



Symbaloo

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Providing students choices is an essential part of meeting the needs of different learners.

**Symbaloo** is one of the easiest ways to create an online choice board that you can share with students via a link or Google Classroom. Many of my colleagues used Symbaloo including our librarian! The individual Symbaloo you create are called “webmixes”.

Here are a few ideas for using Symbaloo: novel unit, grammar unit, general education links, skills practice, math resources, science sites, geography unit, reference sites, class files, and more! Any link you want students to access can be added to your webmix.

I’ll take you through setting up your customized Symbaloo that will be specific to your grade, subject, and provide options for your students. Not only is this a great way to ensure individualized learning, teachers use it for online classes, homebound students, and other forms of distance learning.

## **Let’s get started with the basics:**

1. Brainstorm the purpose for your Symbaloo. The good news is you can create as many as you’d like within the limits of the program.
2. Collect the online resources you’ll want to include. Remember to work within the bounds of your district’s online policy so students are able to access all the links you post.
3. Create a Symbaloo account. It’s free! You’ll provide your email address and a password.

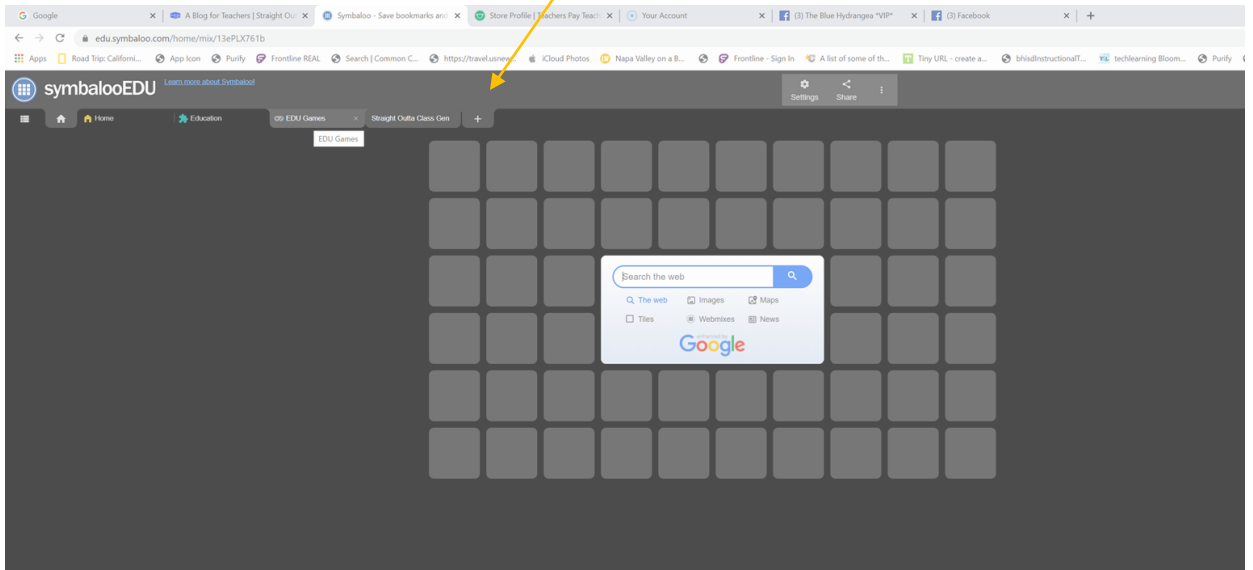
[Watch the quick video tutorial!](#)

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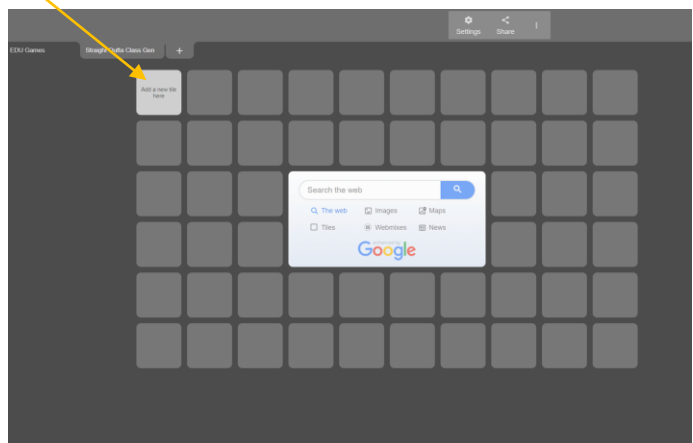
To start a new webmix:

1. Click the plus sign at the top of your screen to open up a blank webmix. The squares are called tiles.



In the middle of the mix, you'll see Google search which is the constant part of this webmix. Each of the gray tiles is a space where you add links to websites and other resources like files including PDFs.

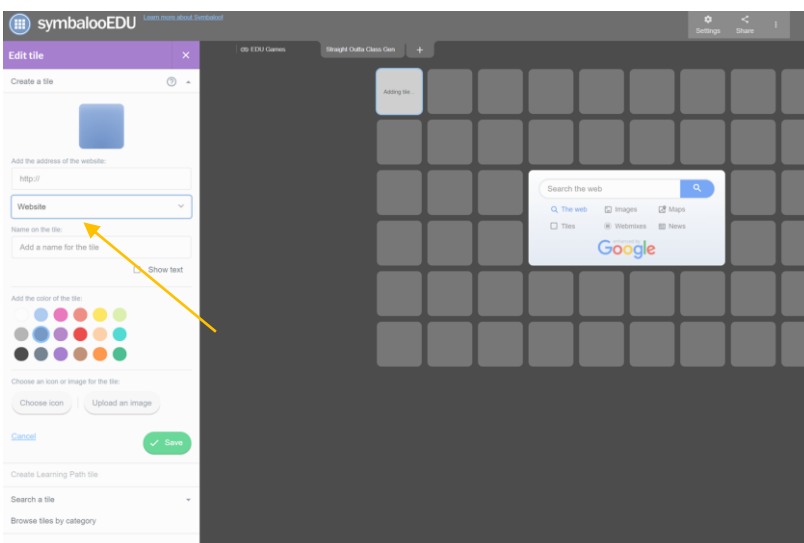
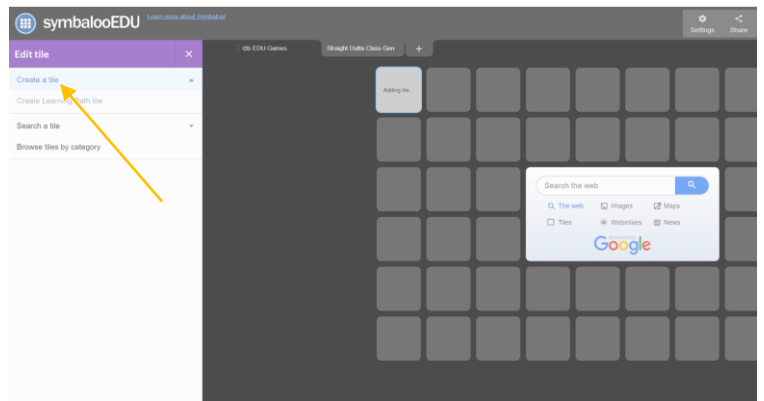
2. Click on the gray tile to add a link. You'll be taken to a different screen where you will complete the tile.



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3. Click *create a tile*. Here you make sure the drop down menu reads *Website* and then above that you will enter the link to whatever resource you want your students to access. This can even be a PDF file. More on how to get a PDF link later in this section.



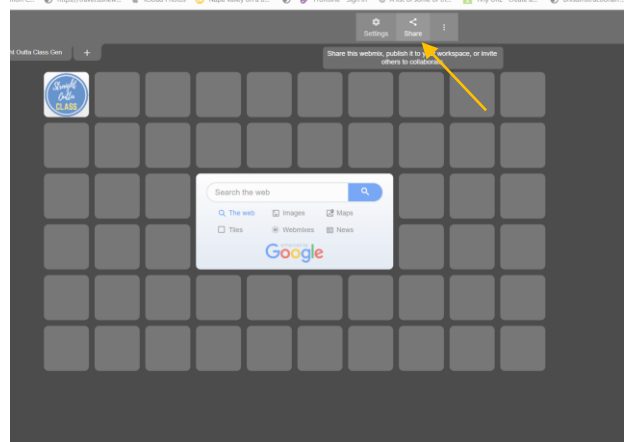
There are other choices such as color, custom images, and icon which I won't explain as those are intuitive and based entirely on personal preference. If you want individual help on anything to do with Symbaloo, I'm here to assist as part of your VIP membership. Just message me, and we'll walk through it together.

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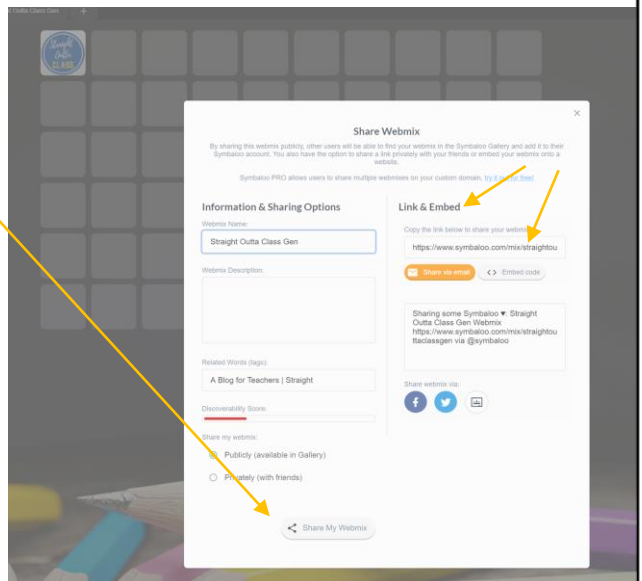


4. Continue to add links to your webmix.

It's okay if you don't fill them all up in the beginning. This can definitely be a work in progress. Once you've added your links, click on the *share* icon at the top. You get a new window with options for naming your webmix again and choosing public or private. I would choose private if using this for the classroom. Be sure to click *Share My Webmix* at the bottom of the second window.



In the share window you'll see the *link & embed* area. You can share this with colleagues via email, embed the code into your website if you know how to do that (that's an entirely different animal). The section you'll most likely use is the *copy the link below to share your webmix*.

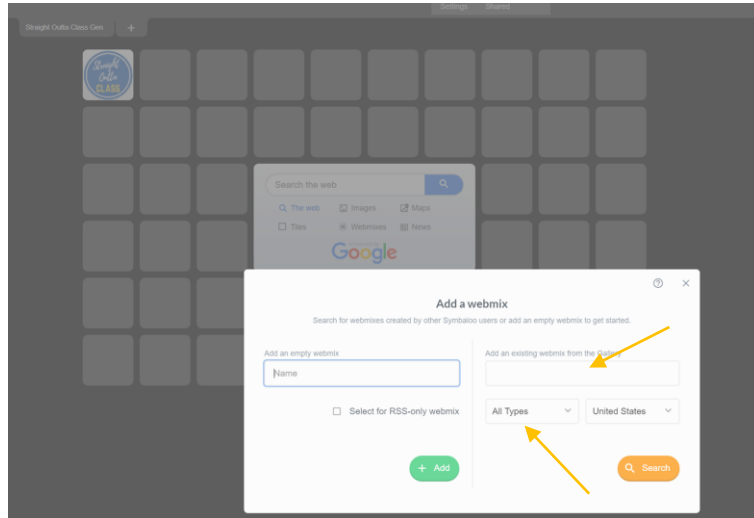


The link that is generated is what you will share with students. You can share via Google Classroom, class website, or post the link in a way students can access it. Now they have your customized Symbaloo and all the sites you've selected for them to use.

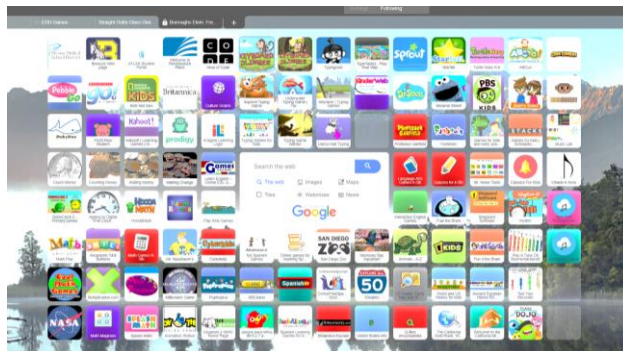
# Online Choice Boards



There are pre-made Symbaloo webmixes you can use and share with your students, also.



Type a search word in the space for *add an existing webmix from the Gallery*. Others have created and made available other webmixes you might want to use. You can search topics such as math, science, history, etc., and get a list of webmixes created under that search term. Please screen each link in a webmix if you use something created by a person other than yourself. I can't stress the importance of this enough. If you find something you can use, great! You'll follow the directions for sharing as mentioned in previous instructions. Or simply get inspiration from a webmix before starting your own.



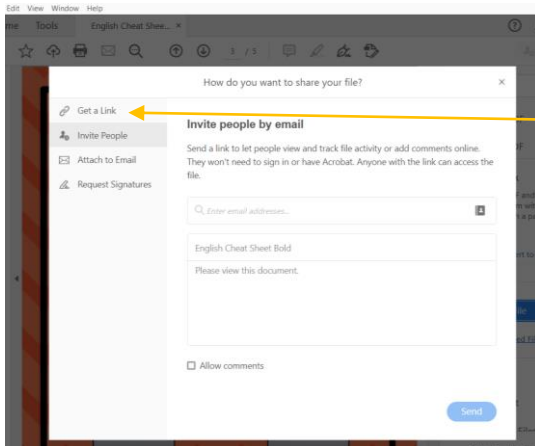
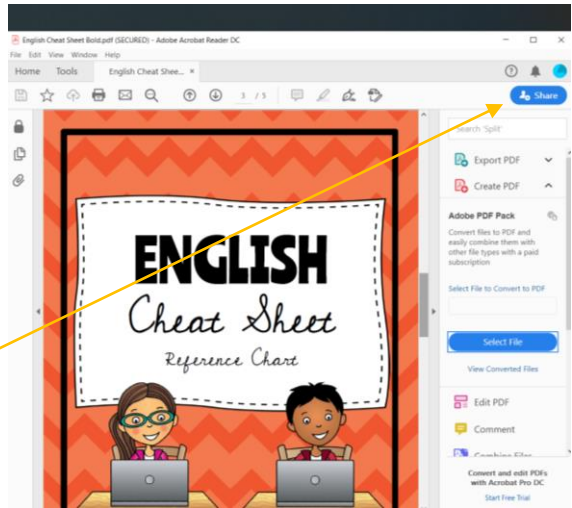
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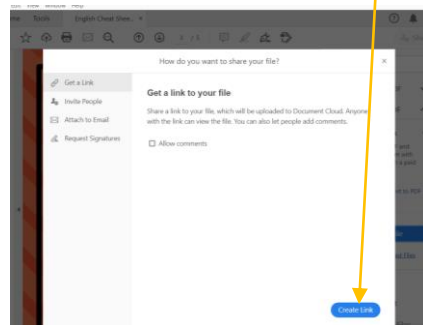
## Getting a Link for a PDF File

If you want to link a PDF file on Symbaloo, that's easy, too. You will treat it just like a website even though it's not. The first step is to create a link from an existing PDF file. Let's say I want to include my English Cheat Sheet PDF on my webmix. Here are the steps:

1. Open up the PDF file and find the *share* button.



Click on the *get a link* button which generates a web link used in Symbaloo like a regular hyperlink.



Copy the link and paste it into Symbaloo using the directions given.

