



# Flat Classrooms<sup>®</sup>



A brief history...in 2005, [Thomas Friedman](#) wrote the book, *[The World is Flat](#)*. Vicki Davis, from the United States and Julie Lindsay, from Australia, both read the book and happen to meet up at a conference. They decided to start a collaborative classroom project with their students and this quickly grew to include more classrooms from around the world and led to the first Flat Classroom Conference in Qatar. Two years later the second [Flat Classroom Conference](#) convened in Beijing, China.



Vicki Davis, USA and Julie Lindsay, China

Now, each year, teachers and students from all over the world log into the Flat Classroom world and participate in a global collaboration project, using web 2.0 tools and Thomas Friedman's [flatteners](#) as a starting point. The projects start a few weeks into the semester and culminate a few weeks before the end of the semester. Projects include all grade levels from kindergarten to twelfth grade. They are designed to be cross-curricular and can be adapted to fit into your already existing classroom curriculum. At the end of the project, each student is responsible for completing an individual multimedia presentation that will be submitted and judged by a panel of Flat Classroom experts following a specific rubric and awarded honors based on various levels of performance.

Websites:

<http://www.flatclassroomproject.net> –starting point for all things Flat Classroom.

<http://www.flatclassrooms.ning.com> –educator portal, information for all Flat Classroom teachers. They can create their own page, communicate with other teachers and blog about their experience in Flat Classroom.

<http://flatclassroomproject.ning.com> –student portal, information for students involved in flat classroom. They can create their own page, communicate with other students and blog about their experience.

<http://www.flatclassroomproject.org> –teachers can apply to be part of the program and see the current projects and the students involved in the projects.

<http://www.flatclassroomconference.ning.com> –portal for all students, educators and collaborators involved in the Flat Classroom Conference.

## How do you join?

1. Join each of the nings...teachers are asked to be members of both and begin networking with teachers and students that are currently involved in the projects
2. [Apply](#) to be a part of the Flat Classroom Project
3. Read the [New Teacher Guide](#)
4. You're in, now you have a question....go to <http://www.projecthelp.wikispaces.com>.
5. That didn't answer your question or you just need a person to help? Send an email to [flatclassroomproject@gmail.com](mailto:flatclassroomproject@gmail.com) or me at [jacobsc@wdmcs.org](mailto:jacobsc@wdmcs.org).
6. Sarah Bird, VHS teacher, and her students are currently participating in the flat classroom project. Email her at [birds@wdmcs.org](mailto:birds@wdmcs.org) with any questions about their experience.
7. Take it one step further and work with WDM teachers to send a group of high school students to the conference in 2013.