Regional Focus:
Caribbean

PhET Interactive Simulations at the University of Colorado Boulder (USA) has been partnering with ITEN since 2019 to help secondary teacher leaders learn about their open access educational resources.

Previously, PhET has supported other groups, such as IU Digital of Antioquia, Colombia, to develop coursework for STEM teachers. Now, they have translated and modified course materials to be available for teachers in English-speaking Caribbean countries.

Starting in October 2021, PhET is leading a 30-hour course, ***PhET Science Virtual Workshop for the Caribbean***, for over 500 teachers from all CARICOM (Caribbean Community) member states.

The course introduces teachers to PhET's free resources while focusing on pedagogical strategies for using interactive technology in classrooms, including the following:

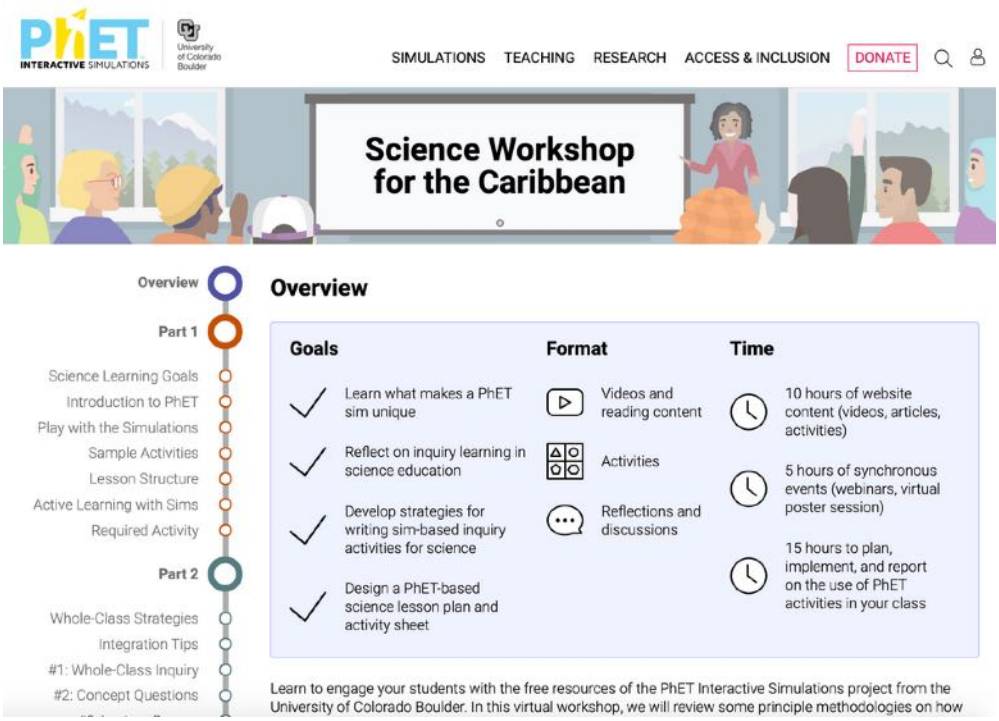
- **Part 1:** PhET Sims and Active Learning
- **Part 2:** Using Sims in Whole-Class Presentations
- **Part 3:** Using Sims in Small Groups and with Individuals
- **Part 4:** Facilitating PhET Sim Use through Lesson Planning

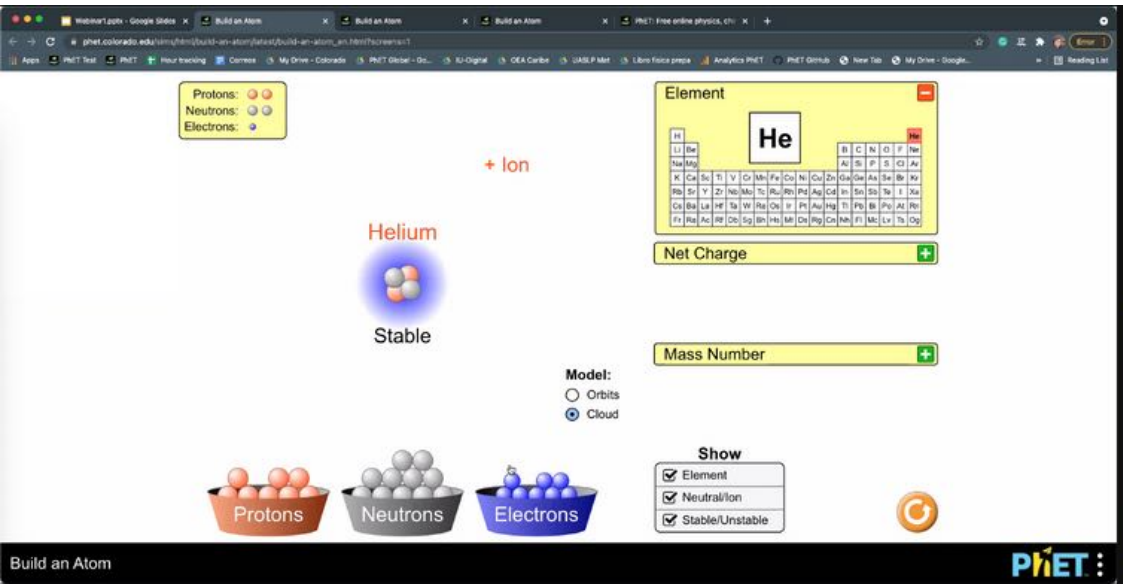
"I've fallen in love with PhET now. I'm excited to use it in class!"
~ Participant

Specific techniques covered in the course include how to do whole-class inquiry, developing concept questions and using peer instruction, preparing interactive lecture demonstrations, and how to use challenge prompts to write student worksheets.

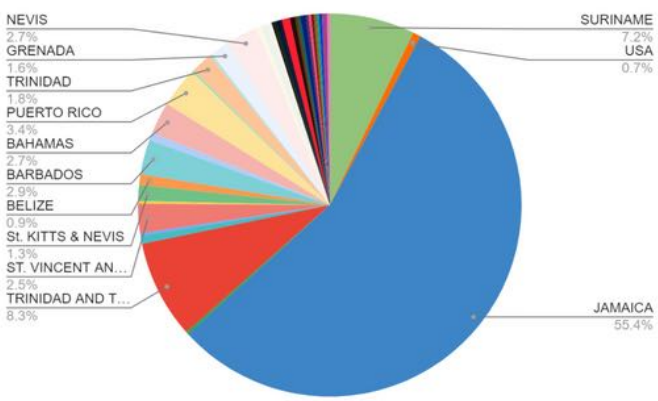
The course consists of a learning platform with self-guided materials (videos, articles, activities), three synchronous webinars, and a final virtual poster session in which teachers will share a lesson they developed and implemented with their students.

Visit the draft course!





Teachers were primarily recruited for this course with the support of their Ministries of Education. Most teachers teach in public middle schools, high schools and universities.



While the course attracted mostly science teachers, it was open to all subject areas. The active learning approaches taught in the course can be used both with PhET simulations as well as with any form of interactive digital simulations.