

Web Sitings: 70 Top Web Sites

Here are lively, lesson-planning links packed with tips, activities, great reproducibles and much, much more!

By [Emily Beck](#)

LANGUAGE ARTS

Dave's ESL Café

www.pacificnet.net/~sperling/eslcafe.html

Professor Dave Sperling claims his collection of ESL links is the best around, and we agree! This comprehensive site also includes a chat room, discussion boards, mailings lists, links, and more.

Carol Hurst's Children's Literature Newsletter

www.carolhurst.com/index.html

Master Teacher Carol Hurst and Webmaster Rebecca Otis have done a masterful job of creating this amazing children's literature Web site. Search for children's literature by subject, theme, curriculum, series, and more.

Online Writing Lab

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

The Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL), receives a staggering 1,000,000 hits a week with good reason. Most of the excellent resources, including handouts, tutorials, workshops, and links, are free for all.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The History Place

www.historyplace.com/index.html

The History Place is a must-bookmark site for all history and social studies teachers. There are a variety of featured exhibits on topics ranging from Abraham Lincoln to the Irish Potato Famine.

Biographical Dictionary

www.s9.com/biography

This massive biographical dictionary contains entries for more than 27,000 people and is searchable by name, birth or death year, position or profession, literary or artistic works, miscellaneous achievements, or other keywords. Entries are clear, concise, and well written.

History/Social Studies Web Resources

my.execpc.com/~dboals/boals.html

This exhaustive site contains thousands of links in 32 categories for K–12 history teachers. One distinction between this site and others with similar missions is the range and variety of materials available. In addition to lesson plans and curricula, there are links to topical lecture notes, magazines, radio programs, and more.

American Cultural History: The 20th Century

<http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decades.html>

This site is both educational and extremely entertaining. For each decade, there is information about art, books, fashion, historical events, music, theater, and more, along with a fascinating assortment of basic facts.

GEOGRAPHY

The Greatest Places Online

www.smm.org/greatestplaces

The Greatest Places Online is the companion Web site to the OmniMax film of the same name. For this breathtaking movie the crew visited the Amazon, Greenland, Iguazu, Madagascar, Namib, Okavango, and Tibet. Each locale has its own page containing photos, maps, trivia, recipes, audio and video clips of local wildlife, quotes from scientists, and more.

Terraquest

www.terraquest.com

Terraquest was nominated in 1999 for a Webby Award in the Best Travel Site on the Web category. After participating in one of their virtual online exhibits you'll understand why. Experience Terraquest's award-winning travelogues as you visit Antarctica, the Galapagos, or a history-making climb of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park.

National Geographic

www.nationalgeographic.com

The National Geographic site contains outstanding and constantly-changing interactive exhibits. Each section of the site includes educational components such as lesson plans and teacher resources. For kids, there's also the World magazine site and award-winning interactive Xpedition Hall.

SCIENCE

Particle Adventure

www.particleadventure.org

The Particle Adventure is a super-cool award-winning site which allows even the most scientifically challenged to explore the world of particle physics through interactive tours of quarks, neutrinos, antimatter, and other intriguing particles.

Robert Krampf's Experiment of the Week

www.krampf.com/news.html

Scientist Robert Krampf has spent his career sharing his love of science with young people, crisscrossing the country with his traveling show. Join 80,000 subscribers worldwide and experience Mr. Krampf's safe, dramatic, cheap, and fun experiments.

Enature

www.enature.com

What's the difference between the Yellow Mud Turtle and its cousin the Common Mud Turtle? Find the answer at Enature, your online guide to more than 4,800 North American plants and animals.

Windows to the Universe

www.windows.ucar.edu

Sponsored by NASA and operated by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, this site covers absolutely everything you could possibly want to know about the earth and space sciences.

Bridge

www.vims.edu/bridge

This truly amazing Web site has collected the best online resources for marine science. Materials are organized into the following categories: ocean science topics, resources, data port, elementary grades, and communications. Each section has tons of information.

How Stuff Works

www.howstuffworks.com

How Stuff Works was justifiably honored with a People's Choice "Coolest Site of the Year Award" in 1998. In language we can all understand, with clear diagrams to supplement the text, this Web site explains both natural phenomena and human inventions.

MATH

Measure 4 Measure

www.wolinskyweb.com/measure.htm

This diligently-maintained site boasts several hundred measuring tools in the categories of science and math, health, finance, and the all-encompassing "everything else."

Eisenhower National Clearinghouse

www.enc.org

Eisenhower National Clearinghouse for Mathematics and Science (ENC) staff search the Internet daily for unique educational Web sites and each month feature 12 of the best.

Math.com

www.math.com

This great site is easy to navigate, with a wealth of math-related materials and resources. Kids can access a range of mathematical tools; take advantage of the excellent test prep, study tips, or homework help; or hone their math skills with challenging puzzles, games, and one-minute interactive drills.

LIBRARIES

ALA

www.ala.org

The American Library Association site is easy to navigate and chock-full of wonderful links and information, including the ALA's top 700 picks of the best Web sites for kids. Organized by topic, the site includes a list of Spanish language Web pages as well as sections with super recommendations and references.

The Amazing Picture Machine

www.ncrtec.org/picture.htm

While there are many search engines designed to make surfing safe for children, very few are able to filter out all inappropriate images. That's why NCREL (the North Central Region Education Library) created this massive collection of kid-safe images on topics from aircraft to architecture to animals.

MUSEUMS

Museum Computer Network

<http://www.mcn.edu/resources/sitesonline.htm>

This Museum Guide, prepared by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, offers thousands of excellent links for both real and virtual destinations.

Exploratorium

www.exploratorium.edu

One visit to the Exploratorium Web site and you'll understand why just about every educational list ranks this URL as one of the best around. Exhibits and

activities change as the exhibits at the museum change. All are engaging, fun, and challenging for children.

Metropolitan Museum of Art Online Collections

www.metmuseum.org/collections/index.asp

The Met is an American cultural treasure, but did you know that a large portion of its collection can be viewed online? The Web site contains 3,500 images, including 50 highlights from each of the 20+ departments, plus the entire collection of European paintings.

LESSON PLANS

edHelper.com

www.edhelper.com

This site boasts a collection of 10,728 lesson plans, 1,193 Web Quests, 679 file downloads, 8,641 additional Web sites, 4,200 free worksheets, plus updated daily educational news. With such a quantity of materials, you might think the quality would suffer, but all of the materials we tested were excellent.

Teachnet.com

www.teachnet.com

The Teachnet.com Web site is full of simple solutions for the everyday classroom. Instead of simply giving you lesson plans, this site gives you lesson plan ideas. Additional features include terrific advice about everything from decorating bulletin boards to increasing attendance to great five-minute activities for transitional moments during the day.

Smile Program Lesson Plans

www.iit.edu/~smile/index.html

The SMILE program, hosted by the Illinois Institute of Technology, seeks to improve the quality of mathematics and science instruction in grades K–12. Since 1986, each participant in the SMILE summer program has created a lesson plan. With over 800 lessons available in the fields of biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics, there's a wealth of valuable materials here.

Columbia Education Center Lesson Plans

www.col-ed.org/cur

Each summer, the Columbia Education Center (CEC) in Portland, Oregon hosts teachers from 14 western states for an intense professional development experience. One byproduct of the program is this library of outstanding lesson plans organized by topic and grade level.

S.C.O.R.E

S.C.O.R.E (Schools of California Online Recourses for Education) maintains

Web sites in four disciplines: math, history, language arts, and science. All lesson plans are teacher-tested and linked to national and California standards.

VARIOUS

Google.com

www.google.com

Among the favorite Web sites of the year 2000 of both Time and Newsweek, Google is a fabulous search engine with technological innovations that ensure the most relevant results to any query.

FREE

www.ed.gov/free

FREE (Federal Resources for Educational Excellence) provides links to all educational resources from the federal government. Materials come from more than 50 agencies, including NASA, Departments of Energy, Agriculture, Treasury, Defense, and Labor, and the National Institute of Health.

PBS

www.pbs.org/teachersource/

Did you know that K–12 teachers can tape any PBS program for use in the classroom, provided they erase the tape within one year of the original national air date? PBS encourages use of their programs for educational purposes, and provides teaching guides and materials to accompany most of them.

AT&T Learning Network

www.att.com/learningnetwork/index.html

AT&T Learning Network contains enough worthwhile information to be your single source of Web-related materials for the entire year. There are numerous listservs, tutorials, lesson plans, reference materials, management tips, contests, online projects, and more.

Education World

www.educationworld.com

Education World is a mammoth educational clearinghouse with descriptions of and links to over 110,000 prescreened Web pages. Check out their "best of" series.

Gateway to Educational Materials

www.thegateway.org

The Gateway to Educational Materials (GEM) is a massive clearinghouse for educational materials, sponsored by the National Library of Education, that contains over 1,550 Internet resources from more than 15 different organizations, including AskERIC and the U.S. Department of Education.

Crayola

www.crayola.com

This jam-packed art site has something for everyone. The Kids' section has many fun and creative interactive activities. For teachers there are excellent lesson plans, techniques, product information, newsgroups, grants, and more.

Discovery Channel School

<http://school.discovery.com/schoolhome.html>

While some sites provide a little bit of everything, Discovery Channel School offers a lot of everything. There are feature articles, lesson plans, multiple discussion groups, mailing lists, teleconferencing with experts, a software store, an internal resource search engine, Cyber Surfari, and Kathy Shrock's Guide for Educators—quite possibly the single best Web source of information, links, and resources for K–12 teachers.

MORE NOTABLE SITES

A&E

<http://www.aetv.com/class/>

Alfy

www.alfy.com

Alvarado Cyber Explorers

www.nhusd.k12.ca.us/ALVE/ace/acehome.html

Ancient Egypt

www.ancientegypt.co.uk

Art Safari

<http://artsafari.moma.org>

Big Chalk

www.bigchalk.com

Biomes of the World

<http://mbgnet.mobot.org>

Canada's School Net

www.schoolnet.ca

CanTeach

www.track0.com/canteach/index.html

The Digital Classroom

<http://www.archives.gov/index.html>

Eduhound

www.eduhound.com

Elements

www.webelements.com

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

www.thinker.org

Fiskars

www.fiskars.com

Gander Academy's Theme-Related Resources

www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/themes.html

Global Online Adventure

<http://www.goals.com/Index.htm>

Internet Public Library

www.ipl.org/youth

KidsClick!

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/KidsClick/>

Library of Congress

www.loc.gov

National Wildlife Federation

www.nwf.org

Neuroscience for Kids

<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/introb.html>

NYTimes Learning Network

www.nytimes.com/learning/

Scholastic

<http://teacher.scholastic.com>

School Library Journal Online

<http://slj.reviewsnews.com/index.asp?publication=slj>

SchoolPop!

www.schoolpop.com

The Smithsonian Institute

www.si.edu

Tech Museum Online Exhibits

www.thetech.org/exhibits/

ThinkQuest

www.thinkquest.org/library.html

Thursday's Classroom

www.thursdaysclassroom.com

USGS Learning Web

www.usgs.gov/education

The World Book Factbook

www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/

Yale-New Haven Teacher Institute Units

www.cis.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units