

Common Sense Selections: The Best Tools We Reviewed This Year 2022.

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This year, our editorial team reviewed 200 edtech tools. We rate each of these tools against our 14-point learning rubric at least twice. All told, we spend around eight to ten hours on a single review. (And that's before our privacy team takes a look!) We do this so you don't have to: Your time is better spent with your students, your families and friends, or just a giant glass of wine and Netflix — not on researching edtech.

Out of everything we looked at last year, only 18 tools earned our Common Sense Selections for Learning. Each of these Selections is hand-picked by our editors. It's not enough for something to score highly on our rubric. Tools must have exceptional and/or groundbreaking learning design. In short, the Selection for Learning is our way of telling you what's worth your time and attention.

Here are some of our favorites from 2022:

[Adobe Express](#) (free; grades 2–12): This is our new favorite graphic design tool for students and teachers. It outshines competitors like **[Canva](#)** with superior ease of use and organization. It's also got contemporary, stylish templates and great auto-generated design suggestions.

[Kide Science](#) (free and paid options; grades pre-K–2): It's rare I come across something that feels as fresh, smart, and delightful as this hands-on and screen-free science curriculum. It's brimming with joy and curiosity, and backed by a clever approach to scaffolding scientific thinking and experimentation for little kids.

[Next Gen Personal Finance](#) (free; grades 6–12): There are heaps of sites out there for financial literacy, but nothing comes close to the breadth and depth of Next-Gen Personal Finance. They've got the best content library in the business, bolstered by weekly content on timely topics that students will love to discuss.

[Svoboda 1945: Liberation](#) (paid; grades 10–12): Not everything we review is meant for schools, because there's great learning to be found everywhere. Svoboda is a prime example of that. This video game is equal parts World War II history and social and emotional exploration. Along the way, players reflect on the cycle of trauma and the responsibility we have to face the sins of the past.

Since this is the last newsletter you'll get from us in 2022, I also want to wish everyone a restful break, or at least a meaningful transition into the new year. To this end, you could probably use some things to take your mind off work or just relax and unwind. So I invite you to check out our **[roundup of the best movies, TV shows, books, games, and podcasts of 2022](#)**. You're sure to find something you can enjoy or share with others.

Happy holidays and see you in 2023,
Tanner