

Quick Start

Creating a Blog with iWeb

iWeb, part of the iLife suite of applications, makes it simple to create great looking websites. iWeb comes with preformatted templates for different types of webpages, including a blog page, a podcast page, and pages that let you upload photo albums and movies to the Internet.

In this activity, you will create a blog. *Blog* is an abbreviation for *web log*, a collection of text passages that are created over time to build up a log history, or journal.

iWeb in the Classroom

Today's students are accustomed to sharing information and their creations on the Internet at home through such sites as Facebook and YouTube. Sharing their classroom work on the Internet is thus exciting for students who are motivated to communicate with a combination of text, the spoken word, and images.

Using iWeb, students can become citizen journalists, readily creating professional-looking school websites to publish blogs, podcasts, and photos, with links to additional information resources. In addition to working collaboratively to create these sites, students can respond to feedback posted by website visitors. Students can have an audience that includes not just the teacher, but their communities or even the entire world. Citizen journalism also provides an important public service by offering an insight into previously inaccessible areas of the world.

This activity takes you through the steps that students could take to create a current events blog for a journalism class. The blog's purpose is to establish an interactive forum to foster an in-depth analysis of one news event. The blog could be a daily journal made up of photos, texts, ongoing comments, and any other media that helps present the issues raised by the event. One student could write the entry each day and the other students in the class could then provide comments on the effectiveness of the news story itself and on the event's impact.

To visit an example of the site you will create, go to:

http://web.me.com/hs_teacher/Current_Events/Blog/Blog.html

Goals

In this activity, you will:

- Select a website blog template and replace placeholder text and pictures
- Add a comments button
- Publish the blog on the Internet
- Add a new entry to the published blog
- Republish the blog with the new entry

What You Will Need

For this activity, you need to download the files in the iWeb_Assets folder:

- iWeb_Blog_Text.pages, a Pages file with text you will use for the blog
- newspaper_swirl.jpg, an image file
- newspaper_fin_2.jpg, an image file
- raw_sewage_sign.jpg, an image file

Software needed:

- iWeb
- Pages (to open the text file provided)

To publish your site, you need to have a MobileMe account, a service from Apple that provides website hosting and a variety of other services. If you already have an active .Mac account, that account has been upgraded to MobileMe and can be used to publish your site. If you do not have a MobileMe account, go to www.apple.com/mobileme to sign up for a free trial.

Time

This activity will take approximately one hour to complete.

Getting Started

Using iWeb, you can create an attractive looking, distinctive blog by using one of the preformatted design templates.

- 1 Open iWeb by clicking its icon in the Dock or by double-clicking its icon in the Applications folder.

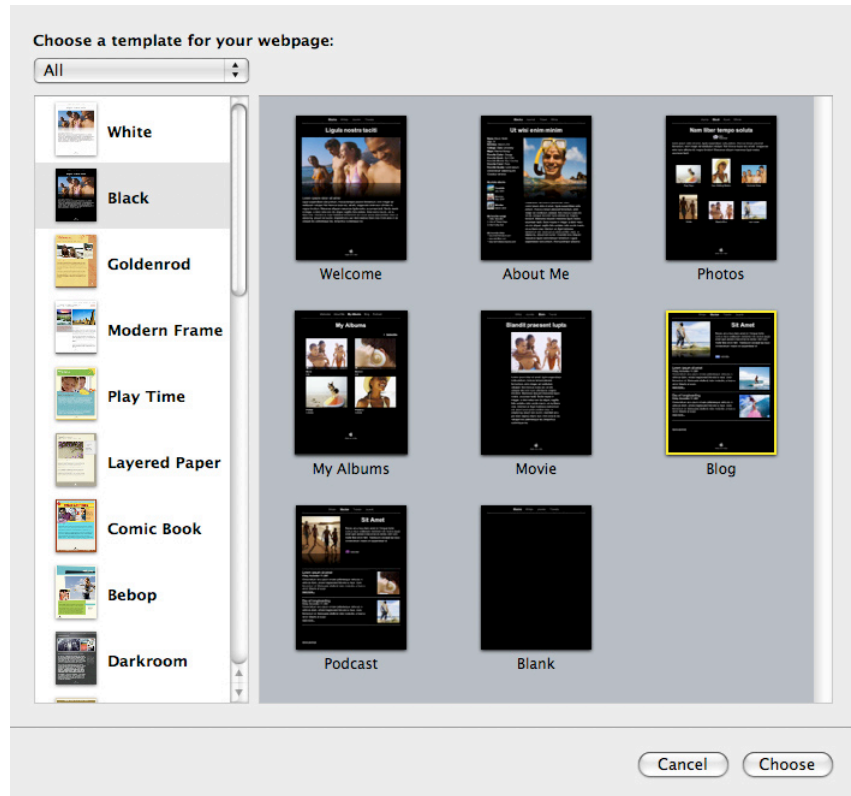


Note: If this is the first time you are opening iWeb, an iWeb welcome window may appear.

A window appears that displays all the available themes.

- 2 In the template chooser on the left of the window, click the Black theme to select it.
A set of thumbnails for predefined pages appears on the right.

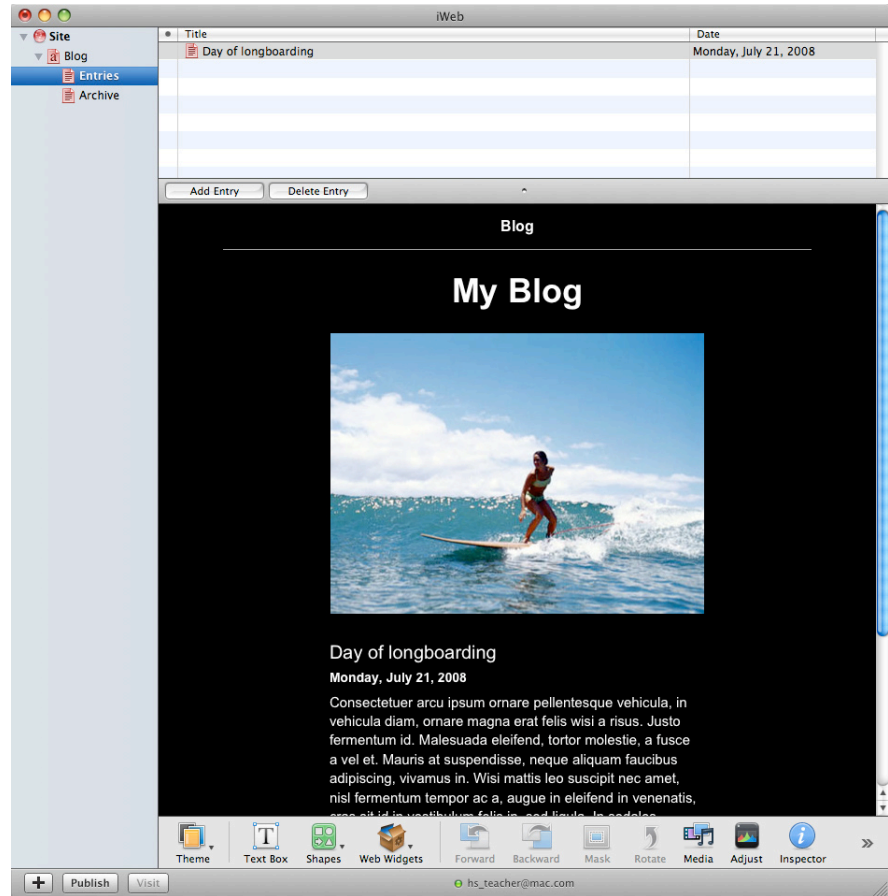
- 3 Click the Blog page to select it, then click Choose.



The sidebar displays a new Site item with three icons underneath it. The Entries page is where you create and manage your blog entries. The Blog page is a summary page with excerpts of your most recent blog entries. This is the page that visitors see when they first visit your site. Archive is for viewing older entries no longer available on the summary page.

You click an item in the sidebar to display it in the webpage canvas. The webpage canvas is where you edit your webpages.

The blog entry displayed on the Entries page consists of placeholders for the page's main title ("My Blog"), a picture of a surfer, and the template's entry title, date, and body text, which you will replace.



Replacing the Entry's Headings and Body Text

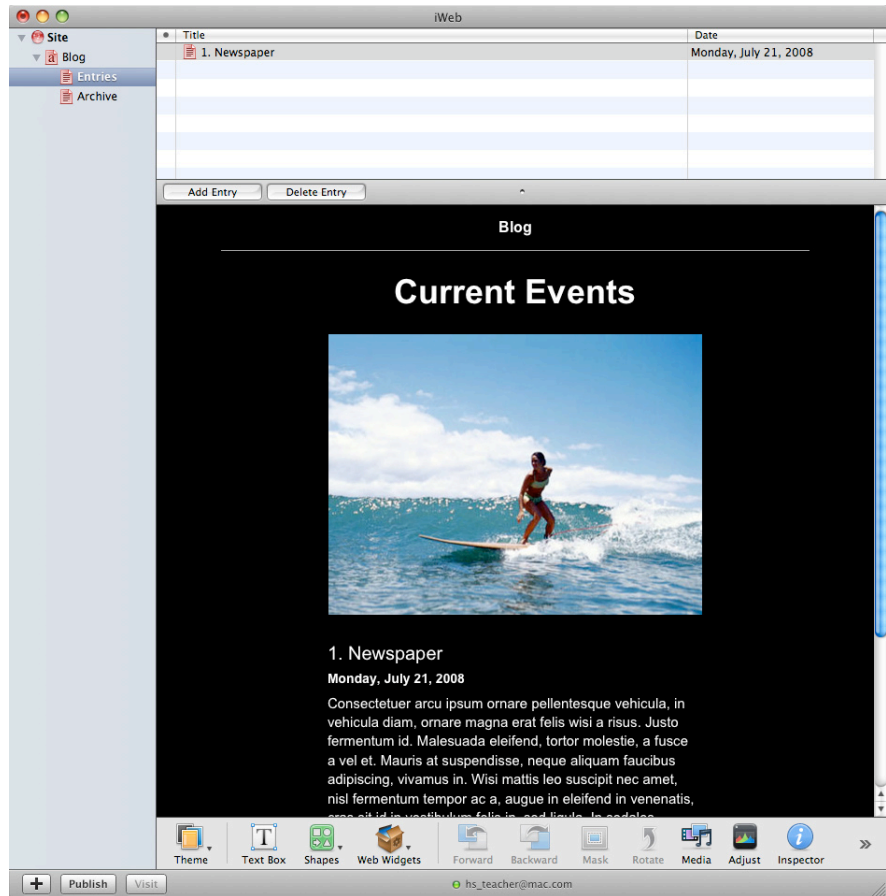
You can change the main title on the Entries page to make it your own. For this activity, all main titles will be the same: Current Events.

- 1 Drag across the main title text, "My Blog," then replace the text by typing *Current Events*.
Next, you'll change the title of this entry, now named "Day of longboarding," using the placeholder text directly below the photo. (The entry title is also listed at the very top of the Entries page.)
- 2 Drag the "Day of longboarding" heading to select it, then replace the text by typing *1. Newspaper*.

Note: Double-clicking the text will also select it for editing.

- 3 Click outside the heading text box to deselect the text.

The entry's name in the list at the top of the page changes to reflect the new name.



You are now ready to replace the placeholder text with your own text by copying and pasting a paragraph from a document that was created with Pages.

- 4 Open a Finder window and locate and open the iWeb_Assets folder. Double-click the iWeb_Blog_Text.pages file to open it in Pages. (See “What You Will Need” for information about downloading this file.)
- 5 Select the text under Paragraph #1 and copy it by choosing Edit > Copy (or pressing Command-C).
- 6 In iWeb, place the pointer in the middle of the placeholder paragraph text, and double-click to select the entire paragraph. Choose Edit > Paste and Match Style (or press Option-Shift-Command-V) to replace the highlighted template paragraph with the text you copied.

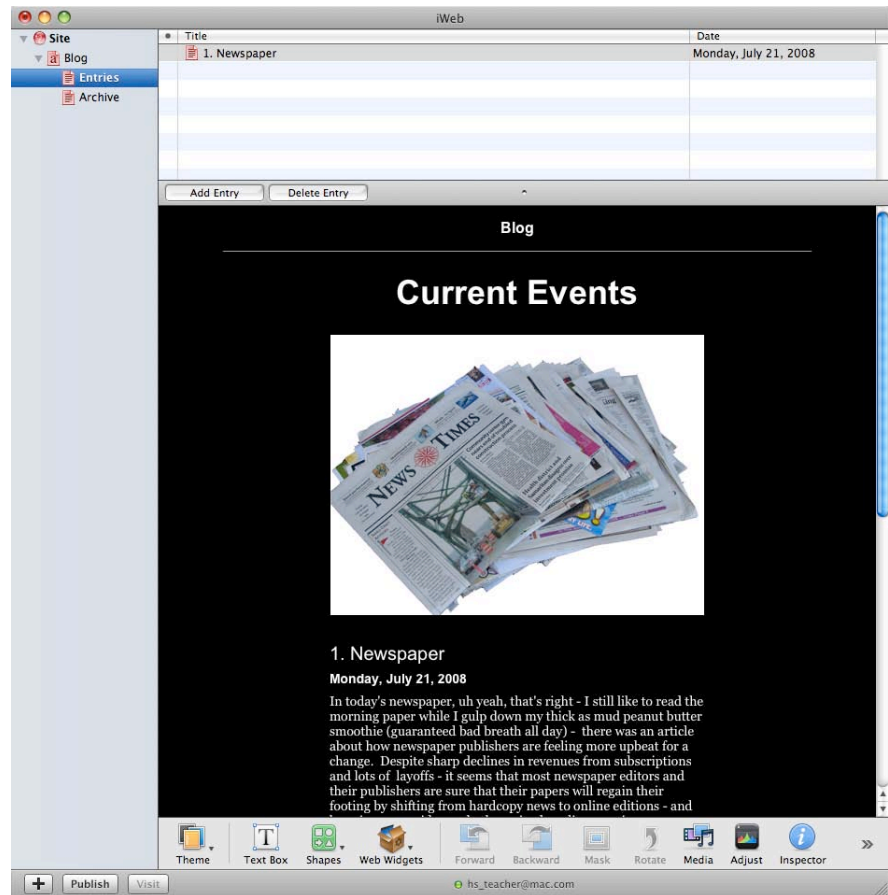
Note: The date located below the entry’s heading is automatically updated by iWeb to reflect today’s date. As a result, all entries are automatically date stamped when they are posted.

Replacing the Entry's Image

In iWeb, you can drag pictures into your new blog entry.

- 1 Open a Finder window and locate and open the iWeb_Assets folder.
- 2 Drag the newspaper_swirl.jpg icon file to the current placeholder picture. Release the mouse button when the current placeholder picture is outlined in blue. The new picture replaces the placeholder image.

Your page should now look like the following figure.

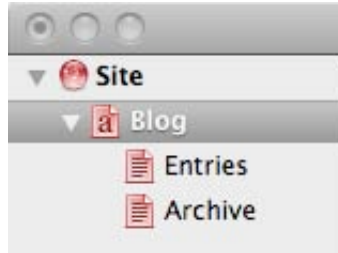


Note: On your own Mac, you probably have a library of photographs stored in iPhoto. You can access all of those photos by clicking the Media button on the toolbar at the bottom of the iWeb window and clicking the iPhoto button.

Replacing Text and Pictures on the Blog Page

The Blog page is your blog's home page and the first page that visitors will see when they enter your blog. So far, you have created the first entry page. You will now modify your Blog home page before publishing it to the Internet.

- 1 In the sidebar, click Blog.



The entry that you just built appears below the Blog page section at the top of the page.

- 2 Drag to select the "My Blog" main title, then type *Current Events*.

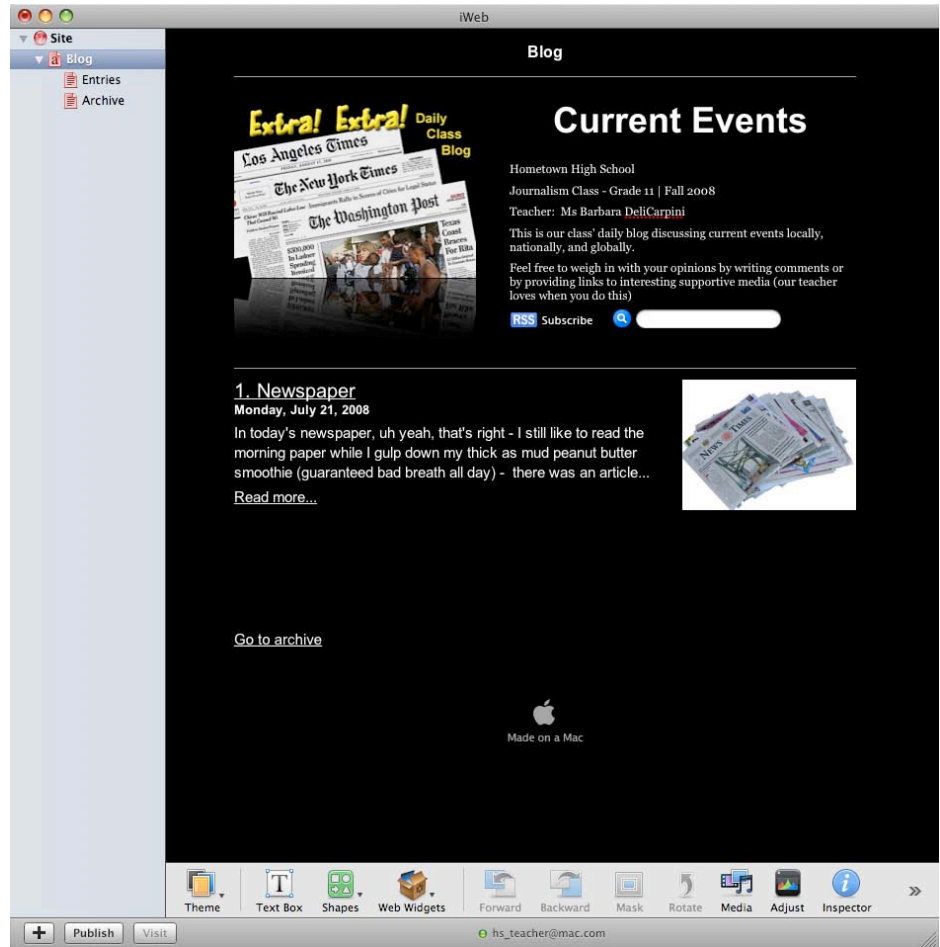
This will become the name of the blog's home page.



- 3 If the Pages text file, iWeb_Blog_Text.pages, is not still open, open the file located in the iWeb_Assets folder.
- 4 Select the text under Paragraph 2 and copy it by choosing Edit > Copy (or by pressing Command-C).
- 5 In iWeb, place the pointer in the middle of the Blog page top paragraph and double-click to select the entire paragraph. Choose Edit > Paste and Match Style (or press Option-Shift-Command-V) to replace the highlighted template paragraph with the new text.

- 6 Drag the newspaper_fin_2.jpg file from the iWeb_Assets folder in the Finder to replace the current placeholder picture.

The new picture replaces the template's placeholder image.



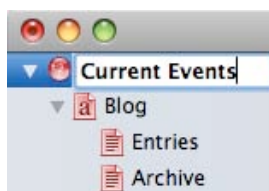
Publishing Your Blog

You now have a blog with two pages—the Blog page and one entry page—and you're ready to publish it on the Internet. Before it can be published, however, you need to give the blog site a name.

- 1 In the sidebar, click Site.

The webpage canvas turns white. Don't worry, you'll return it to normal in a moment.

- 2 Select Site in the sidebar and type the website name *Current Events*.



Note: It is essential that each website have a unique name. If the same name is used for a second website, its pages will overwrite the first website's pages. It is acceptable, however, to use the same names for pages.

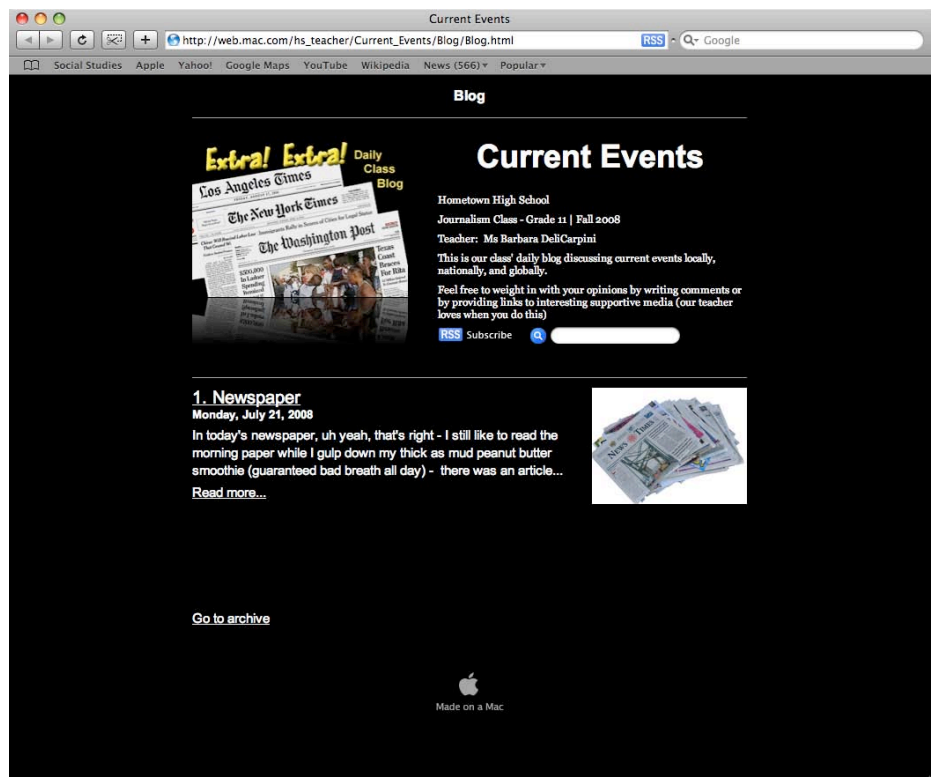
- 3 Click Blog in the sidebar to display your site again. In the lower-left corner of the iWeb window, click the Publish button.



- 4 In the dialog that appears asking if you have copyright permissions for the files you've used, click Continue.

Note: You must either own any content that you are publishing to the web or have legal permission to use it.

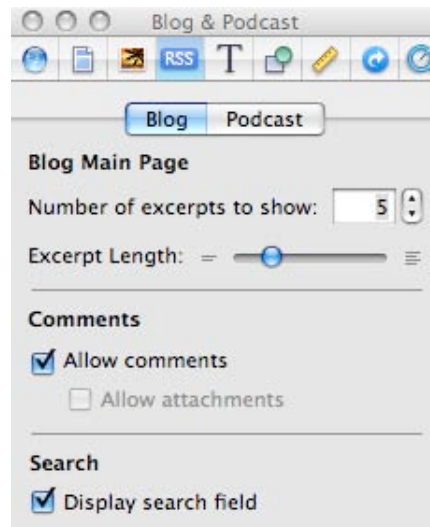
- 5 In the dialog that appears asking you to authenticate your keychain information, click Always Authenticate so that this dialog will not reappear.
- 6 In the dialog that appears with the message, "Publishing will now continue in the background," click OK.
- 7 After the site is published, you will see the message, "Your site has been published." Click OK.
- 8 To visit your new website, click the Visit button. The Safari web browser opens and displays your new website.



Adding a Comment

Next, you will set up the site so that visitors can add comments.

- 1 If the Inspector is not open, click the Inspector button in the webpage toolbar below the canvas. Make sure that the RSS and the Blog buttons are both selected (in blue).
- 2 Select “Allow comments” in the Blog pane, then click OK in the dialog that appears.



- 3 Click the Publish button to republish the site.
- 4 In the sidebar, click Entries and scroll to the bottom of the first entry where you see an Add a Comment link below the entry text.

Clicking the Add a Comment link opens a comment dialog that can be filled out by the person who wants to make a comment when your students visit the website.

Adding a New Entry

It's easy to update a blog with a new entry.

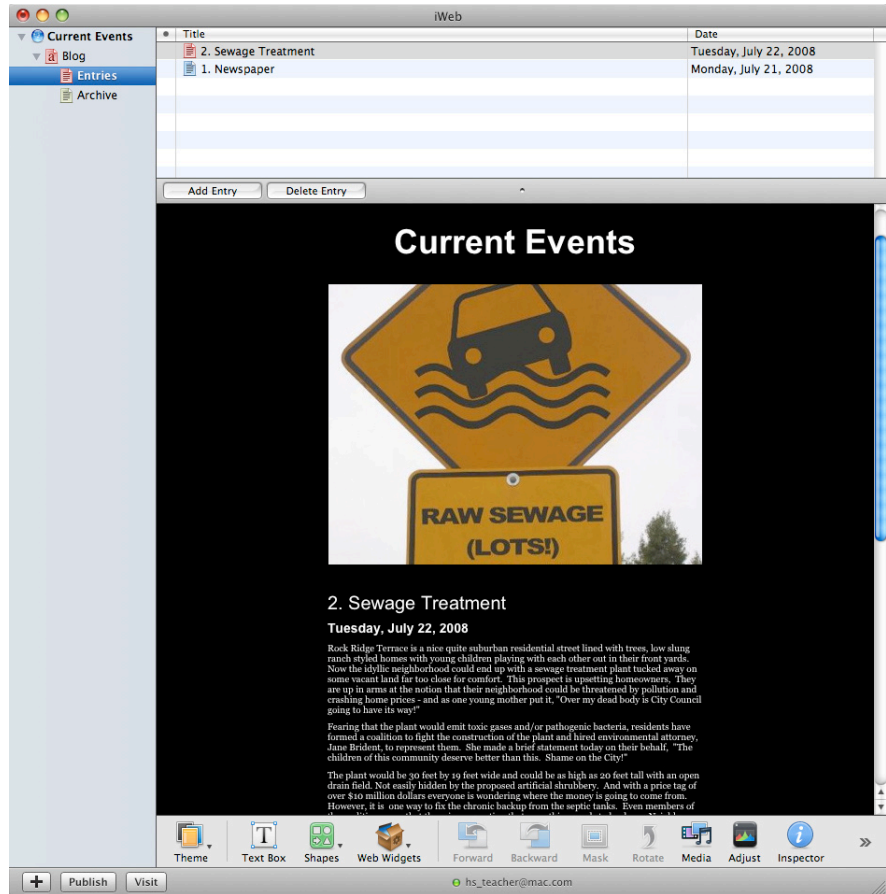
- 1 In the sidebar, click the Entries page to view the first entry you made, 1. Newspaper. To add a new entry, at the top of the Entries page, click the Add Entry button.

A new entry page opens.



- 2 Replace the “My Blog” title by double-clicking it and typing *Current Events*.

- 3 Replace "Day of longboarding" by typing *2. Sewage Treatment*. The Entry 2 name is changed.
- 4 If it's not still open, open the iWeb_Blog_Text.pages document in the iWeb_Assets folder in the Finder. Copy paragraph 3 by choosing Edit > Copy (or pressing Command-C). Paste the text into the new entry page placeholder paragraph by choosing Edit > Paste and Match Style (or pressing Option-Shift-Command V).
- 5 Drag the raw_sewage_sign.jpg file from the iWeb_Assets folder in the Finder onto the placeholder picture in your entry in iWeb.



Republishing Your Site

After you've revised your blog, it must be republished to the Internet before the rest of the world can see it. When any page is revised, its Site icon in the sidebar turns red to indicate that you need to republish the page to update it online. If no red icons are indicated, the Publish button is unavailable.

- 1 At the bottom of the iWeb window, click the Publish button to republish the blog.

After it has been republished, the red icons return to blue.

- 2 To view your updated website in a browser, click the Visit button.

Your default web browser opens and displays your revised website. Notice that blog entries are listed in reverse chronological order with the most recent placed at the top.

The Blog Archive

iWeb automatically creates an archive that lists all your blog entries much like a table of contents, so visitors can read all previous entries, no matter how old. In the Blog home page, a limited number of entries are displayed, but the archive lists all entries.



Next Steps

Now that you've gotten started with iWeb, you're ready to use it with your lessons to enhance teaching and learning. The additional activity ideas that are included here suggest a few more of the ways you can use iWeb with your students. When you want to gain further skills in using the software to implement these and other activities, you can use the resources listed in "Learn More," below.

Learn More

Help

When you're working in iWeb, onscreen help is available at any time by choosing Help > iWeb Help.

Video Tutorials

For a collection of tutorials about using iWeb, go to www.apple.com/ilife/tutorials or choose Help > Video Tutorials when iWeb is open.

Apple Media Series

iLife '08 in the Classroom, part of the Apple Media Series, provides how-to videos and step-by-step guides for learning how to use iWeb and the other applications in the iLife suite. iLife '08 in the Classroom, available at an affordable cost to individuals and schools, guides you through what students could produce with each application.

www.apple.com/education/k12/applemediaseries

Additional Activity Ideas

Literature Blogs—Language Arts

A webpage can be created in iWeb for students to discuss aspects of a literary work being studied. For example, the webpage could have questions from the teacher for students to respond to in blog entries, such as about foreshadowing, character analysis, and use of metaphors. Such blogs could also be a way for students at schools in different parts of the world to collaborate on the study of the same piece of literature.

What Do You See?—Visual Arts

In art classes, iWeb can be used to create a blog about pieces of art being studied. Students can add blog entries about each work of art and provide their personal interpretation of that artwork.

Electronic Portfolios—All Subjects

Electronic portfolios created with iWeb are a great way for students to save, present, and publish their work from just one class or throughout their high school career. For example, they could have a website to showcase their photography or other artwork, their history research papers, or their poetry. Such a portfolio can also be valuable when students are applying to college or for a job.

Learning on the Web—Science

Students can use iWeb to create a website on a unit of study for a science class, such as molarity in Chemistry or cell division in Biology. The site can include photo galleries, blogs, shared documents, and podcasts about related topics. This site can help students understand the topic with different media and also provide them with review material to use for preparing for tests.

Educate the Public—Science, Social Studies, Language Arts

Websites are a great educational tool for providing information to the school community and the public. Students can use iWeb to present information about local and national topics such as community bike paths or energy conservation.