Photography in the Classroom
The Use of Photography in the classroom

- Classroom albums
- Student journals
- Students doing various activities / special projects
- Capturing a field trip
- Using photographs to complement print
- To illustrate objects and ideas
- To make abstract concepts concrete
- Digital photo stories
The Digital Camera

**Advantages of digital photography**

- Seeing pictures instantly makes it easy to delete and retake photos as needed
- No cost for film or expensive development facilities
- Easy to edit photos using computer
- Easy storage of pictures on memory cards
- Can easily share photos online using online photo services such as Flickr or Snapfish.
Choosing a digital camera

Two features which play a role in the quality of the photos taken are:

- Megapixels
- Zoom capabilities
Choosing a digital camera

- **Megapixels**: more equals more detail
  - 1 megapixel = 1 million pixels
  - Pixel (Picture Element): a single point in an image
Choosing a digital camera

- **Zoom capabilities**: optical zoom vs digital zoom
  - concentrate on *optical zoom* not digital zoom
    - the higher the optical zoom, the farther away from the subject you can be and still get a clear, crisp shot.
    - optical zoom: lenses “move” you closer to the subject
    - digital zoom: the camera crops the entire image and then digitally enlarges to the size of the viewfinder
Basic concepts in Photography

- **Use of light**
- Colours
- Camera angles: the camera is the eye of the viewer
Composition

- Rule of thirds
- Framing
- Backgrounds
- Balance
- Filling the frame
- Repetition of elements
- Focal points
- Shapes, rhythm and movement
Rule of thirds

The rule states that an image can be divided into nine equal parts by two equally-spaced horizontal lines and two equally-spaced vertical lines. The four points formed by the intersections of these lines can be used to align features in a photograph = more dynamic, interesting photo.
Framing – head room
Framing – look room, walk room
Backgrounds
Balance

While there is absolute certainty that symmetrical balance works, go for asymmetrical balance.
Filling the frame

Fill the frame with as much of the subject as you can. Get in extremely close, or simply change your angle or perspective. Any distracting background is eliminated, and the image is much more intimate.
Repetition of elements

Look for repetition of shapes, textures or patterns
Focal Points

Find a clear centre of interest
Another compositional technique to create energy and movement in a photograph is the use of leading lines. Whether they are graceful curves or dynamic diagonals, all lines should lead the viewer's eye to the focal point.
Remember

- Keep photographs simple
- Include essential information (crop images to eliminate unnecessary details)
Activity

Look at the photographs below and comment on whether it was a good shot or not, was the composition good, and what could make it a better shot.
Tips for Taking Better Photos

Source: BetterPhoto.com (Jim Miotke)

Useful sites

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/apictureofbritain/how_to/