

GREEN SCREENS TIP SHEET

HOW ARE GREEN SCREENS USED IN VIRTUAL LEARNING?

Green Screens are a tool for facilitating engaging, fun, and interactive online instruction. They can be used during individual, small group, and large group instruction to promote engagement, and are an easy way to modify online instruction to support the needs of all learners.

HOW DO GREEN SCREENS PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE CLASSROOMS?

The goal of green screens is to provide a way for all members of a community to interact and engage with their virtual class. Green screens enable teachers to use a range of evidence-based practices, including curriculum modifications, visual supports, reinforcement, and learner preferences.



HOW TO SET UP YOUR GREEN SCREEN

Materials

- 3-4 yards of felt/fabric or Butcher paper. Blankets, sheets, tablecloths, etc. also work! Green is most common but bright blue and purple work well, too.
- A yard stick or rule for making things “float”. This is covered in the same paper or material.



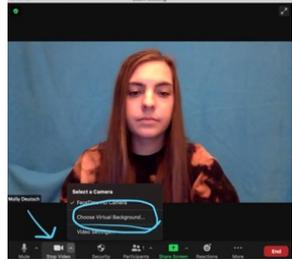
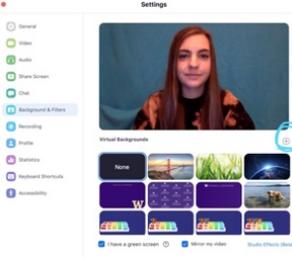
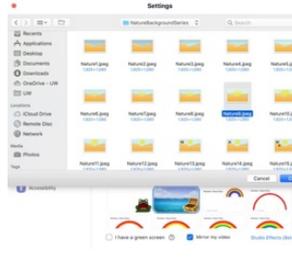
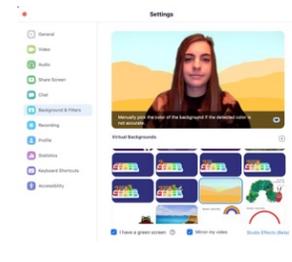
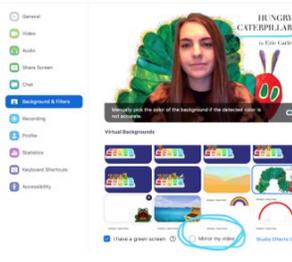
Gathering and Organizing Images for Virtual Backgrounds

- Create a folder on your computer for saving your background images - this makes uploading things much easier
- Save all images as .jpeg
 - Screen shots and PowerPoint are easy ways to create your own images, and then save as .jpeg

IDEAS FOR YOUR GREEN SCREEN

- Visual Supports
- Visual Reminders of Expectations
- The Daily Schedule
- Reinforcement systems
- Book pages so you can be “in” the book
- Treasure hunt
- “I Spy” games
- Photos of children in the class
- A scene related to your curriculum (a city, farm, jungle, etc.)
- Student’s artwork
- Images from songs or circle activities
- Calm Down Visuals
- Including learner’s preferred characters and interests
- Calendar
- Social Skills Games and Activities

HOW TO ADD VIRTUAL BACKGROUNDS IN ZOOM

<p>1. Click arrow in upper right of Stop Video Button and Select 'Choose Virtual Background...'</p>	
<p>2. It will show that you have 'None' selected. Click the + button below your image on the right</p>	
<p>3. Select the background you want to add your from your backgrounds folder.</p> <p><i>We recommend creating a folder on your computer with images you'd like to use as your backgrounds – this will help keep things organized.</i></p>	
<p>4. Now you should see that image as your background</p>	
<p>5. If your background has words make sure to unclick 'mirror my video', otherwise the words will be backwards</p>	

Making things appear and disappear using your Green Screen

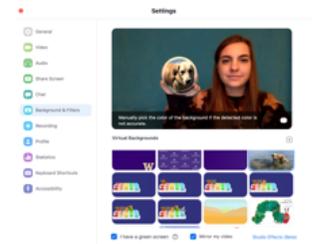
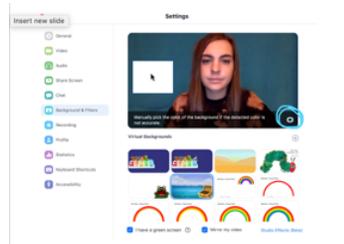
- Attach a pocket with the same material to your green screen. Felt works well, but safety pins are great too.
- This pocket will allow you to put things in and out, such as an exciting item from a treasure box, a flash card related to your curriculum, etc.
- Ideas:
 - Treasure hunt
 - Digging in the sand to uncover something
 - Feeding an animal
 - Playing a Board game such as Go Fish or Bingo



Casting your Green Screen onto another item

You can even use your Green Screen to make your virtual background appear on other items such as a magnifying glass, slime, balloon, playdoh, Legos, etc. This is called *casting*.

- In Zoom, select 'Choose Virtual Background'
- Click on 'I have a green screen'
- You will see a prompt reading "Manually pick the color of the background if the detected color is not accurate"
- Use your mouse to click on the item you'd like to cast to
- The virtual background will only appear on the new color selected



Casting Ideas

- Blowing up a balloon to find an item
- Looking for Word Families or practicing phonics
- Cast on to Legos and slowly build a tower
- Play an I Spy game

To Make Things Float

- Cover a ruler or stick in the same material as your Green Screen
- Attach item (a visual or object) to the end of your ruler or stick
- The ruler or stick will disappear into your background, leaving only the item you attached to the end, making appear that the item is floating.

Tips and Tricks

- Avoid natural light if you can. Variations in natural light during the day can skew your virtual backgrounds. Artificial light is more consistent.
- Avoid wearing the color of your background

References

Sandall, S.R., Schwartz, I.S., Joseph, G.E., Gauvreau, A.N. (2019). *Building blocks for teaching preschoolers with special needs third edition*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes.