

8. Curriki Groups

[SCREENSHOT: Talking Head]

“Hi, and welcome to Curriki, the Global Education Learning Community. In this video, we’ll look at the newest feature on Curriki: Groups. Groups allow you to form a community on the site, and use it to collaborate and communicate with other members. They’re easy to create and can be used in a variety of ways. We’ll start by looking at the tools available to a Group.”

[SCREENSHOT: Show the Browse Groups menu]

“Groups can be formed around anything -- a subject area, a grade level, an educational philosophy, or a geographic region. Users can browse the groups by subject, or review all groups in one menu. A search function to find groups using keywords is in the works for a future release.”

[SCREENSHOT: browse through All Groups (to show mastheads)]

“When you’re browsing through Curriki groups, you’ll see the title and masthead that describes the purpose and content of the group. This information was created by the group leader. If the leader has added an image, you’ll see that too. Otherwise, the masthead shows a generic Curriki Group icon. To view a group, click the link that says “Visit this Group.”

[SCREENSHOT: Group homepage (I like Jenny’s Food and Society group: http://www.curriki.org/xwiki/bin/view/Group_FoodandSociety/)

“When a group is created, the leader can choose to make a group open – where anyone can join and view all of the content – or closed. A closed group still appears on the browse pages, but many of its features will not be available to non-group members. If it’s a group that you would like to be a part of, you can request membership. We’ll talk more about this when we look at how to create a group. Right now, we’re viewing an open group.”

“The creator of the Food Studies group has taken the time to write a descriptive masthead and personalize the group with a representative icon. Below the welcome area, there’s a section that shows recent activity in the various areas of the group. Click on any of the hyperlinks here to view that content, or subscribe via RSS to get updates.”

“The next sector of the page displays the group’s information settings. If you’re familiar with the detailed information section of a Curriki resource, you’ll probably recognize these fields. In addition to the subject, grade, and access privileges

used across Curriki, the group information includes notice of the group’s status – again, whether it is open or closed.”

“Finally, at the bottom of the group’s homepage, you can do a quick search on all of the contributions in the group, or you can click a button to join an open group (or request an invitation, if the group is closed).”

[SCREENSHOT: Messages tab]

“Use the tools on the Messages tab to communicate with other group members. Messages can be sent to the entire group, to the group leader, or to a person with a specific role. If the group is open, anyone can read or comment on the messages left there, but only group members can send messages. If the group is closed, non-members cannot use this tab.”

“Once you join a group, you can choose to receive an email when there is a new message posted. You can also add an attachment to a message, much like you would with an email.”

[SCREENSHOT: Curriculum tab]

“The Curriculum tab contains any resources this group has created or collected. Browse through a list of all contributions added by the group, or search for something specific. Or, view the curriculum collections.

Content that the group creates can be marked private, meaning that only group members can view or edit. This setting is separate from the group being open or closed. Public content can be edited or added to by any Curriki member, even if that person isn’t a member of a particular group.

The group’s resources will appear in the content repository, and can also be found in the contributing member’s MyCurriki. For more information about Curriki’s content repository, watch our other tutorial videos. They’ll cover everything from joining Curriki to contributing and editing content.”

[SCREENSHOT: show a group collection in the View screen]

“Content created by a group looks just like content created by an individual Curriki member. It contains all of the same properties, plus the addition of the group’s logo and attribution in the information field. Clicking on the logo or the name returns you to the group’s homepage.”

[SCREENSHOT: Member tab]

“If a group is open, you can visit the Members tab to learn about the members, and to join that list. Each member is identified by Curriki member name, by his or her role within the group, and by the photo included in that member’s MyCurriki profile. Click on the member’s name to visit that profile.”

[SCREENSHOT: Join Group window]

“When you join a group, you can choose to fill in additional information about yourself. This will also appear by your photo in your group member listing. If the leader has specified roles, select the appropriate role for yourself. Don’t forget to set your notification settings! These allow you be updated when a new message is added, or a change is made to something you contributed. Remember, you must be a Curriki member to join any group, so make sure you sign up or log in. The groups that you join appear in your Groups tab in your personal MyCurriki.”

[SCREENSHOT: Documentation tab]

“The final tab in each group is the Documentation tab. It allows members to post documents that will be useful for the group, but might not be appropriate for Curriki’s content repository. It’s a great way to separate internal documents like standards documents or projects plans for curriculum development from educational content, and keeps information your group members might need in one handy location. Group members can upload files from their computers by selecting “Add a File,” or create new content in a text block by choosing “Create a New Page.” The Documentation tab of a closed group is not available to non-members.”

[SCREENSHOT: Create a New Group info screen]

“Creating a new group is simple and takes only a few minutes. Make sure you’re logged in to Curriki, and then find the link in the left navigation menu that says “Create a New Group.” This page provides an overview of the group leader role; once you’ve reviewed this information, click the button at the bottom of the page – “Start Creating a Group” – to begin.”

[SCREENSHOT: Create a New Group input page]

“A new page will appear on your screen, with fields for you to fill in. This information can be changed at any time, and you, as the group leader, have access to do so. Give your group a name and description. This information will appear in your masthead and help to identify your group to others. Next, enter a name for your URL. This special URL will make it easier to share your group’s location in emails or in other communication.

Choose a membership policy, and indicate what grades and subjects your group will deal with. If your group will operate in a language other than English, change the language settings. Set your group's license agreement and access privileges – these settings are the same as what you would see when adding a resource to Curriki. Finally, be sure to read the terms of being a group leader. When you're ready, click the "Create Group" button."

[SCREENSHOT: Congratulations page]

"Congratulations! You're all set! This page will give you some next steps for getting started with your group, and the "Continue" button at the bottom of the page takes you directly to your new group homepage. From here, you can continue to personalize your display, start developing content, or invite new members!"

[SCREENSHOT: Talking Head]

"New groups are being added every day, and are a great way to collaborate with others in your classroom, or across the world. Thanks for watching and remember, you can always access detailed information about using Curriki by visiting the Curriki Help Collection, or "Contact Us" with questions."