

Terrific Dry Erase Board Tips



Over 3 Dozen
Tips from
Classroom
Teachers!

**Thanks to Facebook friends who
shared how they use individual dry
erase boards in the classroom!**

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Terrific Dry Erase Board Tips



We use dry erase boards all the time and the kids keep them right in their desks. It is a great way to create an impromptu competition between sides of the room/groups etc. while seeing everyone's individual work, to assess math questions, ask them to answer questions on vocabulary, to have them draw a picture of something you describing....we use them ALL the time!!! The kids LOVE them. They are asked to bring dry erase markers on their school supply list and we provide the socks as erasers...which they also keep in their desks. ~ Julie White Bearup

Some classrooms have whiteboards and a small box of supplies in each student's desk (for grades 2 and up)...smaller grades usually have a stack of whiteboards and community container of dry erase markers. It's nice to get quick feedback when asking questions and the kids love being able to doodle in between answers. There's more participation and less risk because they're not saying their answers, but you can still see them. There are all kinds of white boards with or without lines, double-sided, etc. You can use them for individuals as well as part of center activities...saves on paper too! ~ Lisa Plume Harvey

I went to Lowes or home depot and bought a \$20 piece of shower board. They cut it into individual boards for me (I had to tape the edges). I use them for math drills and the kids love them. I can walk around and correct problems individually. I store them in a box in the back of the room and the kids are responsible for their own markers. ~ Jennifer Owen

We use baby socks that I bought new (because otherwise they get grossed out) and we store our marker inside when they aren't supposed to be writing. We store them in our cubbies with all of our other materials. My fave use is for introducing vocab - students try to guess mystery word and flash their boards at me until everyone gets it. They LOVE them.
~ Technically Invisible

I have used them for everything - much more fun than paper/pencil... I buy a big sheet of the laminate board from Lowes and have them cut it to small rectangles (they cut it for free!) So cheap and easy. And if they get messed up, not such a big deal! Each table group has a clear zipper pouch that stores 4 black (men's) socks in - I have the kids put their markers inside the sock..then put in zipper pouch. When the table manager passes out the socks, no arguing over color-they can't see the color of the markers until already passed out ;) ~ Autumn Wallace

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I have also used socks as erasers in the past! We used the socks to cover up our answer so our neighbors couldn't see them. It kept the socks out of the students' hands, and kept peaking to a minimum. :) One year my classroom didn't have dry erase boards (and I didn't have time to run out and buy them), so I took cardstock and had it laminated. It worked really well and was a nice alternative!

One side was blank, but the other side had our writing lines on it.

~ Heather Whetham

You can also use plastic plates from the dollar store - they erase just as well and you can usually buy 8 for a dollar! Even better, they store really well stuck together in a bin! :) With kindergarten I use them to practice letters or their names (guessing games - which letter am I describing)...there are so many uses for them!

~ Shelley Elizabeth

I put a piece of white cardstock inside of a sheet protector. They are easy for the kids to store inside their binder. I mainly use mine during math instruction, so ALL of the students can work the problem. I have the kids hold them up and it allows me to spot who isn't understanding a new concept.

~ Kim Bowling Wilbur

My students write on their desks with their whiteboard markers-- they love it!!

~ Laura Jankowski

When I taught Kindergarten, I used the individual white boards when doing whole class estimation activities. I would show the students a jar of objects, and they would write their guess on the whiteboards. (I had the white boards that were shaped like hands, so the kids really enjoyed them!) One side of the board was blue and the other was red, so I can see True/False type questions working well with these as well. ~ Sara Crocker

I bought a piece of shower board at Home Depot and charmed someone there to cut it into 12" boards for me. :) Each child gets a marker and a sock (keep the marker in the sock). They each keep a board in their table, and a basket on the table holds the socks/markers. The rest of them are stored in a milk crate. We use them for EVERYTHING! They're just so "forgiving"--the kids love to write on them, and it's easy to erase and fix mistakes.

~ Donna Bunn Lightsey

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I use them in my 6th grade Math class, the students use them as an option of writing in their tablets and can check to see if they are on the right path. I store them in boxes in the center of each group of desk. When they are not being used, I have a shelf where I keep them with the markers in a pencil box. The students used them for about a week but some wrote other things instead of doing their work so I put them back on shelf. They understand that in order to use them they must use them correctly. The pens are stored in the boxes too with extras on the shelf. I also have different colors markers by the white board to help with misunderstood concepts. We are currently working on division so this is very helpful.
~ Tanya Cortez

I use them for math- after I teach the mini lesson, I have the kids use their white boards for practice- it's a great tool to check for understanding, and then once I know who I will need to pull for a small group, the rest of the class can use their boards to practice with a partner- they LOVE them much better than paper and pencil.
~ Beth Archer Watson

Use old socks for erasers. I store mine in a milk crate, or the kids can keep them in their desks. Great to see immediately who gets it and who doesn't. Love them!!!
~ Tammi Raye Pittaro

Love love love using them! The students all get to participate and I get to see weaknesses really quickly. The biggest challenge was keeping enough working markers ... it's just so fun to doodle and draw on the boards. We also made our own boards by using our clipboards attaching a plastic sheet protector with a white sheet in it. Cheaper and you can easily add graphing paper or any other re-usable work -sheet. So many benefits. And it also has the benefit of teaching the value of "low" techno tools.
~ Lou Ann Paul

I use mine for spelling/phonics practice. We make words on the board with the vowel or blend of the week. We start with a word, leaving the part we are working with, such as the "aw" sound. We keep creating words. I would say "Start with caw, now erase the c and add dr, then erase the r and add a letter to make the word dawn". The kids love it and it is great word work.
~ Evelyn Niver

When they get cloudy or start getting hard to erase, you can use Turtle Wax to wax them and they get clean and will be just like new!
~ Airemy Caudle

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I number them to correspond to each students assigned number and have the kids store them in their desk. We use them throughout the day. This way there's no hassle with passing out and picking up. ~ Amy Schultz



I use them to practice French numbers, letters, and subjects - For example, I'll say a number in French, and the students will have to write it on their whiteboard and display them for me. If they are right, I give them a nod, if not, I shake my head gently and they try again. The kids LOVE the whiteboards. Best investment ever! I got mine from Home Depot. I bought 3 sheets of "Whiteboard" and had each cut into 10 pieces, giving each student a sizable rectangle to work on. Definitely try it!! ~ Catherine Rudolph

I use them all the time! My students keep them in their desks along with a marker, and they share erasers. I also have a basket of boards and markers at the reading table. I use them for word work, math practice, spelling practice, and the kids love to draw on them during indoor recess! I also use them for quick math assessments to see if my little ones are on track for certain skills. ~ Elementary Matters

My kids have started to bring in socks, but the best was when one asked if they could bring in old underwear!!!! I said, no, they could use that at home for dry erase boards, but at school we would only use socks!!!!!!! ~ Bekah Levy

I've used dry erase boards in my teaching practicums for questions during lessons in math and had the children write their answer on the board and hold it up that way I knew they were done and you can quickly see who has the correct answer without bringing attention to them...also for group games like trivia and true or false where they decide as a group and hold it up when they have their answer. I also use them at daycare during circle when working on printing. Each child has their own board and marker and prints some of the words that we made with our alphabet letter and sight words and have them hold it up when their done and draw a picture that matches the letter or word. ~ Andrea Lavoie

I laminated white Bristol board and students have been using these as whiteboards for the last three weeks. Quick and easy to store! ~ Ashley Anne

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Shower board works the best and lasts the longest and in the end is the cheapest :) Make sure you check the shower board first though by bringing with you a dry erase marker and making sure it comes off. Some shower boards actually won't work! The kids LOVE using them in class and they are great way to motivate everyone. I use them for spelling by sound (grade 1) and everyone shows me their boards at the same time, it's amazing to see them all quickly glance around and then self correct if they feel the need. Having them for math centers is also really handy and less wasteful!
~ Sabrina Berwick White



I bought a big sheet at home depot and had a dad who cut them down for me. We put masking tape around the edges for safety. I let my students keep them in their desks with a dry erase given to them at the beginning of the year (lost or ruined markers were replaced for a nickel, dry markers due to use were replaced for free). We used them constantly. To answer questions for simultaneity, whole class Brain Pop quizzes, scrap paper, etc. ~ Cristina Gipson Balthrop

I use them all the time. After watching a Brain Pop movie, they answer the 10 comprehension questions on their whiteboards. Any time I am looking to check for understanding, it's a fun, quick way to see if everyone gets it.
~ Maryangela Virgona

I put in a work order and had maintenance cut a big one down for me. No charge :) BEST TOOL EVER!!!! I also use the black ankle socks for erasing.... Got that great idea from you, Mrs. Laura!! ~ Liz Jackson

We use them quite frequently for a variety of areas: printing letters, numbers, writing spelling words/sentences, recording their work during math stations, showing their thinking during whole class math activities. My school purchased a whole class set of white boards and this year I got markers for each child, plus others that I just have from previous years. I use either our fingers/hands or a sock to erase. I like the fact that they help me save on paper and it seems easier for many students to write on.
~ Laura Leuterio

In the 6th grade room that I am student teaching in, we use them for problems of the day in Math. We have each kid store them at their desk and assign them a number that corresponds with their book numbers. They have shelves in the classroom for extra materials as we have tables. It is very effective! ~ Carli Cockrell

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I use the shower board ones like so many others, However....this year in some training we did something even better. Put a piece of oak tag (any color) in a clear sheet protector. You can use your dry erase marker, erasers, etc, just like the white board. If you are away from your desk you do need something stiffer to write on, but it works. You can slip in worksheets and answer the questions, a practice math drill sheet, almost anything. Best if you use the thin tip markers, but teachers are great at adapting. Love this idea for saving paper from worksheets, drills, etc.
~ Lori Ware Labrum



Used fabric softener sheets for erasers and plastic plates to write on. Very cheap and easy to store. Love it!
~ Brandy Prince

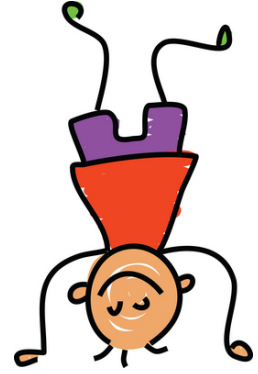
Numbered Heads Together is our class favorite. We do this anytime we are reviewing for a quiz or test. The team rotates the board around so everyone gets to write. I use socks that seem to lose their match in the laundry for erasers. The kids love using dry erase boards and markers!
~ Carrie Allen Speck

I also bribe kids by saying, "If you use it correctly, you can free draw at the end of the lesson." Even big kids like to free draw. Also they like writing on their desks with dry erase markers. That works well in a pinch. ~ Amy Tracy Hoen

We use them for spelling, Brainpop quizzes, vocabulary. We use cheapo washcloths from Wal-Mart. Put the marker board, cloth, & marker in a ziplock bag. Voila- a marker kit. Store in a small tub at each group of desks/table. Kids love to use them. Much cheaper than electronic student response systems (which we can't afford in our poor district). ~ Ann Strange Woodall

I use them daily for math. I also use them for spelling (I give the definition, students write the word or pictionary or divide by syllables). I also use them for math stations (recently we played your multiplication game with a deck of cards). I supply the markers and we have 2"X2" carpet squares for erasers. The first days of school are spent teaching students how to use them (no doodling, don't shred erasers, use pen correctly, put lid on so that it clicks, hand out procedures, etc). Now, we've got it down pat! ~ Tina Naff Gibson

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I use them for math practice - we do practice on the new lesson from our textbook on dry erase boards before my students do the independent practice in their workbook. I also use them with individual students for one-on-one instruction on a specific skill/problem, or as I'm walking around the room and I want to stop and help/explain a problem to a student. At other times, students use them to practice their spelling words, give each other math problems to solve, or during indoor recess where they play hang-man, tic-tac-toe, etc. I store mine on a shelf in our classroom; other teachers store theirs in a basket. My students sit at square tables, and I have purchased small, 3-drawer storage containers for the tops of the tables, and markers are stored in one of the drawers. Students can use a tissue or an inexpensive dishrag to erase. ~Carol Jones Leakey

I use them almost every day for practicing Math. The kids store them in their seat sacks along with a marker and eraser sock so they're always handy. We use them so often that the question is what DON'T we use them for?!? ~ Angie Richter Lowry

I just bought these new Crayola white board crayons! They work great and come with a black mitt for erasing...they are much less toxic and hopefully longer lasting than dry erase markers. ~ Katie Oliver

I use them for math a lot, kind of like a formative assessment so I can automatically see who gets what. The kids seem so much more into the lesson when they can work the problems on the white board, as opposed to doing their independent work in their journal. Who knew? HA ~ Sara Ellis Carico

I use them frequently. Great practice tool, erase away mistakes. Order of operations pass - 1 person does first step, passes the board, next person checks it, adds on, passes ...etc... I used my grandsons outgrown baby socks as erasers, the kids love them. Had to go buy girlie socks at yard sales to balance out the selection. I take them home and wash them. ~ Joan Armstrong

**Thanks to everyone who
shared their terrific tips
for using dry erase boards!
~ Laura Candler**