

What is this Pageflakes thing about?

Along with serving as a homepage, Pageflakes is an aggregator for RSS feeds, websites and online embeddable content. That means that it allows you to collect all of the sites you already use and visit frequently on one page (or a few tabbed pages if you choose). In this way, you can quickly check your favorites and professional news without leaving the site.

Taken a step further, Pageflakes can become the one webpage that delivers a whole unit of content to your students. Load a page with educational videos, embedded websites, collaborative graphic organizers, podcasts, message boards, and the list goes on and on. Pageflakes can strip away your fear of student web research from lack of direction and resulting in a waste of precious class time. It all starts one flake at a time.

Sign Up

1. Go to <http://www.pageflakes.com/>.
2. Click on the Sign up link in the top right of the screen and enter the information required (you do not need to verify the email address or include your DOB). **Sign up** | **Login** | **Reader** | **Make this my homepage**
3. Click "skip this step" in the upper right corner of the box that pops up after you submit your email and password.

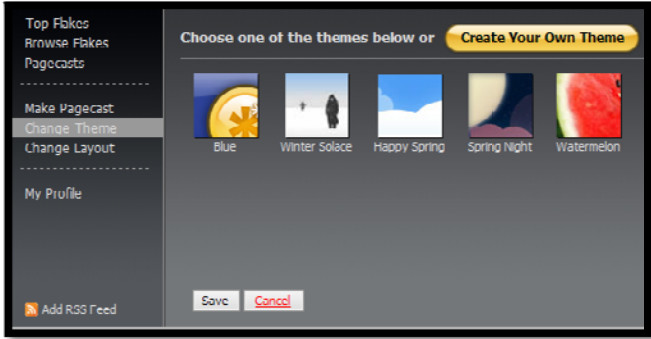
Personalize

1. Give the home tab a name

- ⊗ Click in the first tab **Add Page**
- ⊗ Backspace over the existing text and label it whatever you like.
- ⊗ You can also add additional tabs by clicking on the "Add Page" next to the first tab.

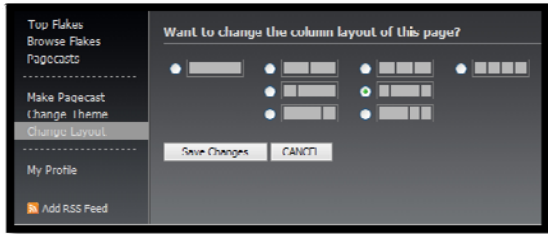
2. Change Theme

- ⊗ Click on the snowflake icon in the top right corner.
- ⊗ Click **Change Theme** on the left side.
- ⊗ Choose any of the themes you like and click the **Save** button.



3. Change Layout

- ⊗ Click on the snowflake icon again to choose a layout for your page.
- ⊗ Click on **Change Layout** on the left side.
- ⊗ You will see eight choices displaying your page in a different number of columns and sizes.
- ⊗ Choose one and click the **Save Changes** button.

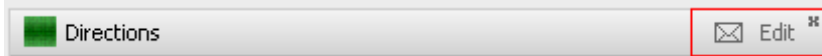


Add Content

You are likely beginning to see that Pageflakes is built upon a ton of little pieces called “flakes,” more commonly known as widgets on many websites. Hundreds of thousands such flakes exist often times with their own customizable features. Pageflakes starts you off with an entire page filled with default content to show you the possibilities. You may or may not want to keep this content. So, first we’ll take a look at what is there and then we will add some of our own.

1. Delete Existing Flakes

- Looking over the existing flakes, it is very easy to remove the ones you do not want.
- Hover over the Title bar at the top of the flake. In the top right corner you will notice a close icon (x).



- Click the close icon to remove the flake and click “OK” on the message window that follows.
- *Delete the entire default page and start fresh by clicking the words “Add Page” next to the default tab in the upper left corner. Doing this will create a new tab. Once you have created the new tab, click on the “x” in the upper right corner of the default tab (the one labeled “Click & Type Page Name). You will be prompted with three or four warning boxes, click “OK” on each of the prompts.



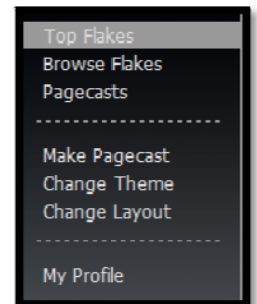
2. Edit Existing Flakes

- Similarly, you can edit flakes by clicking the Edit button.
- Each flake is different and clicking the Edit button will reveal their individual options.

Three ways to add flakes to your page

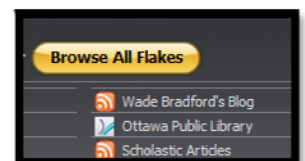
1. Add Some Top Flakes

- Click on the Snowflake icon again.
- To add a flake from those listed, click on its title and it will appear on your page. Each one will be placed in the top center most portion of your page, but can be moved wherever you like by clicking on the title bar and dragging it to another column.



2. Browse for Additional Flakes

- Click on Browse Flakes.
- A scroll bar will appear with a number of categories. Each one lists only some of the most popular flakes from that category. Click on one to add it.



3. Browse All Flakes

- If you are still looking for more flakes, you can click the *Browse All Flakes* button located on the main menu.
- In the Search field, type some key words for the type of flake you want. Be specific; there are hundreds of thousands of them.
- Click Search.
- Much like a Google search, the result will appear; however, these are accompanied by an *Add To My Page* button.



Some of our favorite flakes and what they do




You may want to look in the category views or do a search to find the following flakes:

“Message Board”- Works just like any online message board. Type in a topic and push the [Post new message](#) button. Your students can click on any of the posts to make a [reply](#).

“Blog” – Works kind of like the message board, but you are the only one that can make a post. Students can only reply to **your** posts.

“Anything Flake” - The King of all flakes. Like the name suggests, this flake can be anything. For the most part, we use this flake to display embed code from all sorts of online applications (ie, slideshare, teacher tube, google docs, flickr, etc).


To embed code:

- Click the  button.
- In the lower left corner of the flake, click the  button.
- Delete the code that you see and replace it with the code you copied from your application.
- Click the  button at the bottom of the flake. That’s it!!!

**Anything Flake* also does a great job as a text editor. We often use it to write the directions section of the page. To do this:

- Click the [Start Editor](#) button.
- Type whatever you want.
- Click the [Build Flake](#) button.



“Bookmarks”- Create a list of website links for your students. Works kind of like the “favorites” button in your browser.

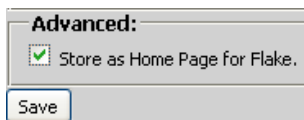
Click the  button and fill in the information for each website you want to add.

“Web Site Clipper” - “Clip” any portion of any website to put on your page. Follow the directions on the flake and you can’t miss with this one.

“Web Page” - **The Queen of all flakes.** Displays [any](#) website within the flake .

To add a website to this flake:

- Click the  button and the default webpage will be displayed (Google search).
- Type or paste the desired URL in the address bar and hit go. You will now see the webpage embed in the flake.
- Go back to the flakes header bar and click the “edit” button .
- In the **Advanced** section, check the box “Store as Home Page for Flake” and then click “Save.”



Share your page with the WORLD!!!

1. Create a Public Pagecast.

- * Click on the snowflake icon.
- * Click on Make Pagecast.
- * Select Publish Page to the world. You will find a URL specifically for your Pagecast.
- * Enter a title, description, any tags and invite people to view it via email.
- * Click Save Changes.
- * *If you have multiple tabs created under one Pageflakes account, you will need to pagecast each one individually in order for it to show up on your pagecast URL.

The screenshot shows a dark-themed dialog box titled "Want to share this page with other people?". On the left is a sidebar menu with options: "Top Flakes", "Browse Flakes", "Pagecasts", "Make Pagecast" (highlighted), "Change Theme", "Change Layout", and "My Profile". At the bottom of the sidebar is an "Add RSS Feed" button. The main content area has three radio button options: "Keep it private", "Share it with a friend or a group (Group Pagecast)", and "Publish Page to the world (Public Pagecast)" (which is selected with a green dot). Below these are several input fields: "Web address (URL) of your Pagecast" with the example "http://www.teacher.pageflakes.com/jae.kae.30/", "Pagecast title (will be used in our Public Pagecasts Gallery)", "Enter a brief description of your Pagecast" (with a text area and scrollbars), "Enter some tags/keywords that describe your page (e.g. sports, finance):" with the example "Tags, separated by commas", "Invite people" with a checkbox for "Allow these people to edit" and a field for "Emails, separated by commas". A "Save Changes" button is at the bottom.

For additional information and resources feel free to visit our Staff Development Wiki at:

<http://sites.google.com/site/cuttingedgeclassroom/pageflakes>

Notes: _____

