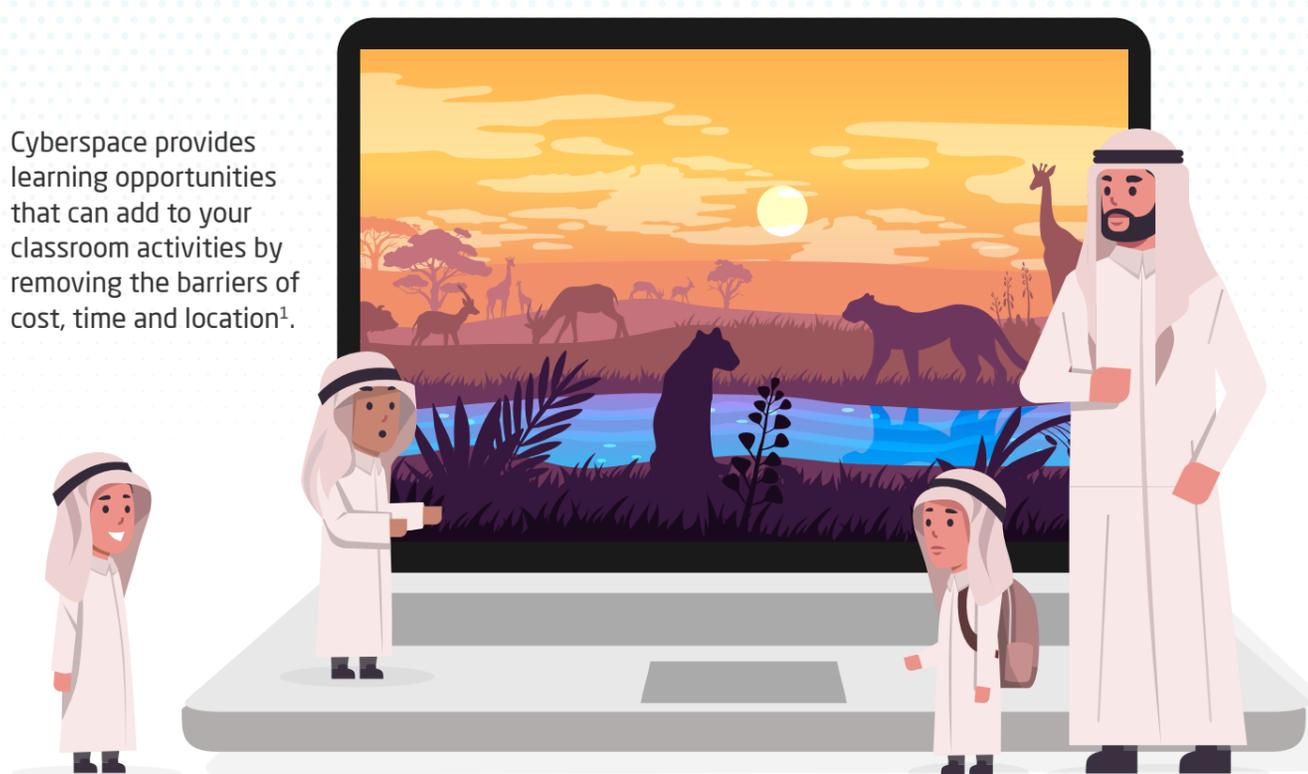


REMOVING BARRIERS IN EDUCATION: OPPORTUNITIES IN E-LEARNING

Cyberspace provides learning opportunities that can add to your classroom activities by removing the barriers of cost, time and location¹.



Access to Information

The amount and diversity of information that can be found on the internet eclipses the collections of the biggest libraries that humanity has ever built. This information is collectively and continuously created, verified, and updated by the contributors from all over the world. Now, you can focus more on how best your students could learn rather than finding the content.



Virtual Field Trips

Field trips can be hard to manage and costly. Virtual replicas of real-world such as geographic locations, museums, and national monuments can make these experiences more accessible to all students. Find the available locations related to your domain and plan the activity beforehand to make the experience more fruitful for your students.



Connected Classrooms

Collaborative projects can yield problem based and collaborative learning opportunities. By using live documents, discussion forums, chats and audio conferencing, your students can collaborate with peers from other classrooms, schools and even countries. Only remaining thing for you is to connect with other educators to create partnerships.



Webinars, Online Conferences & Performance

Virtually broadcasted seminars can connect your students, and yourself, with experts in your domain in real time. Today, even ongoing academic conferences and live artistic performances can be followed virtually. Follow social media announcements and mail lists to take advantage of these opportunities.



Continuous Learning with MOOCs

Massive open online courses provide learning opportunities for all ages and domains. You can use them to support your students' niche interests or your professional development by staying up to date. Enroll in a class and learn how you can support differing needs of your students and get up to date with new instructional strategies and technologies.



Personal Blogs

Blogs can be used to keep learning journals and they can even serve as student portfolios. Using their blogs your students can create their own learning communities. You can give your writing assessments in the form of blogposts to build this habit and improve your students' digital communication skills. You can also use blogs yourself as a professional development journal.



Professional Learning Networks

Cyberspace also has platforms and resources for you to focus on your professional development as an educator. Like your students and their peers, you can collaborate with other teachers or even experts from other fields to learn and achieve more. You can conduct action research, discuss some educational issues or share lesson plans and resources.

Use e-learning opportunities to surpass the walls of your classroom, school and even the boundaries of geography.

Reference:

1. Virtual Field Trips: An Online Learning Experience, https://secure.onlinelearningconsortium.org/effective_practices/virtual-field-trips-online-learning-experience