Blue Yeti USB Mic

Mid-Valley
STEM-CTE HUB

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Blue Yeti USB Mic

Yeti podcasting microphones enable hands-on learning in audio recording, broadcasting, and digital media. Students use professional-grade microphones to record podcasts, developing skills in communication, sound editing, and media production. The kit supports projects that encourage creativity, collaboration, and technical proficiency. Promotes project-based exploration of podcasting and digital storytelling.

Grade Level

6th - 12th grades

Group Size

1 to 4 students per microphone

Time Duration

45 minutes - multiple sessions

Content of Kits

Components

- 1 Blue Yeti Microphone
- 1 USB cable
- Riverside.fm - online recording and editing software (must sign-up for free account, not included in kit)

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Usage

Getting Started

1. Plug the USB cable into the Blue Yeti and connect it to your computer's USB port.

2. Go to sound settings on your computer and choose the Blue Yeti as your microphone input device. If using bluetooth headphones choose those as the output or use the computer's speakers if not using headphones.

3. Place the mic on a stable surface, positioning it at an appropriate distance from the speaker(s).

4. Choose the correct pickup pattern (e.g., cardioid for single speaker) using the mic's pattern selection knob.

5. Test Audio Levels adjust the gain knob and perform a quick test to ensure clear, distortion-free sound.

Storage

When storing, return all components to the provided storage container.

Troubleshooting

- **Cannot hear audio from the computer -** Go into computer settings and set speaker from 'Blue Yeti' to native computer speakers.
- **Microphone not recognized** – Check that the USB cable is securely connected, select the Blue Yeti as the input device in sound settings, and/or try a different USB port.
- **Low or distorted audio** – Adjust the gain knob to an appropriate level, ensure the microphone is set to the correct pickup pattern, and speak at a proper distance.
- **Background noise or echo** – Use the cardioid mode for focused recording, reduce ambient noise, and place the microphone on a stable surface to minimize vibrations.

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Activity Guide

Beginner

Podcast Introduction Recording
Students will use the Blue Yeti microphone to record a brief personal introduction. They'll learn to adjust the mic's gain and select the correct pickup pattern for clear audio. After recording, they'll review their audio and make simple adjustments, introducing them to basic microphone use and audio quality control.

Intermediate

STEAM Interview Project
In pairs or groups, students will conduct an interview on a STEM topic, like a scientist's work or new technology. They'll use the Blue Yeti to capture dialogue and experiment with different pickup patterns. Afterward, they'll edit their recordings to enhance audio clarity, building both technical and communication skills.

Advanced

STEAM Audio Documentary
Students will create a short audio documentary on a STEM issue like climate change or space exploration. They will plan a script, record narration, conduct interviews, and add sound effects. Using editing software, they'll polish their documentary for an engaging, professional result. This activity develops advanced storytelling, audio production, and editing skills.

Extension Activities:

STEAM Storytelling Collaboration
Building on their interview and documentary skills, students will work together to create a multi-segment STEM podcast episode. Each group will produce a short segment on a different STEM topic, such as emerging technology, environmental issues, or space exploration. They will combine their recordings, ensuring smooth transitions and cohesive storytelling. This activity reinforces teamwork, advanced editing, and content organization, preparing students for real-world media production and science communication.

Audio Experimentation and Sound Design
Students will explore how audio quality is affected by different recording environments, microphone placements, and editing techniques. They will record the same script using various mic settings and locations, analyzing how background noise, reverb, and gain affect clarity. Then, they will enhance their recordings using effects like noise reduction, equalization, and layering ambient sounds. This activity deepens technical understanding of audio engineering and its role in professional-quality media production.

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Learning Extensions

STEAM Connections: Communication - Technology

Learning Objectives:

- Develop essential skills in audio recording, editing, and communication.
- Learn to adjust microphone settings (e.g., gain and pickup patterns) to optimize sound quality for different recording scenarios.
- Enhance the ability to capture clear dialogue, reduce background noise, and edit audio for clarity and engagement.
- Gain experience in digital media production and science communication.
- Foster creativity, technical proficiency, and real-world applications in podcasting, journalism, and STEAM outreach.

Career Connections:

- Students develop audio recording, editing, and communication skills essential for **careers in digital media, broadcasting, podcasting and journalism**.
- Students gain practical knowledge in STEAM outreach and public engagement, preparing them for careers in **education, science communication, and public relations**.
- Creating podcasts introduces students to **entrepreneurship, marketing, and media production**, essential for roles in social media management, video production, and creative technology.

Essential Employability Skills:

- Communication
- Adaptability
- Time Management
- Planning
- Organization
- Teamwork
- Problem Solving
- Technology Literacy

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Resources and Accessibility

Safety Guidelines

- **Stabilize the Microphone –** Place the microphone on a stable surface and avoid dropping or shaking it to prevent internal damage.
- **Monitor Volume Levels –** Adjust gain settings to prevent loud feedback or distortion that could harm hearing.
- **Use in a Safe Environment –** Keep liquids away from the microphone to prevent electrical damage.
- **Sanitize Between Uses –** If multiple students use the microphone, wipe it down to maintain hygiene.

Accessibility

- **Use Speech-to-Text Tools – P**rovide real-time transcription options to help students with hearing impairments engage with recorded content.
- **Incorporate Multiple Interaction Methods –** Allow students to contribute through scripting, editing, or sound design if speaking is a challenge.
- **Ensure a Quiet Recording Space –** Minimize background noise to assist students with auditory processing difficulties.

Library Catalog

Library Resources

Feedback

QR to feedback survey