

# 4 Easy Activities to Introduce Educators to BloomBoard

BloomBoard enables educators to build the skills and competencies they need to lead a better classroom. To help you introduce your educators to BloomBoard, we put together a list of creative ways you can leverage the platform to enhance learning and collaboration at your next staff meeting.

## Activities:



### Scavenger Hunt

This all-time favorite activity adds an energizing element of competition for teachers!



### Team Collection

Bring together the collective minds of teachers by creating a collection on BloomBoard everyone can benefit from.



### Flipped Professional Development

Give your educators time to reflect on resources so you can make the most of your time together.



### Jigsaw

Foster teamwork and collaboration amongst educators with this engaging activity.

High-quality resources accessible from a single destination.

- Vetted and curated by experienced educators
- Organized into collections focused on topics of interest
- Specially designed to provide a complete learning experience

## We're Here to Help!

We know professional growth takes time and effort; our mission is to provide you with the tools and resources to make this process as rewarding as possible. Contact our support team anytime at [help@bloomboard.com](mailto:help@bloomboard.com)

# Scavenger Hunt

This low-prep activity will help get your staff familiar with BloomBoard, while they discover a wide range of instructional resources. To get started:

1. Ask teachers to create a quick list of supports they might typically need to find, e.g. “In the last few weeks, what kind of resources could you have used to facilitate your practice?” These will serve as their scavenger list.
2. Review the two ways teachers can search for resources on BloomBoard—by topic or via the Search feature. Have attendees log in to BloomBoard to search for collections that address the supports they listed in step one. The amount of time you provide will depend on how many supports they are looking for.
3. At the end of the session, have everyone share the great resources they found on BloomBoard with their peers. Remind educators they can use the Share feature to recommend a great resource to a colleague and the Save feature to bookmark it on their profile page.



## Example Supports for your Scavenger Hunt

Find a collection that...

- Helps you integrate technology into your classroom
- Will make analyzing data easier
- Provides tips on how to improve family engagement
- Makes you smile

# Team Collection

As your staff starts to implement resources from BloomBoard in their classroom, they may start to find additional resources that are helpful to them. This is a great opportunity for them to create their own collection on BloomBoard. To get started:

1. Create a shared document where teachers can track useful resources they find. Encourage them to include a brief description of how they used the resource in the classroom and why they thought it was beneficial.
2. Discuss as a group how you might curate a collection based on the resources that were identified. As you put together your collection, consider:
  - Does this collection balance media and resource types? (i.e. articles, videos, web tools, books, etc.)
  - Is this collection specific enough? For example, “Classroom Management” is broad, but “Engage Your Middle School Students Through Digital Presentation Tools” meets more specific needs.
  - Are your resource descriptions comprehensive? Do they articulate how you used it in the classroom and in what circumstances it’s useful?
3. Once you’ve narrowed your list down to 6-8 quality resources, [follow these instructions](#) to create your collection. When it’s been published on the site, you’ll be able to share the link with others who would find it useful.

# Flipped Professional Development

We know lack of time and the inability to differentiate are common challenges of traditional professional development. A flipped approach to professional development encourages participants to review resources independently before the session and is designed to help address these challenges. To get started:

1. Before the meeting, identify one (or more) collections on BloomBoard that is relevant to your session and that you think would be beneficial for attendees.
2. Share the collection with educators and ask them to review it before the meeting. Remember that resources are only as good as the reflection that is accompanied by them. Be sure to include reflection questions in your message to get everyone thinking before the session. We've included sample questions in the side bar to help you get started.
3. Use the meeting time for in-depth discussion around the collection topic and associated resources. By emphasizing conversation and collaborative professional education, teachers won't see staff meetings as an interruption, but rather as time to work collectively on tasks that will improve the education experience for everyone.

## Jigsaw

Short on time? Discover the power of cooperative learning by using the jigsaw technique to explore a specific collection. To get started:

1. Split your staff into small groups and have them review one or two of the resources in a collection. You can even do this before your session if you follow the flipped PD model. [Tip: Consider offering reflection questions or provocative prompts to guide the conversation!]
2. Once each group has had the opportunity to review the resources, ask them to share key takeaways with the larger group.
3. Elevate the discussion by encouraging your teachers to discuss how they can implement these new strategies in their classroom and in which ways they imagine it can improve student learning.



### Sample Reflection Questions

1. How can these resources help me reach my instructional goals?
2. Do I foresee any challenges in implementing the strategies in these resources?
3. Are there any strategies that I could implement in my classroom tomorrow or in the near future?
4. What data could I collect to determine the effectiveness of these strategies?



### Provide Recognition

Encourage educators to make a plan to implement a specific instructional strategy, collect data, and apply for a micro-credential aligned to that competency. Learn more at [bloomboard.com/digitalpromise](https://bloomboard.com/digitalpromise)