

Virtual Field Trips: Bringing the World to your Students



Peter Brunette: Outreach Coordinator



OMAHA'S HENRY DOORLY ZOO & AQUARIUM®

What is your experience with VFTs?

1. I've never even heard of them
2. I've heard of them, but never tried one
3. I tried one this spring
4. I've done a few of them
5. I was Zooming before it was cool 🕶️



What is a “Virtual Field Trip”

Many different types of experiences are branded as “Virtual Field Trips”

- **Live Webcams**
- **Pre-recorded videos**
- **Webinars and Facebook Live** - *characterized by no video participation from the audience*
- **Live and Interactive tours**
 - On exhibit
 - With a green screen and/or PowerPoints & videos
- **Interactive classes** *on or off exhibit*



The Best VFTs are



- A **personal connection** to Zoos, Museums, National Parks and non-profits across the world
- Use **two-way videoconferencing** so the content provider can see and hear the students like in a normal class
- **Taught live by educators,**
- aligned with state and national standards,
- Scheduled when they best fit your lesson plans
- These typically, but not always, charge a fee



At Home Learning VFTs

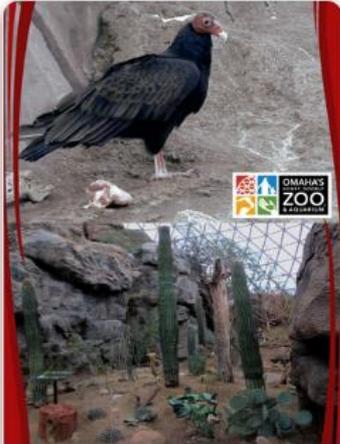


What is Possible?

- Experience biomes around the world
- Connect with experts
- Participate in hands-on experiments
- Witness an autopsy
- Speak with historical reenactors
- Watch a puppet show



VFTs at Omaha's Zoo



Desert Adaptations: Live from the World's Largest Indoor Desert

We step inside the World's Largest Indoor Desert for this engaging program. Look up to see the world's largest glazed geodesic dome, look down and see cactus, birds, mammals and reptiles. Learn about this unique ecosystem with fun, engaging...

[more](#)



Elephants LIVE!

Join us live from North America's largest indoor elephant quarters, home to six African elephants. After an enormous rescue operation brought them from Swaziland, these elephants found refuge in Nebraska. Discover what makes these giant animals...

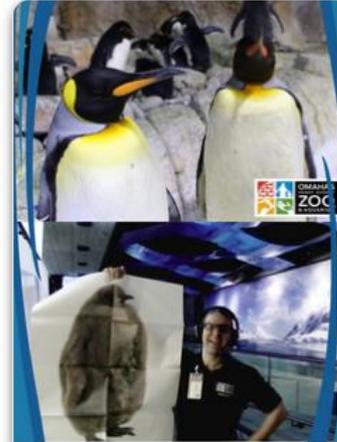
[more](#)



Ocean Life and Conservation - Sharks, Sea Turtles, Jellyfish, and Invertebrates

Sharks, and Sea Turtles, and Stingrays. OH MY! With the backdrop of our 900,000 gallon salt water shark tank, everyone's favorite ocean creatures are up close and personal. With everything from seven-foot sandbar sharks, to 300 pound sea...

[more](#)



Penguins LIVE!

Go nose-to-nose with over 75 Antarctic penguins. Say hello to Gentoo, Rockhopper, and King penguins. Witness their unique behaviors and discover their amazing adaptations from a front row seat at one of the premier penguin exhibits in the world.

[more](#)



Rainforests LIVE!

Join us live from inside North America's largest indoor rainforest. Learn the structure of this complex ecosystem, how plants and animals survive, and how the rainforest benefits us from thousands of miles away.

[more](#)

www.omahazoo.com/zoo2you

Watch a Sample VFT



Zoom Tips and Tricks

- Always Spotlight!
- Use cohosts to help manage the meeting
- Enable the waiting room
- Disable participant annotations
- Only allow chat with host
- Disable virtual backgrounds
- Don't be afraid to mute all
- Require participants to keep their video turned on
- Connect a cell phone or tablet to use as a mobile camera
- Hardwire internet (use an ethernet cable)

Zoom Engagement

- Asking Questions
 - Raise Hand Feature or Raise physical hand & spotlight to call on the person. It's fastest if participants unmute themselves.
 - Chat questions only if video is not possible
- Movements
 - Answer “multiple choice” questions with Thumbs up/thumbs down, arms up/arms down, etc.
 - Pat on the back, round of applause
 - Don't be afraid to ask for them to get up and do something!
- Thumbs up if you are with me
- Require materials in advance – a ball, paper and pencil for drawing, etc.
- Use Chat for responses to open ended questions

Technology Required



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Technology Required



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Technology Level 2

- Logitech c920 camera
- Blue Snowball Microphone

This combo is ideal for your at home studio



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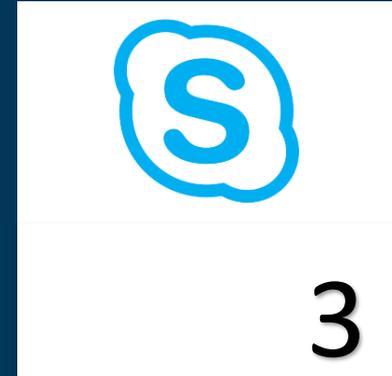
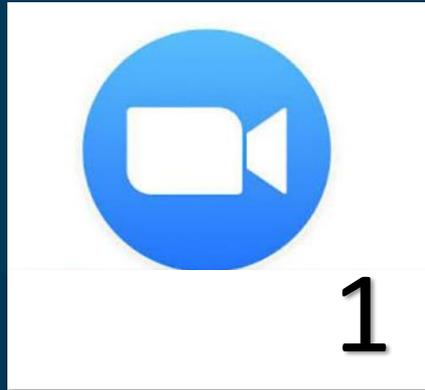
Speakers are VERY important for in school groups, most of our failed connections resulted from speakers that we not loud enough for everyone to hear clearly

Technology Level 3

Logitech BCC950 ConferenceCam



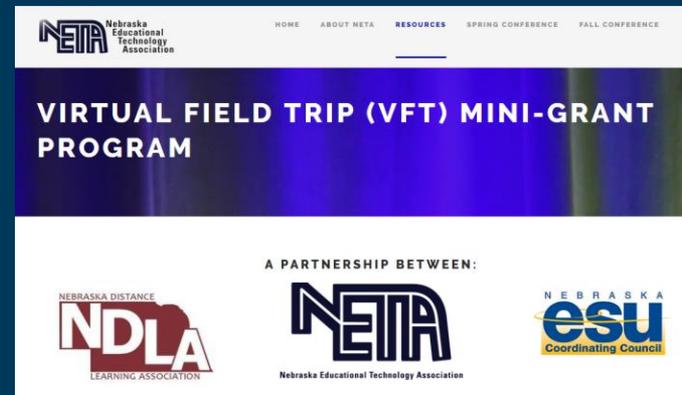
Software – Name that Logo!



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Unfortunately, the Mini Grant had to be suspended because NETA's spring conference was cancelled, and they lost all revenue for the year.



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Finding Interactive Programs

- www.omahazoo.com/zoo2you
- www.cilc.org – *A non-profit out of Mankato, MN that helps schools and libraries connect with non-profits for distance learning. Search for both free and paid programs available*
- nvis.esucc.org - *Put together by the ESUCC lists both free and paid programs*



Finding On Demand Programs

- www.omahazoo.com/zoo-from-home/
 - Watch the Bongo Video, it's my favorite!
- earthcam.com
- **Snapshot Serengeti:**
<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/zooniverse/snapshot-serengeti>

Just Google “Virtual tours during quarantine” a lot of blogs compiled lists recently





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