



HCDE Instructional Technology News—Second Life Special Edition

Digital Learning and Instructional Technology

Introduction to Second Life

What is Second Life?

- A virtual meeting place for K-12 educators and other SL groups
- A virtual world of educational resources for the classroom
- A virtual way to attend educational conferences, trainings, and meetings
- A virtual world where avatars (virtual people) interact.



EdTech Island – Best Practices in Education Conference – 1,300 attendees

How to Get Started

1. Go to <http://secondlife.com>.
2. For information, click “What is Second Life” at the top of the page.
3. Click “Join Now Membership is Free.”
4. Click “Skip this step” if asked to select a community.
5. Create a name for your avatar (your virtual persona). Record your name: it is your login.
6. Record your password.
7. Complete the “Basic Details” page.
8. When asked, select an appearance for your avatar.
9. Complete the registration.
10. Download “Second Life” at <http://secondlife.com/community/downloads.php>.



Visiting Second Life

1. Open Second Life on your computer (Start/Programs/Second Life).
2. Login using the avatar name and password that you selected. Use your cursors to move around.
3. Click “View” and “Movement Controls” to use controls to fly or land gently.
4. Click “Edit” and “Appearance” to modify the look of your avatar.
5. Click “Edit” and “Search” to join the K-12 educational groups in Second Life. Click the “Groups” tab near the top. Type *education* in the search blank, click “Search.”
6. Some recommended educational groups include:
 - Best Practices in Education
 - Discovery Educator Network
 - EdTech Community
 - Greenbush Education Service Center
 - Lone Star K-12 Educators (HCDE)
 - ISTE Educational Technology Association
 - K-12 Educators
 - Real Life Educators in Second Life
7. Click “Join Now” to join groups listed in the search. The groups will send you notices and e-mails (if requested) about upcoming trainings and events.
8. Find locations and people in Second Life by clicking “Edit” and “Search.” Click the “People” or “Places.”
9. Type SL names, or SL place names and click “Search.”

Harris County Educators in Second Life

After downloading Second Life, visit Harris County Department of Education’s meeting room on EdTech island by clicking on <http://slurl.com/secondlife/EdTech/52/83/40> and selecting “Teleport Now” before opening Second Life.

1. Save this location, or other favorite locations, by clicking “World” and “Make Landmark.”
2. At the HCDE meeting room, click on the image to the right of the door to get the HCDE Notecard. Select “Keep.”
3. Click on the links in the notecard to visit K-12 educational sites. Select “Teleport” to go to the site.
4. Join our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. at the link above to discuss K-12 educational applications of Second Life.



For more information about topics in this newsletter, please contact Jeanie Cole at jcole@hcde-texas.org or (713) 696-0762.