

Integrate the **Internet** Across the **Content Areas**



Language Arts

Mathematics

Science ←

Social Studies

Art & Music

Holidays

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SHELL EDUCATION

Introducing the Internet



What Is the Internet?

The Internet is an information resource comprised of a network of hundreds of millions of computers located throughout the world. It has changed the nature of research, global economics, and the acquisition of information and communications. There are two specific components of the Internet that are often used in classrooms: the World Wide Web and electronic communications.

The World Wide Web, or Web, is a collection of interlinked, hypertext documents called websites. These websites are created by governments, schools and colleges, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals. Each website is a group of linked hypertext pages filled with text, graphics, audio files, animation, and other media. Users can browse the Internet for information, check world news, order airline tickets, buy almost any product, ask questions of various experts, chat with friends, or go on virtual trips around the world without ever leaving their computers. And, all of this can happen anytime of the day or night.

In addition to websites, the Internet is also the network for electronic correspondence. Much of today's correspondence is done electronically through electronic mail, or email. Many adults and children successfully send and receive messages through the Internet using computers or other electronic devices. Further, individuals use digital video cameras (or webcams) to communicate in real time with others on the Web. The possibilities are endless.

Connecting to the Internet

In order to explore the Internet, you will need a minimum of the following things:

1. A computer that is capable of connecting to the Internet
2. Access to the Internet through a telephone line, cable network, digital subscriber line (DSL), wireless router, or a link to a server connected to the Internet
3. A browser (Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Netscape Navigator, Safari, and so on) or an Internet Service Provider (ISP), which is a commercial online service that offers Internet access through its own browser (America Online is an example of this.)

Most schools are connected to the Internet through a school or district-office server. They have a fast connection to the Internet so that teachers and students can enjoy efficient service. In more remote areas, getting a connection may be a bit more of a challenge. However, with more satellite service available, it is getting easier. But, it is still not as simple or as cost effective as it is in a city.

A Web address, called a Uniform Resource Locator (URL), takes a user to a specified Web page. If you are entering it by hand, it must be typed exactly as it appears in print or on the screen. Upper and lowercase letters; spaces; underscores (_), which sometimes look like spaces; slashes; periods; and special characters must all be typed correctly and carefully. Each part of the Web address has a particular purpose, and if it is not entered correctly, you will not get to the site you want.

Tips for Using the Internet *(cont.)*

Citing Internet Sources

It is important to collect the right information about sources when conducting Internet research. Every website students visit should be recorded in their notes. The citations should include the author's last and first name (if available); the title of the article, image, audio, or video clip; the website address (URL); and the date the document was created on the website, or if that is not available, the date the site was visited.

Next, you need to select a style for citing your resources. Create a document with a few examples of different types of resources and give it to your students to reference. Here are two examples:

- Brians, Paul. *Common Errors in English Usage*. <http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/index.html>, (accessed May 31, 2007).
- Teacher Created Materials. *Free Activities for Teachers*. <http://www.teachercreatedmaterials.com/free>, (accessed May 31, 2007).

How Do I Search the Internet?

In November 2006, the Educational Testing Service reported that out of 6,300 high school and college students only 40 percent knew how to use multiple terms in a Web search to narrow the results (Trotter 2007). This information shows how important it is to teach your students how to conduct advanced searches. Success comes with understanding how search engines work and how to begin a search.

Types of Search Engines

Keyword Search

A keyword search engine looks for the word or words you have entered and returns a list of sites that match your entry. One of the most popular keyword search engines is Google (<http://www.google.com>). If you were looking for information on “inventing the telephone” for example, you could enter the words “inventing the telephone” as search words. Include the quotation marks because that helps to narrow the search. For this example, Google returned 940,000 entries. The entries listed at the top of the list are often the most relevant, but watch out for sponsored sites that paid for locations on the top of your screen. One would generally use this type of search when you know exactly what you want to find out. The keyword choice helps to quickly narrow your search and can focus on the results quickly. Google lets you search for images with keywords, too. Google Image Search can be found at <http://images.google.com/>.

Google is a good search engine to use at school because inappropriate sites can be blocked. Under **Preferences**, one can select *Safe Search Filtering*, and then select *Use Strict Filtering (Filter both explicit text and explicit images)*. Google's Safe Search blocks Web pages containing explicit sexual content from appearing in the search results.

Language Arts Website Resources

Teacher Resources

The National Council of Teachers of English

<http://www.ncte.org/>

The website of the National Council of Teachers of English provides staff development information, teaching ideas, teacher chat, educational research articles, and great resources for the classroom.

Web English Teacher

<http://www.Webenglishteacher.com/>

Web English Teacher presents the best of K–12 English/language arts teaching resources: lesson plans, Web quests, videos, biography, e-texts, criticisms, jokes, puzzles, and classroom activities.

Schools of California Online Resources for Education (SCORE)— Language Arts

<http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/welcome.html>

SCORE for language arts includes CyberGuides, which are Web-based units of study. They are centered on books that are part of the curriculum. SCORE also has an activity center. The teacher and student activities include graphic organizers, journaling, literature, and rubrics.

SCORE CyberGuides

<http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/SCORE/cyberguide.html>

CyberGuides are supplementary, standards-based, Web-delivered units of instruction centered on core works of literature. Each CyberGuide contains a student and teacher edition, a list of standards, a task and a process by which it may be completed, teacher-selected websites, and a rubric based on California Language Arts Content Standards. The grade groupings include K–3, 4–5, 6–8, and 9–12. This valuable resource should not be missed.