Title:
Pixton

System requirements:
-MACINTOSH
One of: Firefox 2.0, Chrome 1, Opera 9, Safari 3
WINDOWS
-One of: Firefox 2.0, Internet Explorer 7, Safari 3, Opera 9, Google Chrome 1
LINUX
-Firefox 2.0
On all operating systems:
- Flash Player 9
- 128MB RAM
- Javascript enabled
3. Publisher:
Pixton Comics Inc.

4. Age level range:
All Ages

5. Cost:
30-day free trial and pricing plans that work out to be just a few dollars per student depending on how many students will use it per year.

6. How the program works:
Students enroll in their teacher's class and can create comics either independently or for an assignment set up by their teacher. They select the layout of their comic, and then begin to add people, backgrounds, speech bubbles, and other items. Everything that is added can be manipulated in almost endless ways. Any characters added can be modified to be in any position, have any facial expression etc. The program even allows you to import your own images or backgrounds for your comic book. The teacher is able to monitor the progress of each of their students' comic book as well.

7. The games:
There are no games included, but creating the comic book can be a fun activity in and of itself.

8. Suggestions for Classroom Use:
a. Ask students to recreate a scene from a book being read.
b. Have students create a comic strip of a historic event.
c. Students can create a comic book to detail the procedure of a science experiment.
d. Students can write their comics in a foreign language to display their knowledge of vocabulary.

Assessment of strengths and weaknesses:
Strengths:
Intuitive user interface
Very versatile comic creation tools
Very inexpensive
30-day free trial
Ability to maintain classes and assign projects within Pixton
Ability to monitor the students as they create their projects

There is a gallery feature so that students can see each other's work when finished
Students can have fun creating the comic and learning the content of the assignment as well

Weaknesses:
Can be difficult to set up the classes
Sometimes the almost unlimited options for customization can be overwhelming

10. Summary of software for colleague: --a one paragraph abstract about the software.
Pixton is a custom comic creator that is very versatile and can be used to create any comic for any reason. Teachers can sign up themselves, and can even register their own students if the students don't have an email address. It is set up by classrooms so that teachers can manage different classes at one time. They can also include the assignment information on the site so that students can refer to it as they are making their comic. Once the students begin to create there comics they are met with endless options to customize it. They can manipulate each aspect of their comic to fit their exact vision. As they are creating the comic the teacher can monitor their progress and once it is finished they can show it in the class gallery so that other students can see the class's work.

11. Comments from your two students, friends or family members.
I had two teachers evaluate this Web 2.0 software in their history classes. The students made comics depicting the life of early man.

Teacher 1:
Once I got through the set up process this was great. I really enjoyed watching how much the students loved using Pixton. They got so creative, and I actually think that their projects came out much better as comics than they would have if I had asked them to draw something, or just write a narrative.

Teacher 2:
I LOVED using Pixton with the students. It was a great new tool that they hadn't used before. I loved being able to see their comics as they were working on them. Even though I didn't use the features this time, I like that I can have my class list in there and assign my students projects through Pixton. I can definitely see myself using it again for another project.