

Would online education be best in virtual reality (VR)?

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Background

VR schools are starting to pop up, like [eWolfsStar 3D](#). The question is will this become a trend, or even more, something all schools will adapt? Or are there issues that make this not a viable option?

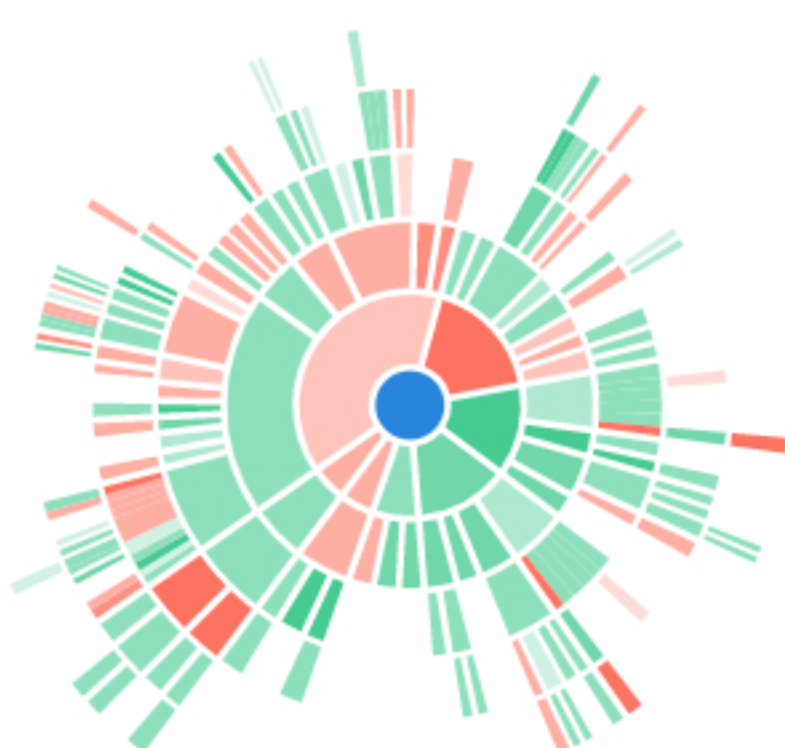
VR technology is easy to use (it's already been in use for gaming and tourism/lightseeing). Slip on a headset at home, and you'll enter a whole new world. A screen in front of your eyes will show you your fictional surroundings, handheld controllers will let you explore them, and what you see will change as you move around. Not only will you see this new world, you'll interact with it as well. Immersion can be [total](#).

Virtual Reality is already unlocking new experiences for people across the globe. Israelis and Palestinians, segregated and pushed apart by walls and barbed wire, can now step into one another's living rooms as part of a VR art exhibit. The creator hopes to build up [empathy](#) between the two communities. On the other side of the world, New Yorkers visiting a film festival can walk into the last standing building in [Nicosia](#), coming face to face with survivors of the bombing. This VR memorial, created by a Nobel Laureate campaigning for the abolition of nuclear weapons, will allow many Americans to confront atrocities for the [first time](#). VR's ability to give us new experiences and perspectives is revolutionary. It's sufficiently realistic to be used [in therapy](#), as a way of teaching people to cope with stressful situations.

If VR is so good at showing us new perspectives, is it not perfect for use in a classroom? The UK education secretary is already calling on schools to use of it, excited at the thought of children exploring a rain forest while sitting at their desks, or teachers getting extra training from their [own classrooms](#). And if these ideas succeed, might we do away with classrooms altogether?

Could the children of the future take their lessons from headsets, in the comfort of their own homes? Could the best teachers see their words beamed straight into living rooms around the world? What problems would that solve, and what problems might it create? Jump in and start debating now!

Discussion Topology



Tags

Education Technology Children School

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