



# Website with Google Sites



## **Summary**

In the course, students in primary school year 6 learn the basics of making a website using the cloud-based program Google Sites. They learn to insert text and image blocks, pages and links, organize the menu, insert videos from Youtube and maps from Google Maps. They also learn to give the website a good name, as well as to publish it on the Internet. Teaching and supervision is done by students in the high school's Technology Program.

### **Course facts in brief**

**Time:** 3 x 80 minute

**Number of students:** 22

**Number of supervisors:** 9

**Number of groups:** 11

**Age of students:** 12-13

**Prior knowledge of students:** None

**Prior knowledge of supervisors:** The Google Sites program. The students also take the Web development course and have knowledge of HTML, which is not, however, a prerequisite for being able to supervise Google Sites.

### **Disclaimer**

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# **Introduction**

## **Background**

Society's and business's need for people with technical knowledge is increasing at the same time as the interest in seeking technical educations is decreasing or at least not increasing to a sufficient extent. Something should therefore be done to get more young people to choose technical, both vocational and study preparation courses in upper secondary school.

## **Purpose**

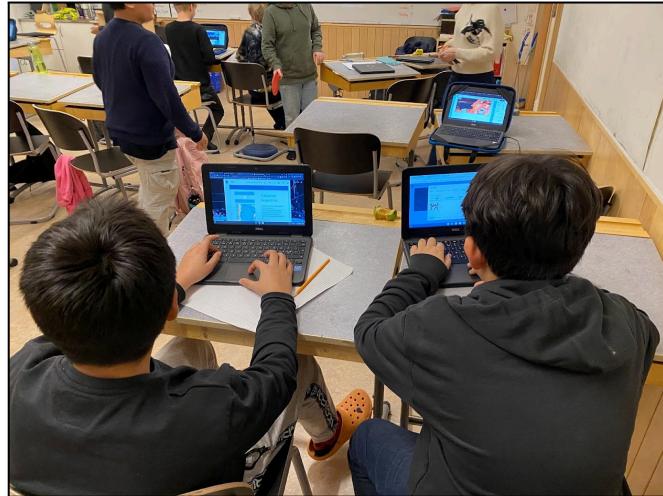
The purpose of these lessons is to let younger students in elementary school come into contact with interesting technology they have not worked with before, while being supervised by older students who attend high school technical courses. The older students become a bit of role models and can then more easily transfer their interest in and attitude to technology to the younger students with their youthful enthusiasm.

## **Method**

The younger students are tasked with solving a technical problem, for example programming a Lego robot, designing a game in CAD and printing it on a 3D printer, milling the game in the workshop together with high school students based on the drawing they created in CAD or as here do a website in Google Sites. To succeed in this, the older students must teach and guide the younger students in the current technology. Precisely the contact between the younger and older students regarding concrete tasks can create the conditions for both awakening and deepening interest in technology.

## Website with Google Sites

With the free cloud-based program Google Sites, it is relatively easy to create well-designed websites, which are built up with text and image blocks. The website is created with pages that automatically link to a menu. Google apps such as YouTube and Google Maps are easily integrated into the website, which is responsive, meaning it adapts to the size of the screen. On mobile, it therefore gives an app-like impression.



We chose to work with Google Site because the program is easy to learn and because students benefit from having their own website, where they can post and display school work, save frequently used links and organize their studies in different ways. The website can also become a bit of their own creative corner, where students write about things they like and post pictures and links to songs that relate to their interests.

### ***Preparation in upper secondary school***

The high school students take the course Web Development 1, where they mainly learn HTML, the basics of Javascript and CSS. A part a little way into the course is that everyone makes a website of a few pages in HTML, containing a start page, a presentation of themselves, a presentation of their hometown, and a page with frequently used links. Each student then uploads their completed website using an FTP program to the school's web server. After this, the students make a similar website in Google Sites, which is published online. They then realize that it is much easier and faster to make a nice and user-friendly website in Google Sites compared to HTML. We go through the basics of Google Sites in a couple of lessons at most before they start with the website. Knowledge of HTML is not required to work with Google Sites. General computer skills are quite sufficient, but with broader knowledge, understanding and insights increase and possibly also contribute to the high school students becoming more confident in their role as supervisors.

Before the 22 younger students' first visit to the upper secondary school, tasks have been prepared (see below) and 11 groups have been divided with two students in each. The supervisors (high school students) are 9 in number and have been divided into three groups with three supervisors in each, who are responsible for 3-4 younger student groups.

### ***Preparation in primary school***

The students in primary school have not made any special preparations for the course in Google Sites. However, their teachers have come up with suggestions on which pages the website should contain, as well as grouping.

We have asked them to bring their computers (Chromebook) to the first course session at the high school so that the students get used to editing Google Sites on their computer.

## ***Implementation***

When the younger students arrive at the upper secondary school entrance together with their teacher, they are met by all the tutors and their teachers. When they arrive at the classroom, they look for their group number and sit at that table. The teacher welcomes everyone and shows their own website in Google Sites and tells them what they are going to learn, as well as which pages (see Appendix 1) the website should contain. The teacher then introduces the supervisors (high school students) and which groups they will supervise. The supervisors stand in turn as the presentation progresses at their respective groups. After that, one of the supervisors has a joint review for all student groups via projector of the steps in Google Sites the students must work with at the first opportunity (see below). The tutors then take over the teaching of their groups.

The goal is for the students to work in pairs. Either they work at the same computer or at two computers and shared documents in Google Sites. However, it is important that the students are at roughly the same level in terms of ability so that no one alone takes over the work with the website.

Our plan was for the students to come to the high school on the first occasion, while the tutors would come to the middle school on the second and third occasions. On the second occasion at the middle school, however, several students were significantly more divided and difficult to engage than on the first occasion, so we decided that the third occasion would also be carried out at the upper secondary school.

### **First time**

One of the tutors goes through the basic elements of Google Sites text and image blocks, layout, links and pages. The students then work relatively independently to create the website.

### **Second time**

The teacher briefly begins the lesson by saying that it is fun to come to the students' school, and to ask the students what they learned last time. One of the tutors then begins the lesson by going through other elements and functions included in the course, i.e. themes, how Google Maps, YouTube and image carousel are inserted into Google Sites, as well as publishing a website on the internet. The students then work on the website, which should be ready by the end of the lesson. The website is considered ready when it contains most of the functions covered in the course.

### **Third time**

We are back in high school and the purpose of the lesson is for the groups to present their websites. However, they get about half an hour to polish the website and prepare the presentation. Before the presentation, the students were offered juice and buns.

## ***Evaluation***

When the students have completed the three occasions at the upper secondary school, an evaluation is made of how they experienced the course, as well as of how their teachers felt that the course worked for the students. The aim is to get tips on how we can improve future courses. Supervisors should also be allowed to evaluate their participation. The evaluation is preferably done with the Google Forms tool.

## ***Discussion of course in Google Sites***

The impression is that the students appreciated the course. However, some aspects were more difficult to implement than we expected. After the supervisors' review, the students were allowed to work quite freely in creating their websites, based on the tasks in the course (Appendix 1). Some group fixed this, while others had a hard time getting the website together because they spent a lot of time browsing for images they wanted on the website. One group's website was only about horses and another about football (Appendix 2).

If we want the students to make the website course focused on, the students must be guided more tightly with perhaps examples of what the pages should contain. The students like to fill the pages with pictures, while they find it more difficult to create their own texts that, for example, tell about themselves. A variant is to let the students themselves decide what the website should be about. Another variant is that the students first learn the functions of Google Sites by making the same website based on a template and then they are given free rein to make their own website.

Another problem in the course was that the majority of students did not want to present and talk about their website in front of the class. A variant could be that the presentation is made via Google Meet.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1

Group divisions and course assignments in Google Sites, which are distributed to students:

### Course in Google Site for year 6 with class TE2 vt 2023

The next three Wednesdays at 14:40-16:00 class Te2 in the Technology program at Brogymnasiet will teach the students in year 6 at Södermalmsskolan how to make websites with Google Site. On 18/1 the students will come to us at Brogymnasiet and on 25/1 and 1/2 we will visit them at Södermalmsskolan. The students in year 6 must use their own computers and therefore bring the computers to Brogymnasiet. In order to have time to teach the students how to make websites in Google Site over three Wednesdays, the course has the following somewhat unstructured structure:

- 1) There are 22 students in year 6 who work 2 students together in 11 groups. TE2 is 9 students and by suggestion TE2 3 work together in 3 groups, which teach 4+4+3 groups.
- 2) Te2's three groups:
  - a) Group 1: Isak, Fiona, Helin (teaches groups 1-4)
  - b) Group 2: Hannes, Hampus, Hilda (teaches groups 5-8)
  - c) Group 3: Ludvig, Sudan, Noah (teaches group 9-11)
- 3) The following points show the structure of the website and which pages it should contain:
  - a) The website's title and front page must contain the students' names, for example **Lina and Erik's website**, as well as tell a little about the website's content.
  - b) The website's other pages and content (the bold are suggestions for the page's name and \* means that you can do these pages if you have time):
    - i) Presentation by students Lina and Erik, **About us**.
    - ii) Presentation of **Our hometown**, preferably Kristinehamn, but can also be a smaller town or village where you live.
    - iii) **\*Our school**, presentation of the school with text and slideshows. Preferably pictures of some teachers and school leaders.
    - iv) **Our subjects**, tell us a little with text and pictures about what you have learned so far in year 6, especially the courses NO and SO.
    - v) Presentation of **Favoritland**.
    - vi) **\*Favorite subjects**, no more than two subjects, why is it the favorite subject, what do you learn, what is fun and interesting, etc.
    - vii) **Link page**, with good links you usually use at school or in your free time, for example the schedule, the school restaurant, the newspaper NKP, the school's website, etc.
    - viii) **\*Our page**, the content of which you can decide for yourself.
  - 4) The students will learn to insert new pages, image and text blocks, links, Google Maps, Youtube videos and image carousel.
  - 5) They must also learn how to publish the website so that everyone on the Internet sees the link (*Public* under *Public access* under *Share with others*) with the name **gruppx\_södermalmsskolan**. They put the groups' (1-11) published links in the shared document [webgroups\\_vt23](#) below.

- 6) The first lesson 18/1 at Brogymnasiet in room E8 has the following structure: The teacher Anders welcomes and shows his website, which is made in Google Site. Two students in Te2 (Hannes and Isak 18/1 and Hilda and Fiona 25/1 respectively) then take over and open a new document in Google Site from Google Drive, name it and show the basics; text and image blocks, layout, links, pages, themes, Google Maps and Youtube, etc.
- 7) Suggestions for content in the three lesson sessions:
  - a) 18/1: Text and image blocks, layout, links, pages. The students work.
  - b) 25/1: Themes, Google Maps, Youtube, image carousel and publication of website. The students work. The link to the video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLPcrqx6p3A>
  - c) 1/2: The students work for approx. 20 min. Concludes with a presentation of all groups' websites.
- 8) Mer att tänka på: Utvärdering av kursen någon dag efter sista tillfället 1/2 via lärarrens formulär.
- 9) For students in TE2: Revise the course by making the website Swedish landscape (start page) which contains pages about Värmland, Dalsland and Bohuslän. Tell a little about each landscape with text, links, images, maps, YouTube videos, image carousel, etc.
- 10) Now the course is over for year 6. Don't forget to do the evaluation!

## Appendix 2

The links to the groups' published websites themselves link to a shared document:

### Links to websites for groups in year 6 - spring semester 2023

1. Group 1: Gone today
2. Group 2:  
<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/grupp2-sodermalmskolan/startsida>
3. Group 3:  
<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/grupp-cool1/startsida>
4. Group 5:  
<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/kristnedamuwnn/startsida>
5. Group 4: <https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/ohio/startsida>
6. Group 6:  
<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/grupp6/startsida>
7. Group 7:  
<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/grupp-7/startsida>
8. Group 8:  
<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/speedis/startsida>
9. Group 9:  
<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/grupp-9sdermalmskolan/v%C3%A5ra-%C3%A4mnen>

10. Group 10:

<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/grupp-10s-hemsida/startsida>

11. Group 11:

<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/grupp11-olle-ville>

12. Group 12:

<https://sites.google.com/edu.kristinehamn.se/ivangroup13/startseite>

Movie link Södermalmskolan

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FNLpcrqx6p3A&sa=D>