

Websites/Internet Resources for Inquiries and Literature Circles

Natural Science and Technology

<http://dsc.discovery.com/>

The Discovery Channel online offers science, technology, history, and more through video clips, games, current news stories, and interactive media. A cool feature called Explore by Subject offers a wide range of topics to match any interest.

www.ecokids.ca/

EcoKids is Earth Day Canada's environmental education program for youth who care about the planet. This is their interactive environmental website for children, their families, and educators in Canada and around the world.

<http://education.nasa.gov/home/index.html>

At the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's website, the For Kids, For Students, and For Educators buttons lead you to educational multimedia interactivities designed to pique interest in the universe beyond our planet.

www.exploratorium.edu/

This site of the San Francisco-based Exploratorium Museum of Science, Art, and Human Perception is packed with scientific information and interactive possibilities on a wide range of topics.

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www.howstuffworks.com/

Through posing questions, this site explains how just about everything in the world works. Fifteen umbrella topics divide into a seemingly infinite variety of subcategories. Kids will love this!

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

Visit this terrific site to explore geographic, scientific, and historical concepts, issues, and events. Participate in interactive content-driven activities, games, and multimedia presentations.

<http://knowmag.ca/>

This website of “the science magazine for curious kids” features interesting and entertaining information and activity ideas.

<http://mos.org/educators>

The Educators section of the Boston Museum of Science website contains both student (Student Resources) and teacher (Classroom Resources) materials. Podcasts, videocasts, and virtual exhibits provide great content for a variety of topic studies.

www.nwf.org/kidzone/

The kids’ section of the National Wildlife Foundation is loaded with information about animal conservation and animals in general. It also includes a special focus on age-appropriate explorations of global warming. Participate in interactive web communities related to America’s fast-disappearing wilderness.

www.nws.noaa.gov/

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service provides up-to-date weather forecasts. Under Education/Outreach, click on the NOAA Education Page for general educational information about weather and a list of weather sites of interest to kids.

www.sandiegozoo.org/kids/index.html

The Kid Territory section of the San Diego Zoo website offers interactive craft assignments, zoological science trivia, animal-themed games, and employee profiles that inform kids about what it's like to work at the zoo. The Meet the Critters link allows you to make virtual contact with every single animal that lives at the SD zoo.

www.ocean.com/

Check this out for great information, photographs, and stories about anything pertaining to the ocean and to marine conservation.

www.whyfiles.org/

This site delves into the science behind the news and delivers an amazing array of all-purpose scientific information. Click on the education link to access the teacher activity pages and curriculum suggestions for grades 5–12.

Current Events

<http://classroomedition.com/cre/index.html>

The *Wall Street Journal* Classroom Edition provides high school students and teachers with engaging, real-life news and information on the world of business from one of the most trusted sources in the world.

www.enn.com/

The Environmental News Network is an excellent database of news stories concerning wildlife, agriculture, ecosystems, energy, business, climate, pollution, green building, technology, and health. Content is best suited to high school and young adults.

<http://news.bb.c.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/uk/default.stm>

News Round is the Children's British Broadcasting Corporation's news website. It is a valuable resource for current event info targeting 6- to 13-year-olds. The page includes links to top stories in world news, British news, sports, showbiz, and animals, as well as video and photo journals for students. There is also a very useful content glossary under Extra Stuff to aid in topic-specific research.

<http://nytimes.com/learning/>

This online *New York Times* kids' edition for grades 3–12 is a truly fantastic site. It offers daily updated news summaries, science Q&As, On This Day and Word of the Day features, and the ability to explore the *New York Times* learning network by subject.

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/scholasticNews.jsp>

Subtitled “America’s leading news source for kids,” Scholastic’s News Online lives up to its reputation. Extensive student-oriented news stories, updated daily, engage kids with a “tell us what you think” feature that encourages the reader to blog responses with the Scholastic Online community. This site is also the home page of the Scholastic Kids Press Corps.

www.sciencenewsforkids.org

Science News for Kids is a website devoted to science news for children aged 9 to 14. It offers timely items of interest to kids, accompanied by suggestions for hands-on activities, books, articles, Internet resources, and other useful materials.

www.timeforkids.com/TFK/

This site, targeted specifically to students in grades K–6, offers a variety of opportunities for kids and teachers. Within each grade level, click the Past Issues link (www.timeforkids.com/TFK/teachers/archive/bp/archive/) to print any or all of the TFK articles.

<http://weeklyreader.com/>

Updated weekly, this site features educational resources and games related to current events and trends.

History and Social Studies

www.freedomcenter.org/

The website of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, offers historic information, narratives, and lesson plans related to the Underground Railroad. Click on [Expand Your Knowledge](#) or [For Educators](#).

www.history.com

The website of the History Channel shares videos, topics, podcasts, games, and more on all things historic. A favorite feature for kids is the ever-changing This Day in History video. Other video clips are particularly useful for building background on an historic concept or event.

www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/

This site covers the story of America from New World encounters to contemporary history with information, narratives, maps, and links to other relevant American history websites.

<http://lesley.edu/growingvoters>

This civics curriculum initiative from Lesley University teaches kids about the importance of voting through a range of grade-specific learning activities. Each activity set is built for student-centered active engagement to maximize student involvement and motivation.

<http://nobelprize.org/>

This site includes Nobel lectures, a history of winners and their prizes, and more. The Educational Games section offers interactive multimedia games featuring Nobel lore and prize categories.

www.ushmm.org/education/

With sections for students, teachers, and families as well as for adults and scholars, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum provides in-depth information about one of World War II's most shameful crimes.

Online Communities and Networking

www.delphiforums.com/

Delphi Forums is an online resource for creating and engaging in blogs, forum discussions, and chat rooms. Registration is free and forum-construction is user friendly.

www.guysread.com/

Guys Read is a web-based literacy resource hosted by children's writer and humorist Jon Scieszka, who created this website to help boys find stuff they like to read.

www.mathhelpforum.com/math-help/

The “forum” is a very extensive mathematical problem-solving web community. Indicators allow users to see how many students are viewing particular solutions at once.

www.thinkquest.org/en/

Created by students for students, the ThinkQuest Library is a free educational resource featuring 7,000+ websites created by participating school groups from around the world. Classroom web design contests are an exciting opportunity featured on the site.

Reference and Library Resources

www.askkids.com/

If you are looking for a site where kids can ask questions and search for information and almost always find text and ideas they can read and understand, Ask Kids is the answer to your dreams! The site sends kids to many alternative sites that are written at a reading level and in a language that is understandable for kids.

www.bjpinchbeck.com/

Unquestionably the most popular homework help site on the web. B. J. Pinchbeck started this research portal when he was nine years old. Twelve years later he continues to maintain the site and field kids' questions. The site has received favorable reviews from the *New York Times* and *Newsweek*, among others.

www.kidsites.com/

A listing of approved sites for kids. The Education category includes links to sites about animals, art, dinosaurs, history, math, music, science, and space.

www.loc.gov/

The official site of the Library of Congress offers much more than you'd expect. Click on Kids, Families to discover the compelling story of America's past as presented by the Library of Congress. Or explore the site endlessly for anything you can imagine.

www.smithsonianeducation.org/index.html

Click the Student button on the Smithsonian Institute's education website and you can explore resources by topic: Arts, Science and Nature, History and Culture, and People and Places. Click on the Educators button and follow the links to searchable teacher resources and lesson plans in Arts and Design, Science and Technology, History and Culture, and Language Arts.

<http://snopes.com/>

This urban legends reference site debunks rumors and old wives' tales of all kinds. Faulty and truthful claims are categorized by topic. Under the Hottest Urban Legends section are rumors and scams that are currently being circulated on the Internet and in the media.

Educator Resource Sites

<http://inkrethink.blogspot.com/>

Interesting Nonfiction for Kids (INK) is a blog that keeps track of the newest and most interesting nonfiction books for kids. Meet writers who are presenting nonfiction in a whole new way. Discover books that show why nonfiction writers are some of the best storytellers around.

www.learner.org/

The goal of this Annenberg Foundation site is to advance excellent teaching in America's schools. You'll find information on school reform, professional development, teaching and learning, curriculum suggestions, and so on.

www.learner.org/students/

The student section of the learner.org site has interactive exhibits that focus on extensions of a concept or theme that is explored on the site.

www.middleweb.com

MiddleWeb provides a wealth of resources for schools, districts, educators, parents, and public school advocates working to raise achievement for all students in the middle grades.

www.netsmartz.org

This site helps teachers and kids make judgments about the safety and reliability of websites and the Internet in general.

www.pbs.org/teachers/

From PBS, this extensive educators' resource allows you to search for featured lessons and activities by curriculum area and grade level.

<http://pbskids.org/>

This umbrella site covers all the PBS shows aimed at the early elementary grades that can now be seen on the Kids Go channel on cable TV. Through this site, you can access materials for both teachers and kids built around many wonderful shows, including *Arthur*, *Animalia*, *WordWorld*, *Between the Lions*, and more.

www.skype.com

This website allows you to make free phone calls and even free video conferences, with the proper equipment, to any place in the world.

Fine Arts

www.nga.gov/kids/kids.htm

The National Gallery of Art's NGAkids home page is an abundant resource of interactive art that kids can make online. It's equally populated with multimedia presentations of artist biographies and extensive art history guides. A homework research database allows kids to search the entire NGA collection for information and images.

<http://redstudio.moma.org/>

Content on this teen section of the Museum of Modern Art's website reflects current exhibitions and trends in the museum and the arts world generally. Including interviews, podcasts, videocasts, interactivities, and contests, this site launches high schoolers headlong into the art world.

www.metmuseum.org/explore/museumkids.htm

Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art's MuseumKids page is a fantastic resource for children passionate about art and archaeology. Under the For Kids to Try Right Now! header there are dozens of links to fascinating age-appropriate virtual multimedia. From Degas' Dancers to Medieval Arms and Armor, all interests are covered.

<http://classicsforkids.com/>

A website dedicated to hooking kids on classical music, Classics for Kids has a monthly focus on specific composers and eras. The site also features lesson plans/teacher resources, professional musician interviews/profiles, and an award-winning podcast.

www.carnegiehall.org/article/explore_and_learn/art_wmi_index.html

Click on the Interactive Resources link of Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute's website and you will be led to a plethora of informative articles, podcasts, and games that encourage music appreciation for all ages.

www.smithsonianjazz.org/

This jazz portal is intended to preserve and promote one of America's greatest art forms. Click the Learn It icon to access an amazing free archive of oral histories and interactive "lessons" that teach young adults how to cultivate curiosity in their music listening.

www.paballet.org/outreach/

The Pennsylvania Ballet's online Outreach and Education page offers some profoundly creative dance appreciation media and materials. The drop-down menu under For Kids, Parents & Teachers reveals artist interviews, kid workbooks, video clips of ballet positions, and the brilliant "creating a ballet" lesson, which catapults students into the process of storytelling through dance.

Health and Fitness

<http://kidshealth.org/kid/>

At this site geared toward educating kids about their bodies, resources range from an age-appropriate glossary of medical terms to a “dealing with feelings” section to healthy and easy recipes for kids. There is an extensive database of health-related games, quizzes, and experiments. The site is also available in Spanish.

www.cbhi.org/index.shtml

Click on the age-appropriate magazine for nutrition and health-oriented things to read, see, and do from the Children’s Better Health Institute.

<http://siforkids.com/>

Sports Illustrated’s website for kids is full of sports information, articles, radio programs, survey questions, and more.

www.childrensyoga.com/

Renowned child yoga instructor Shakta Kaur Khalsa’s website includes articles, teaching tips, and lessons geared toward making yoga a fun and healthy daily exercise for kids. Click on the For Children link and you will find clearly diagrammed methods for introducing simple stretching exercises into the classroom.

<http://spatulatta.com/>

This award-winning network features free culinary instruction for kids. With video recipes performed and taught by kids, Spatulatta promotes healthy eating and cultural exploration through cooking.