

INK-12: Interactive Ink Inscriptions in K-12

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Website: <http://ink-12.terc.edu/>

INK-12 is an innovative project exploring the capabilities of a wireless network of tablet computers in elementary and middle school math and science classrooms. By harnessing the possibilities of this new technology, project researchers anticipate that networks of tablets can enhance the learning of all students by promoting greater connectivity within the classroom and encouraging creative interpretation and interaction with math and science material.

The project will examine two features: 1) **creating inscriptions**—how students and teachers “create ink”—i.e., by drawing, writing, annotating text, indicating locations on maps, creating graphs and other mathematical representations, and 2) **communicating inscriptions**—that is, the use of the wireless connection to promote communication, review and feedback from teachers to students.

Tablet computers are only beginning to appear in K-8 classrooms, and are likely not to be in widespread use for the next 5-10 years. Through observing the classrooms where tablets are being used in math and science and interviewing students and teachers, project researchers will investigate how cutting-edge technologies can be used to enhance learning. Based on project findings, INK-12 also plans to produce a design document for software developers that will propose ideas for educational applications of tablet computers.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is a partner for this project.