Space Shuttle Discovery (OV-103) at the Kennedy Space Center during its last mission, STS-133.

[The Taj Mahal](#) – Explore the Taj Mahal and its palatial grounds in this impressive, in-depth virtual tour, boasting several million views to date. The site features images and short videos to provide neat learning opportunities about this iconic landmark.

[Teach Digital's Virtual Field Trips Discussion Page](#) – A good site to see where virtual field trips are headed in the 21st century with the use of videoconferencing collaborations.

[Tennessee Aquarium](#) – You can never have enough web cams of cute animals. Enjoy these from Chattanooga.

[The U.S. Holocaust Museum](#) – Several exhibits exploring the Holocaust from the psychological to the sociological and more.



[The U.S. Supreme Court](#) provides images and brief text about the building's interior and exterior features. Short histories and anecdotes may also prove helpful for some learners.

[Vatican Museums](#) – See the Sistine Chapel, Raphael's Rooms, and more at this growing virtual site.

[The Virtual Museum of Iraq](#) is a high-quality site that allows students to learn more about Iraq's rich ancient history. Explore eight different "halls" devoted to prehistoric eras, the Sumerians, Babylonians, and many more.

[Visit London](#) - Take a virtual tour of London with this incredible 360-degree interactive map.

[We Choose the Moon](#) – An interactive site that recreates the Apollo 11 mission to the moon in real time using real recordings from the historic launch.

[The White House](#) – Scroll to the bottom of this page to take a tour of the White House. This site might make a good resource for a Presidents Day activity.

[Worldwide Telescope](#) – Turn your computer into a virtual telescope. Bring together imagery from the best ground and space-based telescopes in the world. Experience narrated guided tours from astronomers and educators.

[Yellowstone National Park](#) - Ready to explore Yellowstone? You can start exploring now by virtually touring some of the main attractions around the park. Included with each tour is additional information about visiting in person.

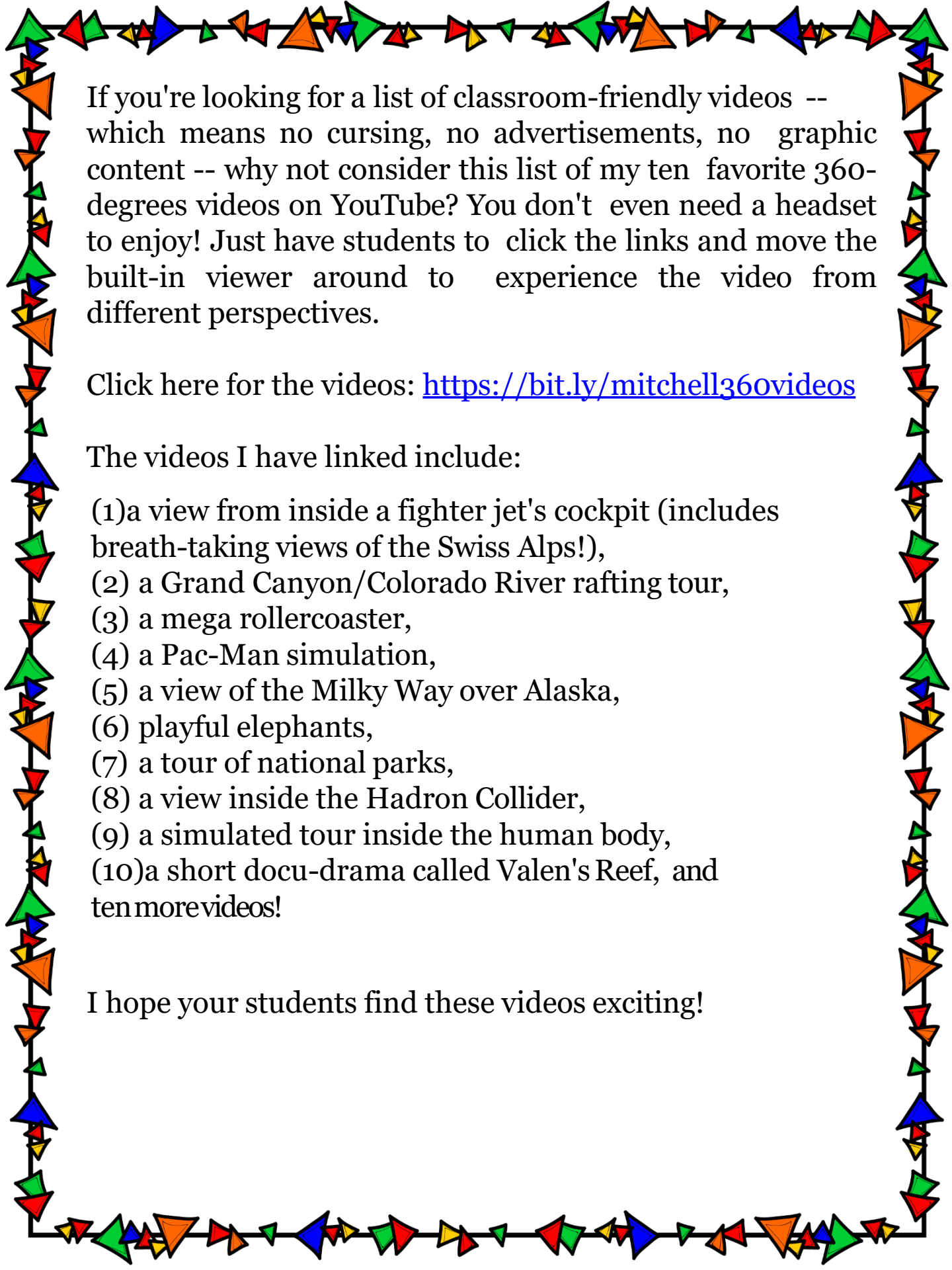
No-Frills, No Installation Virtual Reality (VR) Ideas:

Are you thinking about ways to use virtual reality (VR) with your students? Virtual reality is huge business right now. We hear about its possibilities with the Oculus Rift, Google Cardboard, and a variety of other products to transform our daily experiences.



While virtual reality is exciting, this cutting edge technology can also present a challenge to use it in the classroom. The expensive headsets are cost-prohibitive for education, while the Google Cardboard sets require additional equipment, i.e. smartphones, for use.

One of the simplest ways to introduce VR is to show 360-degree YouTube videos to your students and allow them to move the camera around for different perspectives, assuming of course you have computers and access to YouTube.



If you're looking for a list of classroom-friendly videos -- which means no cursing, no advertisements, no graphic content -- why not consider this list of my ten favorite 360-degree videos on YouTube? You don't even need a headset to enjoy! Just have students to click the links and move the built-in viewer around to experience the video from different perspectives.

Click here for the videos: <https://bit.ly/mitchell36ovideos>

The videos I have linked include:

- (1) a view from inside a fighter jet's cockpit (includes breath-taking views of the Swiss Alps!),
- (2) a Grand Canyon/Colorado River rafting tour,
- (3) a mega rollercoaster,
- (4) a Pac-Man simulation,
- (5) a view of the Milky Way over Alaska,
- (6) playful elephants,
- (7) a tour of national parks,
- (8) a view inside the Hadron Collider,
- (9) a simulated tour inside the human body,
- (10) a short docu-drama called Valen's Reef, and ten more videos!

I hope your students find these videos exciting!



Resources for Classroom-Based Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) Tours

If you have access to smartphones and virtual reality headsets, you can do a lot to make the world come alive before your students' eyes – right in your classroom! These apps are still relatively new, but they are worth considering as developers continue to refine the VR experience. I have tried all of them, but be aware that programs can change or disappear completely in this rapidly developing technology.

[Boulevard](#) - Ever hoped to visit the British Museum, stand at the steps of the White House, or view masterpieces from the Renaissance period? Now you can with Boulevard virtual reality field trips.

[CoSpaces Edu](#) – Allow your students to create AR & VR experiences in the classroom.

[Google Expeditions](#) - With Expeditions, teachers can take their students on immersive, virtual journeys all over the world. The program is under heavy development, but early results look amazing.

[HP Reveal](#) - Formerly called Aurasma, this augmented reality platform allows students to create tours of any kind and about any subject.

[Immersive Education](#) - This site hosts three immersive VR experiences worth sharing with students: the sinking of the Titanic, the Apollo 11 mission, and Inside an Emergency Room. These resources are not free, but all cost less than \$10 each.



Resources for Classroom-Based Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) Tours

[Sites in VR](#) - Perfect for the geography classroom, Sites in VR gets students right at the heart of famous landmarks around the world. Students can visit all types of buildings from mosques to museums, and from castles to ancient cities in in 360.

[Unimersiv](#) - With the Unimersiv app, students are transported into famous historical places like Ancient Rome, Apollo 11, and the Titanic, and can even journey through the human body.

Credit Where It's Due: The page border I used in this product's pages was created by [A Sketchy Guy](#).