

It might have its share of buttons and whirring noises, but the digital camera is one of the easiest ways to get acclimated to new technology. And thanks to a wealth of online sites that offer ideas [see our complete list], integrating your new knowledge into your classes is a snap! (Groan.)

How to Use a Digital Camera > And Download the Pictures

1 BASIC COMPONENTS: camera, the batteries, the memory card that stores your pictures, and the USB cable that connects the camera to your computer and makes downloading photos possible.

You'll also need some type of software to welcome the photos onto your computer and ready them for printing, emailing or uploading to a website. (Don't worry if you've got Windows XP though. It supports almost every digital camera and automatically launches a system tool that will connect with your camera and manage your photos.)



THE CAMERA



2 SET CLICK WHEEL TO "AUTO". You can start taking pictures immediately and won't get overwhelmed with the bells and whistles. (Head to the manual for more tips on features like panorama or sports settings once you get more comfortable.)



3 CHOOSE A RESOLUTION. On most cameras you'll scroll through an on-screen menu to decide if you to take fewer, higher-quality photos, or more, lower-quality photos. You are limited by the size of your memory chip. A 128-megabit card will let you shoot about 150 high-quality pictures.

4 LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO CAPTURE ON THE SCREEN. It's a relatively fool-proof way of setting up a nice shot. Use a flash if you want to brighten the image (at night or when the sun is casting dark shadows on your subject.)

If set on "auto," your camera will focus by itself. And here's the real beauty of digital photography: if at first you don't succeed, scroll through the menu, hit delete and try again!

5 HOOK-UP. So you've got your pictures locked safely in the camera and no amount of shaking will get them out of there huh? Don't worry, it's easy.



Connect the camera to the USB cable and plug the USB cable into its port on the computer. If you don't have a USB cable, you can also use a PC serial cable. That palm-sized gadget connects to a port on your computer also, but instead of attaching the entire camera and downloading its contents, you pop the memory card from your camera and stick it into the serial cable's opening.

6 DOWNLOAD. Once you're all hooked up, either by USB cable or PC serial cable, your photo software will open automatically and ask you if you want to start downloading the contents of your camera. Or, you might see an icon pop up on your desktop that resembles your memory card. Click to open and you'll be ready to download. Once you've downloaded your images and saved them, you're ready to email them, print them or use them in any way that will give your lessons a boost!

WANT TO LEARN MORE, OR GET TROUBLESHOOTING HELP? Head to one of the online pros when it comes to learning to use digital cameras, such as:

www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/sbeck/digital/goingdigital.htm.

Or, http://www.webphotoschool.com/Lesson_Library/Free_Lessons/Basic_Start-Up_with_the_Olympus_C-750_Zoom_Digital_Camera/index.html.

READ ABOUT "Tech Nightmares in Digital Photography" like lens fungus, night of the living dead batteries, and disappearing photos at [cnet.com \(http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-11243_7-6229995-1.html?tag=txt\)](http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-11243_7-6229995-1.html?tag=txt).

For more technology resources, visit www.nea.org/neatodayextra/technology.html

