



# Teach Smarter, Not Harder:

Interactive Tools That Boost Learning  
& Simplify Teaching



**Literacy KC**

Heather Mecham

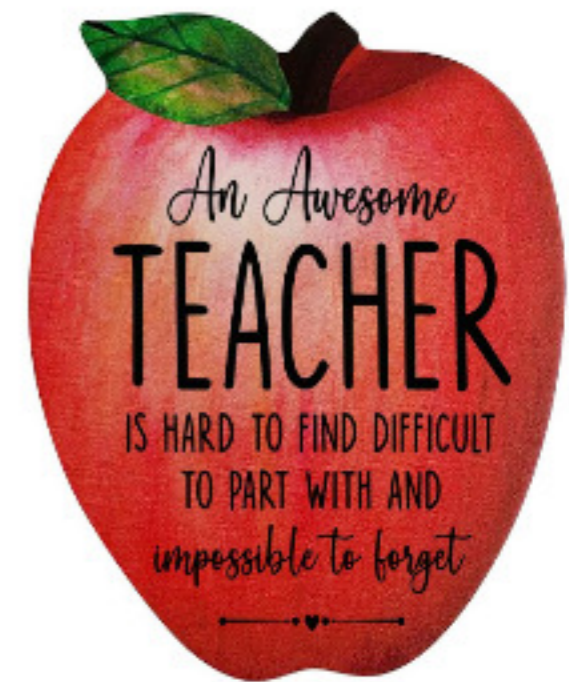
[hmecham@literacykc.org](mailto:hmecham@literacykc.org)

**MAACCE 2026**

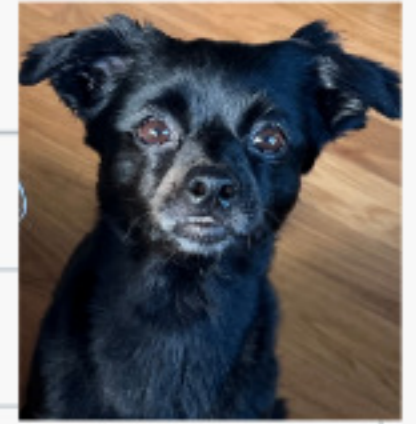
# Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson you will...

- Evaluate online tools for **teaching efficiency** and **engagement**.
- Analyze the **benefits** of **interactive features** in online platforms.
- Create **engaging presentations** using **Google Slides**.
- Explore **strategies** for effective **curriculum management** with Nearpod
- Design **interactive quizzes** using **Kahoot** to enhance **learning**.



# Me



- Heather Mecham
- Literacy KC: ABE/ASE Instructor & Data Specialist
- Adult Education since 2012
- Educator since 2001
- Often a reluctant adopter of classroom tech

## My Interactive Tools

- Google Slides ([slides.google.com](https://slides.google.com))
- Google Classroom ([classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com))
- Nearpod ([nearpod.com](https://nearpod.com))
- Kahoot ([kahoot.com](https://kahoot.com))
- Mini Videos (upload to drive or classroom)



# Poll

## Do you currently use online tools in your classroom?

- Yes, I love them!
- Yes . . . and it's a lot of extra work.
- No, my students don't have access.
- Not yet, that's why I'm in this session.

# Overview of Tools

- **Google Slides:** A presentation tool for creating and sharing visual content.
- **Google Classroom:** A platform for managing coursework and communication.
- **Nearpod:** An interactive platform for engaging students in lessons.
- **Kahoot:** A game-based learning platform for quizzes and interactive learning.
- **Mini Videos:** Techniques for creating effective short instructional videos.



©DESIGNALIKE

# What is your routine?

1. How do you start class? 2. How do you share important announcements and celebrations with your students?

^ Instructions



## Collaborate Board

### What is your routine?

slides . google . com

# Class 103 Daily



**Literacy KC**  
Changing lives beyond words

slides . google . com

Welcome to Our Class  
J'Cara, Ebony, and Bradley!



### The HiSet Math Test

- Real Number System
- Powers & Roots
- Negative Numbers & Absolute Value
- Scientific Notation
- Fractions
- Ratios
- Variables/One-Step Equations
- Proportions
- Percents
- Order of Operations
- Two-Step Equations
- Rearrange formulae to isolate variables
- Evaluating Expressions
- Translating Word Problems
- Combining Like Terms
- Angles & Angle Pairs
- Geometric Shapes & Attributes
- Area & Perimeter
- Ordered Pairs on the Coordinate Grid
- Pythagorean Theorem
- Slope of a Line/Graphing Word Problems
- Capacity (volume, density)
- Circles
- Measures of Center
- Probability
- Solving Pairs of Linear Equations
- Quadratic Equations
- Operations with Polynomials

Success is not final.  
Failure is not fatal.  
It is the courage to continue that counts.

Save the Date  
Graduation is July 9!



Class-specific  
announcements & the  
day's lesson

slides . google . com

EOC Visit Next Week!

**Preparing for  
Your  
Education**

After the Diploma

Please fill out the EOC  
intake document!



**KC Job  
FAIR**  
Sheraton Kansas City Hotel  
at Crown Center

FIRST JOB?  
CAREER CHANGE?  
WANT TO ADVANCE?  
THE KC JOB FAIR  
IS FOR YOU!

RESIDENT  
847.13.9

1.30 PM -  
4.00 PM

OPEN TO  
ALL

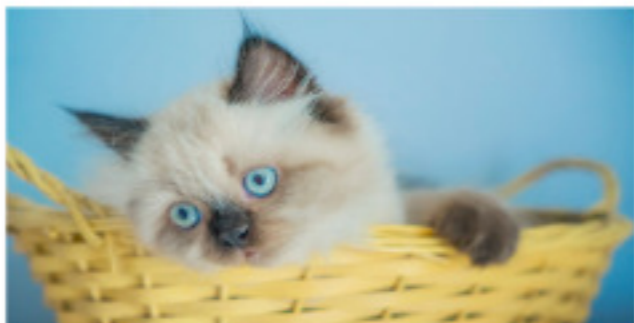
SCAN ME

Call us at 816-822-8083  
Follow us @womensemploymentnetwork

Powered by  
Women's Employment  
Network

A promotional poster for the KC Job Fair. It features a green header with the event name and location. Below is a circular photo of a woman and a man sitting at a table. The text asks if the viewer is a first job seeker, looking for a career change, or wants to advance. It lists the event as open to all, from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM, and provides a phone number and social media handle. There is a 'SCAN ME' button with a QR code and a logo for the Women's Employment Network.

PLEASE!!!!!!!  
Don't forget to sign in and sign out!



Program  
announcements and  
resources.

## Encouragement & Celebrations

### Upcoming HiSet Tests

Wednesday: Ciara (Math)

Thursday: Keith (Writing), Tantine (Social Studies)

We  in you-  
you've **GOT** this!

*Jed* passed Writing and Math!



**YOU  
ARE  
AMAZING**

*Yava* went up a level  
in Language!

### Countdown to Graduation!



Tests Passed



Arturo  
Edwarde  
Lee  
Savannah  
Carson  
Gauge  
Anthony  
Tramaine  
Jacier  
Destanee  
Jada  
Mallyah  
Jason  
Jessica  
Jed  
Keith  
Amaya  
Xavier

# Drag and Drop

### How to play

Pick an item and drop it where it belongs.

What would be the order of your class slideshow (if you decided to have one)? Drag and drop the elements you would include in the order they would appear.

Food Bank Information

^ Instructions

Progress/Testing Celebrations

Upcoming Events

Lesson Standard & Objective

Joke or Trivia

Welcome New Students

Study Tips



Tt



Submit

# Poll

## Do you use Google Classroom in your adult ed classroom?

- Yes! I love it.
- Kind of.
- Not yet . . .
- My students can't access it.

# classroom . google . com

Add students or give them a code to join.

The screenshot shows the Google Classroom interface for a class named "103 FY2026". On the left is a navigation sidebar with options: Home, Calendar, Teaching, To review, and a list of other classes. The main content area has tabs for Stream, Classwork, People, and Grades. The "Stream" tab is active, showing a banner for "103 FY2026" with a "Customize" button and a "Literacy KC" logo. Below the banner are buttons for "Meet" (with a "Join" button and "Visible to students" setting) and "Class code" (displaying "ya6gjy54"). To the right of the "Meet" section are buttons for "New announcement" and "Repost". Below these is a "Drafts (1)" section and a post from Heather Mecham dated Apr 27, which says "Last Wednesday's Circle lesson. Please do this whether you were in class or not! The math test has circles on it!".

# Stream: Program & Resource Announcements

Announcements you post will go to the email address the student used to join the class as well as appearing on the class page.



Heather Mecham

Mar 13



Literacy KC will begin offering a new class for getting your K-12 substitute and paraprofessional certification on April 6. The class is Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-5 pm -- in person on Tuesday and virtual on Thursdays. It is 12 weeks (lasts until June 25). If anyone is interested, respond with a comment here or send me a message.

 Add comment

# Stream: Review &/or "Make-Up" Work

I often post the Nearpod lesson (set to student paced) or the Kahoot I used that day so students can practice and review. Students who miss class can at least get an intro to the lesson.



Heather Mecham

Apr 27

Last Wednesday's Circle lesson. Please do this whether you were in class or not! The math test has circles on it!

Link

<https://app.nearpod.com/pin>



 Add comment



# Classwork: Course Materials

## Resources



Student Links Page

Posted Aug 25, 2025



Important Links

Posted Aug 19, 2025



Syllabus

Posted Aug 20, 2025



Math HiSet Preparation Videos

Posted Aug 19, 2025



## Math








Math HiSet PACE Books Set 1


Edited Aug 19, 2025



# Grades: Learning Goals?

Stream Classwork People **Grades**    

Gradebook **✓ Learning goals** New [Manage standard sets](#) ■ 80% or more ■ 70-79% ■ 69% or lower 

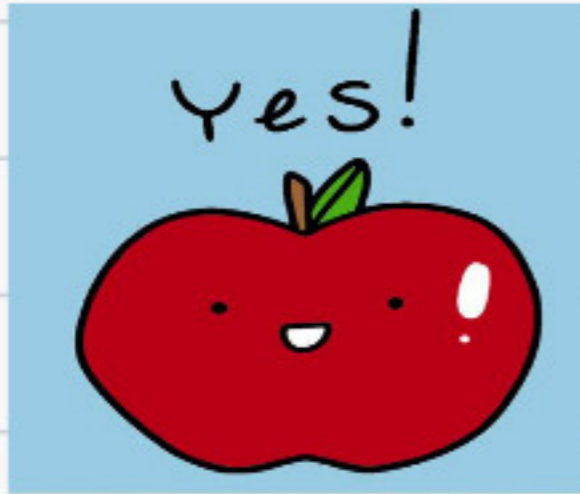


Track student progress with learning goals

Select standard sets for your class. Then tag them to your classwork and grade students' work. You will see student progress against the goals. [Learn more](#)

Select standard sets

# But is it free?



Google Classroom and Google Slides are both free.

Classroom is a free service for schools, non-profits, and anyone

## Paid Version

### Exclusive Paid Features

- **Expanded Meetings:** Up to 500 participants in Google Meet.
- **Interactive Tools:** Live streaming, Q&As, polls, and breakout rooms.
- **Plagiarism Checks:** Unlimited originality reports instead of just five per class.
- **Add-on Integration:** Direct integration of third-party tools into assignments.
- **Student Analytics:** Advanced tracking of student engagement and classroom activity.

# Open Ended Question

**How would you manage your class in Google Classroom? Share your strategies!**

# Poll

## How do you present your lesson to students?

- Writing on a board or flip chart
- Slideshow (Power Point style)
- YouTube videos
- One-on-one or small group
- Nearpod
- Textbook
- Other
- I'm tired of interactive tools. Let's play Hungry, Hungry Hippos!

# Nearpod



Renaissance  
nearpod

All ▾

Search by topic or standard



Quick launch



CREATE

## Bring your lessons to life

Customize ready-to-use lessons, build your own, or use AI Create.

Launch the lesson builder →

Generate a lesson with AI Create



### My Library

Add folder

Edit folders

Sort by:  Date modified  Alphabetical

Essay (4)

Language (5)

Geometry (12)

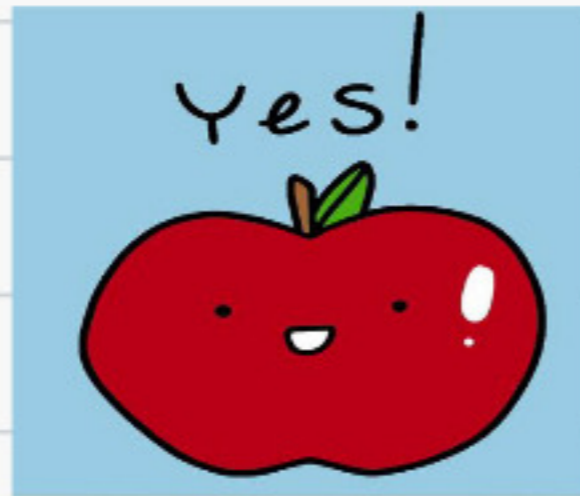
Algebra (15)

Math (8)

Reading (9)

Pre-Algebra (14)

# But is it free?



## Individual educators

Flexible packages to fit your classroom needs

**Silver** \$0

300 MB Storage

40 student joins per lesson

Nearpod core features and functionality [?](#)

## Program Paid Version

- ✓ NEW AI Create
  - Generate multiple-choice questions, activities, and lessons
- ✓ Unlimited storage
- ✓ 250 student joins per lesson
- ✓ Live to Student-Paced
- ✓ Virtual Math Manipulatives
- ✓ Co-teaching
- ✓ Co-editing
- ✓ Shared School and District Libraries
- ✓ Nearpod Math Program
- ✓ Nearpod Social Studies Program
- ✓ Student Accounts
- ✓ Live Annotation
- ✓ Admin Reporting and Dashboards
- ✓ LMS, LTI, and rostering integrations
- ✓ Dedicated Customer Success Manager
- ✓ Options for customized professional development

# Nearpod

## My Most-Used Activities

Interactive  
Lesson Delivery

Interactive  
Lesson Review

My student  
joins this year:

391

85 lessons  
launched

- Draw-It - average of 9 per lesson
- Multiple Choice - average of 8 per lesson
- Collaborate Board - average of 3 per lesson
- Open-Ended Question - average of 3 per lesson
- Poll - average of 2 per lesson



# Nearpod

#1 Tip: search for existing lessons and use those as your starting point

#2 Tip: proofread even pre-created ones

#3 Tip: write little notes while you teach of what you would change for the next time you use that lesson



# Open Ended Question

**Do you feel Nearpod would be worth the effort gathering and editing lessons? Why or why not?**

How do you review lessons with your students?

Share below.

^ Instructions



## Collaborate Board

**How do you review lessons with your students?**

# Kahoot

## My Most-Used Activities

Interactive  
Lesson Delivery

Interactive  
Lesson Review

My student  
joins this year:

391

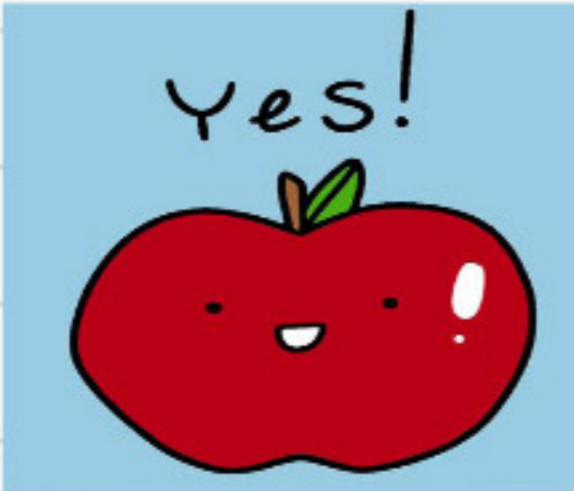
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# But is it free?

Find the best plan that matches your needs		Kahoot! Go Free
All prices exclude Tax		
<b>Classic Kahoot! experience</b>		
Participant limit	?	40
Custom participant names & music	?	✓
Classic live mode	?	✓
Quiz & True/false question type	?	✓
Ready-made content	?	✓
Templates & question bank	?	✓
Flashcards study mode	?	✓
Online support	?	✓
Free themes	?	✓
Course content format	?	✓
GIF and image premium libraries	?	1 image



Solo game modes	?	✓	✓
Assign kahoots	?	✓	✓
Offline mode	?	✓	✓
Desk widget (only for Kahoot! App iOS)	?	✓	✓
Learn study mode (Kahoot! app)	?	✓	✓
Automated reminders	?	-	✓
Learning goals (Kahoot! app)	?	-	✓
Images as answer	?	✓	
Single-screen experience	?	✓	
Number of answers	?		Up to 4
Multi-select answers	?	-	
Poll	?	-	
Puzzle	?	-	
Image reveal	?	-	
Navigate back to previous questions	?	-	

# But is it free?



but...

they hide the free account creation and nag you constantly to subscribe and honestly, the subscription is worth it.

Achieve awesome classroom results with Kahoot!+

Individual | Team & School | District | US Dollars

Plan	Price	Player Limit	Best For
Kahoot! Plus Bronze	\$3 per month (\$36 billed annually)	50	Everyday learning and reviewing. Create quick quizzes, exit tickets, and generate content with AI.
Kahoot! Plus Silver	\$9 per month (\$108 billed annually)	100	Presentations and feedback. Drive participation and incorporate responsive teaching with student-centered features.
Kahoot! Plus Gold	\$15 per month (\$180 billed annually) <del>\$25</del> <b>\$9</b> per month (\$90 billed annually) <i>Save 65%</i>	200	Supporting learning mastery. Enhance your students' learning experience with the full AI-powered toolkit.
Kahoot! One	\$25 per month (\$300 billed annually) <del>\$25</del> <b>\$19</b> per month (\$228 billed annually)	500	The total learning experience. Bring together all features, apps, and premium content in one complete solution, for more awesome learning at even greater value.

All prices exclude Tax.

Kahoot! Co. Get started with Kahoot! and the basics of game-based learning. [Continue for free](#)

## Kahoot! Plus Bronze

**\$3** per month  
\$36 billed annually

[Buy now](#)

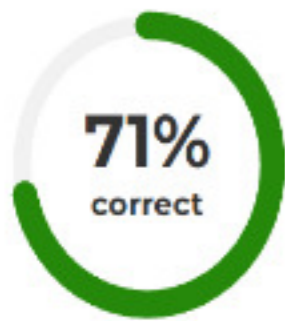
**BEST FOR**  
**Everyday learning and reviewing.** Create quick quizzes, exit tickets, and generate content with AI.

Player limit: 50

- NEW!** Create content from any topic, URL, Wikipedia, or 1-page file
- Basic review question types, including quiz and puzzle
- Classic live mode and accuracy mode for precision
- Collective rewards in basic Kahootopia!
- Reports to assess student learning
- NEW!** Choose from 55+ languages
- Seasonal rewards, skins, icons

# Kahoot

In-class game play  
Study games and activities  
Gigantic bank of lessons



## Well played!

Play again and let the same group improve their score or see if new participants can beat this result.

[Play again](#)

Participants	11
Questions	12
Time	25 min

A graphic of a podium with a trophy and three medals. To the right are two buttons: 'View podium' and 'Share podium'.

**Top tip:** Boost participant engagement by sharing the podium.

Difficult questions (1)



5 - Quiz  
Rational or Irrational?

194941

Need help (1)



Esmitty 33%

Didn't finish (1)



Esmitty 6

present progressive in english



Kahoots (4.5K)

# Kahoot

Monitor Progress

In Class:

And Out:

All (11)	Need help (1)	Didn't finish (1)
Nickname	Rank	Correct answers
Jessica	1	92%
\$	2	92%
Cici	3	83%
Bradley	4	75%
kittenkisses	5	75%
Jed	6	67%
DreamAsia	7	75%
Jada	8	58%

All (4)	Need help (2)	
Nickname	Rank	Correct answers
tantin	1	86%
htiek	2	52%
ciara	3	34%
Semaj	4	21%

# My Kahoot Tips

- Make it a daily routine
- Re-use quizzes after four weeks or so
- Let students study the quiz after (or before!) class
- Take advantage of pre-made quizzes!
- Proofread and check the answers
- CHECK THE TIME LIMIT! Adjust as needed.
- Let the students start working on the question, then as time continues and people are still puzzling, use as much of the remaining time as necessary to work through the question. When students "get it," they click their answer instead of getting frustrated.



# Fill in the Blanks

**interactive**

**timer.**

**FIRE!),**

**success**

**acclimate**

**Kahoot is an \_\_\_\_\_ educational game. It is true that the speed required to answer can make students anxious, but if you support them as the game progresses and celebrate small \_\_\_\_\_ (Jed is on \_\_\_\_\_ I promise they will love it. I feel like it is beneficial because it helps \_\_\_\_\_ them to working with a \_\_\_\_\_**

# Mini Videos

- 1-4 minute clips uploaded to Google Drive, Dropbox, or other.
- One specific topic
- I use them for Essential Ed HiSet practice test questions. They watch the associated video for any they get wrong.

The screenshot shows a Google Drive interface for a folder named "EE Math PT 2 Videos". The folder contains a list of video files, each with a red crown icon and a share icon. The files are:

Name	Share Icon
1 Verbal expression.mp4	Share icon
4 Cubed or Squared.mp4	Share icon
7 Hemisphere.mp4	Share icon
8 Area and Rounding.mp4	Share icon
12 Pythagoras.mp4	Share icon
14 Proportion.mp4	Share icon
16 Probability.mp4	Share icon
18 Scatter Plot.mp4	Share icon

The interface also shows a search bar with "1 selected", a toolbar with icons for share, download, add, delete, and refresh, and a right-hand sidebar with options for "Details", "Analytics" (6 opens), "Security" (No limitations), and "File details" (Type: Video, Size: 95.1 MB).

# Mini Videos

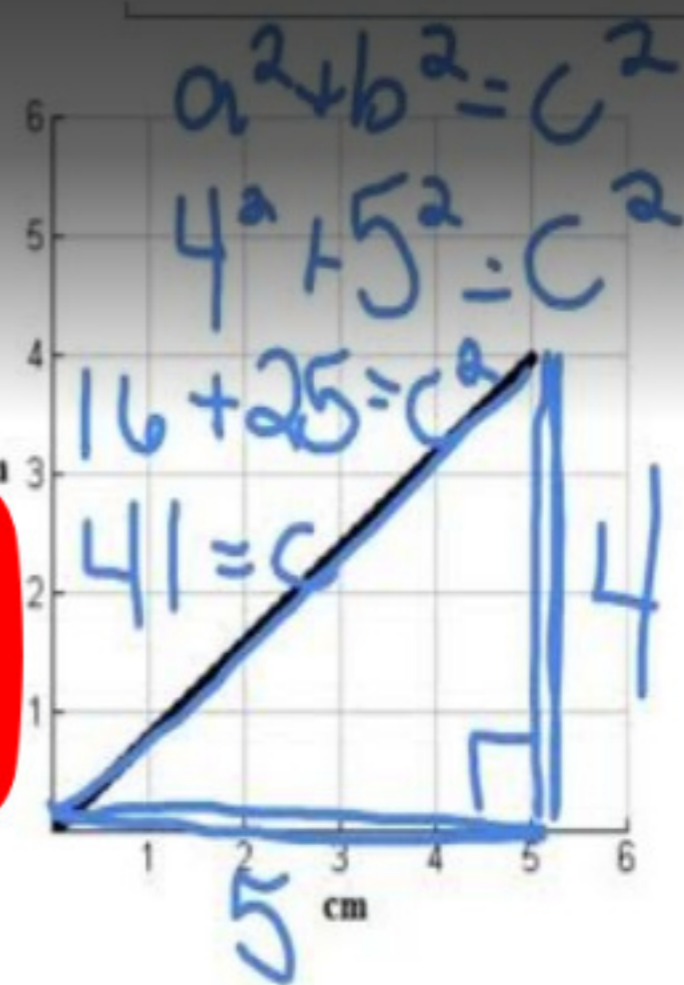


## 4 4 Diagonal

Heather Mecham

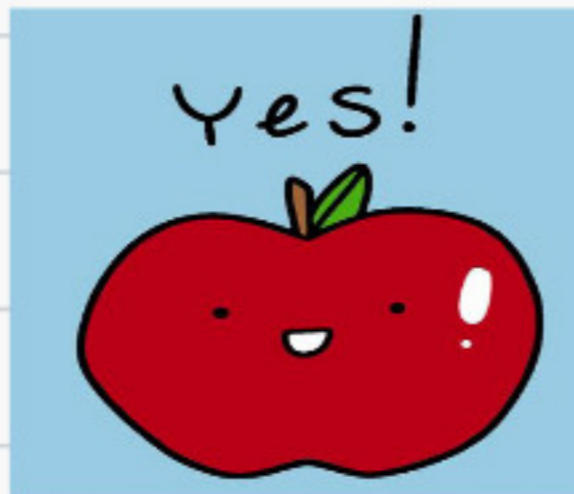
What is the length of the line segment rounded to the nearest tenth of a centimeter?

- 9.0 cm
- 4.5 cm
- 6.8 cm
- 6.4 cm
- 6.7 cm



Watch on YouTube

# But is it free?



Dropbox:

**Basic**

Free

2 GB to store and share your files

Google Drive:

All Google Accounts include 15 GB of storage.

## Mini Video Ideas

Share a topic for a mini video you would create. What would you focus on?

^ Instructions



## Collaborate Board

### Mini Video Ideas

# Contact Me!

Heather Mecham

Literacy KC

[hmecham@literacykc.org](mailto:hmecham@literacykc.org)

