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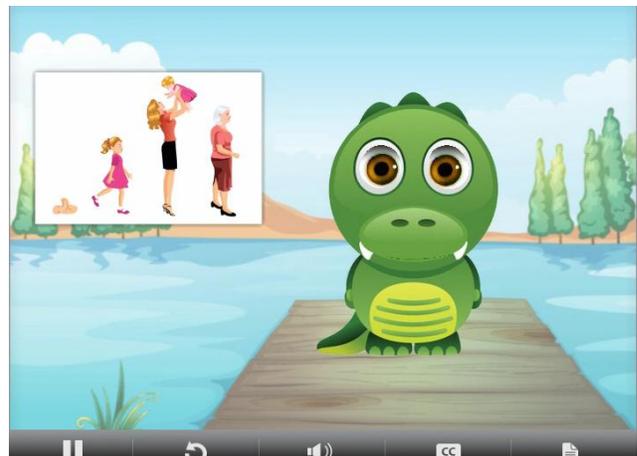
Connections Education, Leading Virtual Education Provider, Wins Two 2014 EDDIE Awards for Curriculum Excellence

- Fifth Consecutive Year e-Learning Leader Honored for Instructional Curriculum –

BALTIMORE, October 14, 2014 – Connections Education (www.ConnectionsEducation.com), a leading provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual education solutions for students in grades K–12, has been honored with two national awards for curriculum excellence by [ComputED Gazette's 19th Annual Education Software Review Awards](#) (EDDIE Awards) for its outstanding curriculum. The award-winning curriculum spans the instructional spectrum from core academics to fine arts, and early elementary to middle school grades. These 2014 awards mark the [fifth consecutive year](#) that Connections Education has won EDDIE Award curriculum honors. Connections Education won 2014 EDDIE Awards in the following categories:

Early Elementary Science Website: [Kindergarten Science](#)

With a goal of stimulating student curiosity, the kindergarten science course combines interactive and hands-on exercises that encourage young students to observe, measure, describe, analyze, and question the world around them. Students study the surrounding world by observing, collaborating, and sharing with others. In the first half of the course, students explore the nature of science and how to solve problems, as well as living and nonliving things. In the second half of the course, students learn how to investigate using critical thinking skills and by exploring life, Earth, and physical science. Units include: "The Nature of Science," "Solve Problems," "Living and non-living things," "Plants and Animals," "Earth and Sky," "All About Objects," and "Matter and Mixtures." Among the engaging activities presented, students may choose to chart weather observations over a period of time; observe and collect data on how plants and animals depend on the land, air and water; or

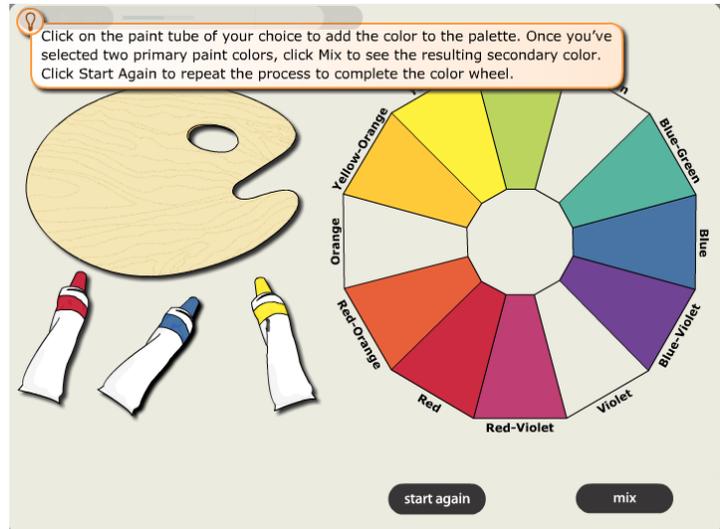


Connections Education Kindergarten Science – example of an introduction to the concept of “change” in living things. Friendly “Gator” talks about change and shows pictures illustrating change in humans and plants.

observe and compare solids and liquids at room temperature. Lessons engage students with illustrations, readings, comparisons, pictorial representations, video, and more. Throughout this course, skills in language arts, mathematics, and computer literacy are enhanced. See a [sample lesson online](#).

Middle School Art Website: [Middle School Art](#)

The Connections middle school art program is organized around the three artistic processes of creating, presenting, and responding. In addition, the program emphasizes how art and design can drive innovation in the same way science, technology, engineering, and mathematics do. Throughout the courses, students use various media and techniques to construct projects, collaborate with peers, and critique their own work as well as the work of other artists. Students learn the basic elements of art and principles of design and apply them in their own creative ways. Students consider the preservation and protection of art, as well as explore how international, national, and local art influences ideas, actions, cultures, and environments. Using this information, students build their own ideas of the role art plays in their lives. See a [sample lesson online](#).



Connections Education, Middle School Art – example of interactive color missing tool in the lesson on Color.

The EDDIE Awards recognize innovative and content-rich programs and websites that augment the classroom curriculum and improve teacher productivity, providing parents and teachers with the technology to foster educational excellence. Selection criteria include: academic content, potential for broad classroom use, technical merit, subject approach and management system. Winners are selected from titles submitted by publishers around the world. *CompuED Gazette* has served as an online education resource for educators, parents and students for more than 17 years.

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About Connections Education

Connections Education is a leading provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual education solutions for students in grades K–12. Since 2001, the company's *Connections Academy* has delivered individualized learning to students through tuition-free virtual public schools. In the 2014–2015 school year, Connections Academy supports 29 virtual public schools in 25 states—serving more than 60,000 students. Connections Education offers a fully online private school for students worldwide and delivers blended (combination of online and on-site) learning in select states via tuition-free, public, *Nexus Academy* schools. The *Connections Learning by Pearson* division meets the needs of schools, school districts, and other institutions with a full range of digital learning solutions for grades K–12 including: online courses, a program for homebound students, a digital learning platform, and private and public

online schools. Connections Education is based in Baltimore, Maryland and was named a 2013 “Top Workplace” by the *Baltimore Sun* and a 2013 “Best Place to Work” by *Baltimore* magazine. Connections Education is part of the global learning company Pearson.

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Contact: Allison Bazin
Connections Education
(609) 247-0275
abazin@connectionseducation.com

Sandy Burke
Athena Public Relations
(203) 912 - 9490
sandy@athenapr.com