

Title:



URL: <http://www.csmonitor.com>

Is this a recommended site?



MAYBE

NO

(Site should have NO zero ratings in any category)

Recommended age groups: Probably ages 12 and up

Recommended content areas / uses: Social Studies, Journalism, Current Events, and Political Science. The topics that are covered in this news source on any given day might also be good examples of how a variety of subjects across the curriculum are currently "in the news."

Special strengths:

- ☺ Variety of news coverage including important national and international issues
- ☺ Presents some of the best, in-depth journalism from a national newspaper
- ☺ Clear writing style and consistently topical – if it is in the mainstream news, it will be analyzed here
- ☺ Excellent analysis, great examples to demonstrate critical thinking of current news
- ☺ Great example of how the media frames issues
- ☺ Promotes diverse thinking and tolerance of ideas

Reservations (if any): While this paper itself does not promote Christianity or Christian Science and is widely recognized as an objective news source, some people will not get past the title on the masthead. I have used stories from this paper in class and students ask about the connection with Christian Scientists. I even had a parent confront me at a parent/teacher’s conference once – without knowing anything about the article or the paper itself, this parent thought it was an inappropriate resource. While I had the article in question with me – they refused to look at it to decide for themselves if the presentation of the topic was fair, accurate, and unbiased.

2=Excellent 1=Good 0=Poor NA=Not applicable

Rating	
2	<p>Is information accurate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the information consistent with other published material on the topic? • Does the site provide evidence that it comes from reputable sources? • Is the information supported with evidence? • Are references provided? • Does the site contain any obvious biases, errors, or misleading omissions? • Does the site avoid gender, race, culture, economic, religious, and other biases? • Does the site contain advertising that might impact perceptions of the content? • Are linked pages accurate?
2	<p>Is information objective?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the purpose of the site clear (e.g., entertain, persuade, educate, sell) and its content reflect the purpose? • Does the site present only one side of an issue? • Does the author have anything to gain by presenting this information? • Does the publishing organization have anything to gain by making this information available?

2	<p>Is the coverage of the information appropriate for the desired use?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it provide a specific perspective or a breadth of information?
1	<p>Is information authoritative?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the author or publishing organization indicated? Can they be contacted? • Does the author have the authority to present this information?
2	<p>Is information current?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the information routinely maintained? When was it last updated?
2	<p>Does it fit with curriculum and/or information need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site fit with state and local curriculum standards? • Is there a clear tie among the purpose, content, and procedures suggested? • Does the site contain any activities irrelevant to the topic? Any redundant activities? • Does the site provide suggestions, graphic organizers, templates or forms to help students work? • Are there additional resources for teachers (e.g., lesson plans, management strategies, activity extensions)?
2	<p>Is it appropriate for the intended age group?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the site's information be read by the intended audience? • Is it appropriate for users' maturity and cognitive abilities? • Does it contain any extraneous and unsuitable vocabulary, language or concepts, bias, or stereotyping? Note: This site contains a great deal of these items, which resulted in a rating of 0. Using this site in school, regardless of its benefits may be objectionable to some!
1	<p>If there are activities, are they and the information presentation engaging?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site provide anything not found in textbooks? • Are the activities challenging, interesting and appealing for the intended users? • Does the site's information emphasize and promote relevant learner actions? • Does the site have the potential for developing learner confidence and satisfaction? • Does the site use various learning styles / multiple intelligences? • Does the site incorporate interactivity (e.g., contact experts, exchanging data and ideas with others)? • Does the site enable collaborative or cooperative learning opportunities?
2	<p>Does it work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do all links work? • Do all graphics appear? • Is download time reasonable? • Is it viewable in all standard browsers? • Is the site consistently available?
2	<p>Is it accessible to all students?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is special software needed to access the site? • Can the site be used by visually impaired or hearing-impaired students?
2	<p>Is the organization and design easy to understand and use?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the information arranged in an orderly fashion, use organizing tools (e.g., map, table of contents, pull-down menus, headings), and avoid use of unrelated elements? • Is the site user friendly (e.g., easy to find information, navigate)? • Is the information presented clearly?
2	<p>Is it aesthetically appealing?</p>