

VIDEO AS STILL PHOTOGRAPHY

Teachers and students will learn to use the video camera as a still camera, taking pictures of details in nature, portraits of persons, and local scenery.

Invitation for learning

This activity enables teachers and students to observe, discuss, and describe their environment. At once, the camera is a microscope and a pair of binoculars.

By thinking in terms of still pictures, video cameras become tools to capture photographs of people, places, and events. These photographs, in turn, can be used to produce classroom materials, such as posters, newsletters, reports, books, and slideshows.

Many of the textbooks used in Pacific island schools come from the United States or New Zealand. Other books that are locally published may be out of date. Teachers want access to photographs that reflect the communities in which they live. With the video camera, this is now possible.

Directions

Working in teams of three, learners will use the digital video camera as a still camera. Teams will:

1. Create a shoot list of 20 close-up detail shots (e.g., flowers, bugs, plants, people's faces, jewelry, T-shirts, tools, arts and crafts, foods) to take with the camera.
2. Record each shot for seven seconds, using the side viewfinder and the wide-angle lens (zoom out). Teams can attain close-ups by physically moving the camera close to the subject (a physical zoom).
3. Create a shoot list of 10 portrait shots (e.g., individuals or small groups of people) to take with the camera.
4. Record each portrait shot from the shoulders up (not the full body), using the same procedures described in step 2 above.
5. Create a shoot list of 10 postcard shots (e.g., beaches, mountains, reefs, fishing boats, businesses, government offices, parks) to take with the camera.
6. Record each postcard shot for seven seconds, using the side viewfinder and the wide-angle lens (zoom out).
7. Attach the video camera to a television monitor to display the pictures, in pause mode, one at time, describing to an audience who or what they are, and why they were taken. When used as a professional development exercise for teachers, teams might also indicate how the photos might be used for instruction or supplementary classroom materials.

Classroom applications

In order to create photographs from video, the camera must be attached to the computer. The video material is transferred to the computer using *iMovie* software. Still photos are then selected, saved, and published as reports, books, newsletters, posters, calendars, and yearbooks. These activities usually require additional software (e.g., *HyperStudio* and *AppleWorks*), although sometimes the photos are just printed as is to be laminated and added to the teacher's collection of curriculum materials.

Stretching our imaginations: Dare to dream

A video camera records 30 frames (photographs) per second. Recording close-ups of the faces of children singing produces thousands of candid photographs to choose from for school yearbooks and calendars. It is a case of establishing an intimate relationship between camera and subject.