

Tablets the Answer? Mohammed Gheyath works for the UAE Ministry of Education. The tablets connect students to an enormous amount of new, digital content, including e-books, online videos, and classroom apps. In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), thousands of public school students are already using tablets. In a history class, for example, students can use apps to discover and "rebuild" an ancient city. To start, they may take a video tour of the ancient city of Petra. With tablet technology, they can "walk through" it as if they were really there. Finally, with special software, they turn their designs into a presentation and share them instantly on their screens.³ Saudi Arabia's support for school tablets only began recently. In 2014, the Ministry of Education started to put Internet access, computers, and tablets in hundreds of classrooms. He says students are doing better with tablets because the learning is interactive and dynamic.¹ Now students in the UAE are taking tests and quizzes on their tablets. Many UAE students are often expected to complete tablet assignments at home. It is investing millions into fast, reliable Internet for schools and cities. Ali and his classmates sit next to each other in an eighth-grade science class. They are not listening to their teacher or penciling down notes in their science journals.² In the Middle East, tablet computers are revolutionizing education. Governments predict the best jobs will require students to have strong computer skills. Experts believe this motivates students to learn. Teachers can then direct them to a video or website if they need extra instruction.⁸ Back in Saudi Arabia, the government is trying to prepare for this. Ali is watching a video about cells on his iPad. Other students use an app to design an experiment. Today, more schools are using tablets instead of paper or books. Eventually, all schools could have tablets