

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education • Phone: (573) 751-8247 • E-mail: instrtech@dese.mo.gov

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

April is always an exciting month with it being the first full month of spring and the end of the school year in sight. It's also when the General Assembly finalizes the next year's budget (and with the latest economy woes, there is some question as to whether all of the programs funded for FY08 will be continued in FY09). For the Missouri ed-tech community, spring is a time for reflection and renewal, with district technology coordinators and building contacts busy completing the Census of Technology, evaluating and updating technology policies and action plans, and preparing next year's budgets and grant applications. This issue is a celebration of a successful 2007-08 school year and high expectations for 2008-09 plans. – Deborah S. Sutton

DESE Budgets/Grant Programs

Education Technology Programs

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/>

Federal Title II.D Competitive Grants

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/federalfunded/TitleIID>

FY08 Update. Grant recipients are reminded that Final Expenditure Reports are due May 15.

FY09 Update. The window for submitting first-year FY09 competitive grant applications closed March 31. Instructional Technology staff are reviewing the submissions for responsiveness. The narratives of responsive applications will be reviewed by panels of readers in Jefferson City, April 14-17; and Instructional Technology will assign the need points. The expectation is post and email funding status information on or around May 16.

The deadline for submitting second-year grants is May 1. Instructional Technology will review the applications to determine preliminary budgets – which will determine the amount available for first-year grant approvals. The expectation is to post and email funding status information for all Title II.D competitive applications on or around May 16.

State eMINTS/METS Classrooms Grants

<http://emints.org/communities/mets.shtml>

FY08 Update. Grant recipients are reminded that Final Expenditure Reports are due May 15.

- Software industry unveils “Vision for K-21 Education”

MoVIP Update

e-Learning for Educators – Missouri Update

- e-Learning for Educators Summer 08 registration

CSD Update

- Don't forget to check out *The Wired Classroom*
- The VLC also maintains a blog for author Patricia McKissack

Regular Featured Items

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METS School Grants

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/METS%20School%20Grant%20Pgrm/index.html>

FY09 Update. The window for submitting FY09 METS School grant applications closed March 31. Department staffs are reviewing the submissions for responsiveness. The narratives of responsive applications will be reviewed by panels of readers in Jefferson City, April 15-17; and Department staffs will assign the bonus/need points. The expectation is to post and email funding status information on or around May 16. **Note that these one-year grant awards will be made contingent upon Missouri receiving the state funding.**

State Safe Schools Program <reminder>

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/safeschools/index.html>.

FY08 Update. Grant recipients are reminded that Final Expenditure Reports are due May 15.

FY09 Update. Districts are reminded that competitive, first-year applications are due April 15, Responsive first-year applications will be reviewed by a panel of Missouri educators in Jefferson City, May 19-21, and informed of tentative funding decisions by the end of May. **Note that grant awards will be made contingent upon Missouri receiving the state funding.**

The deadline for submitting continuation grants is May 15. These districts are reminded that new rules will be in effect regarding the maximum amounts, district match rate, and years of funding available. [Example: a single-district grant that is currently in its second year of funding may only request up to \$50,000 for FY09 and must provide matching funds equal or greater than thirty percent of the grant.] Instructional Technology will review the applications to determine preliminary budgets – which will determine the amount available for first-year grant approvals. The expectation is to post and email funding status information for all Safe Schools applications on or around May 30.

MOREnet K-12 Technology Networking Program (TNP)

<http://www.more.net/programs/k12tnp/index.html>

FY09 Appropriation Update

The Governor recommended level funding for FY09 MOREnet operations, which supports the K-12 TNP. Note that while the Department has recommended no changes for FY09 membership fees, it is expected that FY09 program expenses will exceed revenues and that membership fees will need to be increased for FY10.

Technology Plans and Data Collection

Technology Plan State Approval

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/index.htm>

Districts with technology plans that have their State approval expiring this spring are reminded that new plans must be submitted to DESE Instructional Technology by April 15. A panel of readers will convene in Jefferson City on May 9. Districts with plans receiving favorable reviews can expect to receive approval letters on or around May 23. Department staff will call or email contact persons for plans that did not meet approval standards, with the expectation to have supplemental information provided to DESE by May 30 and for have plans to be approved by no later than June 13.

Core Data Census of Technology – to be completed by April 15

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/statefunded/census/>

Districts are reminded to complete the required Census of Technology, collected via Core Data Screens 30 and 31, by the April 15 deadline. Screen 30 collects district-level data and Screen 31 collects building-level data from all the attendance centers. Note that the 2008 COT is the same as 2007 – programmers did not have authority or the staff needed to change the computer table in time.

Also note that a number of helpful resources are provided on the COT website: FAQ, copies of the forms, Core Data Manual instructions for completing the screens (which includes definitions of key terms), and state summary reports from previous years. Of particular note are the forms with embedded instructions. Over the years, the same few questions generate the most questions and mistakes – these questions are highlighted in the forms with embedded instructions, along with more in-depth instructions.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

Missouri receives C+ grade in 2008 Technology Counts report

Missouri scored an overall grade of C+ that ranks it 25th among the states with regards to technology access, capacity, and use. The 2008 grade is an improvement over the C- Missouri received in the 2007 report. Improvement was noted in the area of technology use, where Missouri met three of four standards. Besides having technology standards in place, Missouri received credit for establishing a virtual school (MoVIP) and offering computer based assessments (Personal Finance). To access the full 2008 Technology Counts report, see <http://www.edweek.org/go/tc08>. To access the Missouri state report, see: http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/tc/2008/30MO_STR2008.h27.pdf.

MoVIP to offer summer high school courses

The Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MoVIP) is now enrolling high school students for its summer school program. All Missouri public, private, and home-schooled students are eligible to enroll at a cost of \$347 for a four-week course. There are no state-funded summer school seats. For more information, or to enroll, see:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/movip/>

E-RATE PROGRAM

Funding Year 2008 –

Preliminary reports indicate increased demand for Funding Year 2008. Each year, about a month after the close of the filing window, USAC prepares a demand estimate for the upcoming funding year and submits it to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The demand estimate summarizes the dollar amounts for all funding requests submitted on timely filed Forms 471. These totals are also broken down by category of service and by discount band. For FY2008, the total demand estimate is just over \$4.3 billion, which includes about \$1.95 billion in Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) and about \$2.35 billion in Priority 2 requests (Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections). The demand estimate is based on the funding requests in the 39,909 applications received or postmarked by February 7, 2008, the close of the Form 471 application filing window. See: http://www.universalservice.org/_res/documents/sl/pdf/sl-demand-estimate-2008.pdf.

Funding Year 2007 –

USAC will release FY2007 **Wave 44** Funding Commitment Decision Letters (FCDLs) **April 1**. This wave includes commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at/above 83% and denials at/below 79%. As of March 28, Funding Year 2007 commitments totaled just over \$2.03 billion. See: <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/y2007/national.asp>.

On the day after the FCDLs are mailed, applicants can check to see if they have commitments by using USAC's Automated Search of Commitments tool at: <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/>.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES

Ed Week releases latest *Technology Counts* report

On March 26, Education Week released the *Technology Counts 2008* – “STEM: The Push to Improved Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.” The 2008 report focuses on how states are pushing to prepare their students for the high-tech global economy. “As in past years, the report includes state-specific technology report cards and, with the STEM focus, also tracks NAEP achievement data in mathematics and science from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The report assigns grades to the states for their technology performance overall and in the areas of access, use, and capacity. The state report assembles key findings from state surveys and other sources in a format that allows readers to examine a particular state’s performance. For most indicators, national results are also provided as a benchmark against which the state can be measured. See: <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2008/03/27/index.html>

SETDA releases latest *National Trends Report*

According to the SETDA 2008 *National Trends Report*, states are focusing their efforts on leadership and professional development to sustain school ed-tech programs in response to cuts in program funding. For the past five years, the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) has conducted a survey regarding states’ administration and use of the NCLB Title II.D Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) program. The trends reports inform national policymakers on the progress in achieving program goals and provide state and local agencies with current information on the strategies and tactics other states and school districts are using to get results. With data collected from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the 2008 *National Trends Report* highlights the states’ focus on professional development and academics and includes details regarding the trends of the EETT budget cuts. See: <http://www.setda.org/>.

NACOL releases *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching*

In February 2008, the North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL) released *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching*, a publication designed to provide states, districts, online programs, and other organizations with a set of quality guidelines for online teaching. As a result of research review, NACOL fully endorses the work of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) *Standards for Quality Online Teaching* and *Online Teaching Evaluation for State Virtual Schools* as a comprehensive set of criteria. This serves as a companion to the *National Standards of Quality for Online Courses* endorsed by NACOL in September 2007. Based on a review of course standards available, NACOL adopted SREB’s *Standards for Quality Online Courses*, used by the 16 states in the southern United States, as the source for the NACOL *National Standards for Quality for Online Courses* and added a standard to include 21st Century Skills. See: <http://www.nacol.org/nationalstandards/index.php>.

Software industry unveils “Vision for K-21 Education”

In March 2008, the Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA) in March 2008 launched "Vision for K-20 Education," a program aimed to help educators and administrators make effective daily use of technology in their classrooms and decision-making activities. The initiative outlines seven goals for using educational technology and five benchmarks schools and colleges can use to measure their yearly progress toward meeting these goals. SIIA also is calling on its partners to submit success stories, research, and other best practices for a database of "evidence" supporting technology's use in schools and colleges. Once compiled, these success stories will be correlated to SIIA's Vision goals and will be entered into a searchable database. <http://www.sii.net/visionK20/index.html>

MoVIP UPDATE

submitted by Curt Fuchs

MoVIP is currently taking applications for the 2008-2009 school year. A brochure on the course offerings can be downloaded from the MoVIP site at <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/movip/>. New additions for the elementary program include gifted classes for those school districts that do not offer a gifted program. Middle School curriculum will be offered for the first time. High School will expand from 24 to 44 classes. For more information, contact the DESE office at 573-526-4219.

e-LEARNING FOR EDUCATORS UPDATE

submitted by Christie Terry

eLearning for Educators Summer 08 registration opens Wednesday, April 9 for both summer sessions.

Session 1 May 21 – July 8 (*Registration closes May 14*)

Session 2 July 2 – Aug 19 (*Registration closes June 25*)

A limited number of scholarships are available so apply today! To apply for a scholarship that covers half the course fee, go to <http://www.elearningmo.org/scholarship.htm>.

Grad credit is available for all courses through UMSL, UMKC, and MSU for an additional \$100 per credit hr. All courses offered are worth 2 credit hrs, *except* for Mentoring Virtual School Students (Session 2), which is worth 1 credit hr and is a 5 wk course.

Courses offered for Session 1:

- **Helping Struggling Readers Improve Comprehension (Middle/High)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/comprehension.htm>
- **Improving Reading and Writing in the Content Areas (Middle/High)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/contentareas.htm>
- **Supporting Literacy Development in the Lower Elementary Classroom (Elementary)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/lowerelemilit.htm>
- **Supporting Literacy Development in the Upper Elementary Classroom (Elementary)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/elemilit.htm>
- **Differentiated Instruction: Empowering All Learners (All)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/empower.htm>
- **Instructional Approaches for Teachers of English Language Learners (All)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/ell.htm>
- **Using Patterns to Develop Algebraic Thinking (Middle/High)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/algthinking.htm>
- **Teaching Electricity and Circuits through Inquiry (Middle/High)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/electricity.htm>

Courses offered for Session 2:

- **Helping Struggling Readers Improve Comprehension (Middle/High)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/comprehension.htm>
- **Improving Reading and Writing in the Content Areas (Middle/High)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/contentareas.htm>
- **Supporting Literacy Development in the Lower Elementary Classroom (Elementary)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/lowerelemilit.htm>
- **Supporting Literacy Development in the Upper Elementary Classroom (Elementary)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/elemilit.htm>
- **Using Technology in the Elementary Math Classroom (Elementary)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/elemmath.htm>
- **Classroom Assessment Enhanced by Technology (All)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/assess.htm>
- **Mentoring Virtual School Students (All)**
<http://www.elearningmo.org/courses/mentorvirtual.htm>

We look forward to seeing you in the coming semester!

CSD UPDATE

submitted by Rebecca Morrison

Don't forget to check out *The Wired Classroom*, the blog for the Virtual Learning Center (VLC). Visit <http://csdtechpd.wordpress.com/> regularly to catch up on what's going on in St. Louis schools. Videoconferences, technology trainings and conference news are posted daily.

The VLC also maintains a blog for author Patricia McKissack, one of CSD's videoconference content providers *Can You Imagine?* McKissack's blog includes a list of her books, photos from videoconferences, and communication between the author and students. Visit <http://authorvisit.wordpress.com/> to see what McKissack is doing over distance learning.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2008 April 2 - 4	Event Connections 2008 Annual MOREnet Spring Technical Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/conferences/connections/index.html
April 2 - 4	2008 Higher Education Learning and Information eXchange (HELIX) Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.more.net/conferences/helix
April 13 – 15	MASL Spring Conference 2008 Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO www.maslonline.org
April 20 – 23	2008 US Distance Learning Association National Conference Hilton at the Ball Park, St. Louis, MO http://www.usdla.org/html/events/conferences.htm
June 29 – July 2	NECC 2008 The 29th Annual National Educational Computing Conference Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, TX http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2008
July 9 – 10	2008 MoDLA Conference “Keeping Pace with Distance Learning” Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://modla.org/
July 12 – 14	SuccessLink Summer Science Institute http://www.successlink.org/curriculum/articles.asp?ID=192
July 17 – 18	6th Annual SuccessLink Technology Innovations Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO http://www.successlink.org/technology/articles.asp?ID=19 or call toll-free at 888-636-4395 or (573) 636-4395
July 31 – August 1	Educators' Technology Conference 2008 Rogers, AR http://users.aristotle.net/~asta/ETChome.htm

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Due Date Ongoing	Grant Program UPS Foundation Education Grants http://www.community.ups.com/philanthropy/grant.html
Ongoing	Build an Outdoor Classroom at Your School http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowes/outdoor/index.html
Ongoing	Adopt a Classroom Grants

	http://www.adoptaclassroom.com/
Ongoing	The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Education Grants Program http://www.hewlett.org/
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants http://www.efaw.org/
Ongoing	Robert H. Michel Special Project Grants http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_grants_specialprojects.htm
Ongoing	Toshiba America Foundation 7-12 Math and Science Grants http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/about/HowApply.jsp
Ongoing	Motorola Foundation http://www.motorola.com/giving
Ongoing	Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/
Ongoing	The Starbucks Foundation Arts & Literacy Grants http://www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp

2008

May 1	Win a Wireless Lab Sweepstakes from CDW-G and Discovery Education http://cdwg.discoveryeducation.com
June 6	History Channel's Save Our History Grant Program http://www.history.com
June 15	Motorola Foundation's Innovation Generation Grants http://www.motorola.com/content.jsp?globalObjectId=8153
December 31	Captain Planet Foundation Grants http://www.captainplanetfoundation.org/

For an extensive list of grants, check the Grants Directory from *Technology and Learning*
<http://techlearning.com/resources/grants.jhtml>.

Edutopia has a listing of corporate, nonprofit, and government grant-making institutions, periodicals with grant information, and more. For more information, visit <http://www.edutopia.org/foundation/grant.php>.

Public Education Network posts a listing of Existing Grant Opportunities (updated each week) at http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp.

Grant writing and funding resources are available at <http://www.libraryspot.com/features/grantsfeature.htm>.

The School Funding Center is a subscription based database for federal, state and foundation grants for schools. Included in the subscription is Dr. Deborah Porter's SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL GRANTS, a step-by-step grant-writing manual by one of the foremost grant writers in the country.
[http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/\(xzvsqo2g4qquc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qquc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2008	EVENT
April 1	<i>Newsline</i> published online

April 14 – 17	Title II.D Grant Review
April 15	FY09 Safe Schools Grant Year 1 Applications due
April 15	Technology Plans due
April 15 – 17	METS School Grants Review
April 25	Articles for <i>Newsline</i> due
May 1	Title II.D Year 2 Applications Due
May 9	Technology Plan Review
May 15	Safe Schools Continuation Applications Due
May 19 – 21	Safe Schools Grant Review

FROM THE MAILBAG

Missouri Department of Insurance Educators Resources The Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions & Professional Registration supports the use of insurance education material in Missouri schools. Teaching teens and young adults the importance of insurance coverage will further prepare them for life's journey. The Department of Insurance offers a variety of Educator Resources (including lesson plans) for teachers to use. These resources might prove valuable for the Personal Finance class that districts are required to offer. To link to the resources click on <http://insurance.mo.gov/consumer/teens/educators.htm>. Contact Emily Kampeter (573) 526-4845.

Grants for Math and Science The Toshiba America Foundation makes grants for projects in math and science designed by classroom teachers to improve instruction for students in grades K-12. Maximum Award: \$10,000. Eligibility: Grades K-12. Deadline: Decisions about grants under \$5,000 (K-6: \$1,000) are made on a rolling basis and applications are accepted throughout the year. Deadline for large grants grades 7-12: August 1, 2008. <http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/home/default.jsp>

Adventures In Medicine & Science (AIMS) is an outreach program of the Saint Louis University School of Medicine that combines hands-on programs, 3D presentations, and distance learning to bring lessons of anatomy and science to life for students across the country and internationally. The inquiry-based methods employed by the AIMS program faculty focus on activities that challenge students and stimulate experiential learning. The process of discovery employed in the hands-on programs builds important science literacy skills such as critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork. More than 14,000 young people participated in the program in the last school year. AIMS offers a variety of programs for students interested in the medical field, or those exploring health related topics that include:

- **3-D Demonstrations** are offered to area schools throughout the school year. Up to four hundred students may attend each program. More than one hundred local health care professionals from various medical specialties donate their time to the program. The presentations are held in an auditorium which is equipped with a seventeen-foot screen for 3-dimensional projection. Students are given an opportunity to view the human body in a "larger-than-life" setting as they develop an understanding of the structure and function of vital organs. Program topics for 3-D programs include the human heart, the human brain, the bones and joints of the human body, the human ear, nose & throat, the human eye, the human GI system, the human reproductive system and organ transplants.
- Interactive **human cadaver demonstrations** are presented as a hands-on experience or through video conferencing (distance learning). During cadaver demonstrations, students will be exposed to the physiology and anatomic relationships of the major organ systems of the body and how those organ systems can relate to various human diseases.

- All hands-on programs are offered as **distance learning** presentations through videoconferencing. AIMS can provide hands-on interactive field trips to enhance any science curriculum. Programs include human cadaver demonstrations, dental health, teen nutrition and health, anatomy of the human brain, anatomy of the human heart, and multiple other programs. Distance learning programs presented by AIMS will soon be broadcast with high-definition equipment acquired through a grant from St. Anthony's Hospital in St. Louis. The quality of programming will be significantly enhanced through the use of this cutting-edge technology. Plans for next school year include the broadcast of live surgeries, and the addition of more diverse course offerings from experts in their fields at Saint Louis University. Contact Ray Vollmer Distance Learning Coordinator, at 314-977-7377 to schedule a distance learning program.
- **Hands-on programs** offer an opportunity for students to explore the human body through demonstration and dissection. Human cadaver demonstrations are available onsite at the Practical Anatomy and Surgical Education building at 3839 Lindell in St. Louis, MO. Hands-On programs include guided dissections of pig hearts, sheep brains, and pig eyes in the Zeiss surgery laboratory for both middle and high school students and feature the presentation of normal and pathological human specimens by professional facilitators. Many schools schedule a hands-on program following a 3-D demonstration to create a ½ day field trip for their students.
- Designed as a 50 minute on-site program for middle and high school students, **The Healthy Spine Program** demonstrates the principles of proper posture, safe body mechanics and the importance of fitness and exercise. Areas of special emphasis include the anatomy of the spine, safe use of a backpack, proper posture at the computer, and body mechanics as they relate to sports and the dangers of smoking.
- In 1993, AIMS began offering a summer workshop for high school juniors and seniors with an expressed interest in medicine. The **AIMS Summer Workshop for High School Students** provides students with an overview of the major organ systems and introduces them to careers in the health care field. Physicians and professionals from many health care specialties volunteer their time. Participants take part in a variety of activities including 3-D presentations, correlative anatomy dissections, and cadaver demonstrations. Participants will also observe surgery, visit rehabilitation facilities, and interact with patients and their physicians. Plans are underway for the 2008 AIMS Summer Workshop and Surgical Procedures Workshop. The **AIMS Summer Workshop**, held from **June 23-27, 2008**, will introduce students to various medical careers and features presentations by physicians from various specialties in hands-on laboratory experiences, case studies, and group discussions. Participants will have an opportunity to observe a live surgery and take part in offsite visits to area medical facilities in this week-long workshop.
- The **AIMS Surgical Procedures Workshop**, held from **July 7-11, 2008**, will concentrate on the latest developments in surgical procedures, including microsurgery, minimally invasive surgery, and other innovative techniques. The week will include lectures and demonstrations by leading surgeons, and features multiple visits to hospitals and surgery centers for observations.
- January marked the debut of our new Adventures in Medicine & Science website. The site features expanded listings on our Distance Learning programs, new tools for program evaluation and registration, and even a Teacher's Corner! Interested teachers can subscribe to our newsletter containing current events and program news by accessing the site at: <http://pa.slu.edu/aims/index.phtml?page=main>. Information on the MAP test scores that AIMS programs apply to is also available on the website above.
- For more information about the AIMS program, please contact Lisa V. Suggs, Manager at 314-977-7390.

Free Flight School Videoconference The Fairfax Network, in conjunction with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, offers the **Flight School** live videoconference *Blast Off!* for students in Grades 4-8.

Blast Off! will examine the history of rocket-propelled flight, the space race, lunar landing, and the space shuttle program. Along the way, learn about the pioneering men and women who have made the dream of space flight possible, meet astronauts, find out about the science of piloting a space craft, and much more.

Along with the live videoconference, lesson plans, hands-on demonstrations, and a question-and-answer forum for students and teachers across the globe are available at <http://flightschool.fcps.edu/inspired/index.html>. For more information, or to register, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/flightschool/index.htm>.

The goal of the *Flight School* series is to enhance the learning experiences of children by using distance learning technology and unique interactive opportunities that will help bring science to life.

The four-part series will examine historical, scientific, and technological aspects of aviation and its impact on exploration, communication, commerce, and national defense.

Each program will integrate science, technology, engineering, physics, math, and other fields of study.

With the assistance of current and former aerospace pilots and engineers, students will learn how scientific principles have played a major role in air and space travel.

By highlighting hands-on activities, identifying scientific principles, and meeting the men and women who make American aviation possible, Flight School will equip students to take the controls of their own destinies as they consider a career field filled with innovative thinkers! DVDs of the first two programs *INSPIRED to Fly* and *Higher, Faster Farther!* are available at <http://www.fcps.edu/fairfaxnetwork/flightschool/index.htm>.

Inject a Little Excitement into Your Curriculum Missouri teachers and informal educators have access to two free excellent resources for enhancing student interest and learning in the classroom or at home.

The first is the Missouri NASA Educator Resource Center, located at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. This is our state's repository for NASA's educational publications and audio visuals. Here teachers can walk in and peruse any number of K-12 educator guides, posters, lithos, videos, CD's and DVD's covering a broad spectrum of topics from geology to black holes. Teachers not located in the area can review and order these materials on-line at <http://www2.semo.edu/nasaerc>. All services are free. Publications require postage and \$2.50 for two DVD's or VHS.

The second resource is the Missouri NASA Education Specialist Network which offers professional development workshops at universities located in Cape Girardeau, Springfield, St. Louis, Columbia, Kirksville, and Kansas City. The education specialist at each location will also provide on-site professional development opportunities for individual school districts upon request. In addition, they will model NASA lessons and activities in the classroom tailored to meet a teacher's specific learning objectives. All of the services and materials provided by this program are free. Contact information for the specialist serving your area can be found at <http://www2.semo.edu/nasaerc> or by calling the ERC toll free at 877-321-6272.

Numerous NASA educator resources can be located online via NASA's new portal at www.nasa.gov. Many of these online resources are interactive and support national and state standards in math, science and technology. Most of NASA's resources for teachers are free of copyright restrictions and can be tailored by the individual teacher to suit his or her goals.

NASA offers a wealth of resources for K-12 teachers and sometimes finding just what you want can be time consuming; so contact your area education specialist and let him or her assist you in your search.

From **Multimedia & Internet@Schools Xtra**, from MMISchools.com and Multimedia & Internet@Schools Magazine, The Media and Technology Specialists' Guide to Electronic Tools and Resources for K-12 Education <http://www.MMISchools.com/Newsletters/>.

ABC-CLIO's History and the Headlines will add three new topics this spring to their collection of free online resources: The Other Boleyn Girl, the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the 40th anniversary of the Prague Spring reform movement in Czechoslovakia.

- *History and the Headlines: Women's Power and Roles in Tudor England* is designed to help teachers lead a guided inquiry of the events, conditions and people covered in the film, "The Other Boleyn Girl." Available March 7, the online resources explore the lives of the women of King Henry's court and the effects they had on the dynastic policies of Tudor England. The material covers Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and the roles and fates of Henry's other wives through reference materials, video clips, timelines and other

resources.

- *History and the Headlines: Forty Years Later: Recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Life and Death* provides excerpts from King's speeches, an in-depth biography of his life, photographs and a timeline of the U.S. civil rights movement. This collection of history resources is available online beginning March 21.
- *History and the Headlines: Socialism with a Human Face: The Prague Spring Reform Movement* examines the protest movement that swept Czechoslovakia during the height of the Cold War. In 1968, the Czech people took to the streets demanding political reforms to replace the repressive Stalinist state that had been forced on them by the Soviet Union during World War II. Fearing a possible counterrevolution throughout Eastern Europe, the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia. The online material, available April 18, enables students to examine the social and political consequences of this significant Cold War resistance movement in the Soviet bloc.

ABC-CLIO, <http://www.abc-clio.com/>.

The Encyclopedia of Life went live on Feb. 26. This site hopes to become the definitive place to find information on every living species--millions and millions of them. The first extensive sets of entries will include fish and members of the potato and tomato families. But more species will be added all the time--offering basic information geared to needs of the public and experts alike, including photos. This is the very beginning of the exciting journey to document all species of life on Earth. The project goals are to:

- Create a constantly evolving encyclopedia that lives on the Internet, with contributions from scientists and amateurs alike.
- Transform the science of biology, and inspire a new generation of scientists, by aggregating virtually all known data about every living species.
- Engage a wide audience of schoolchildren, educators, citizen scientists, academics and those who are just curious about Earth's species.
- Increase our collective understanding of life on Earth, and safeguard the richest possible spectrum of biodiversity.

In this first version of the portal, find:

- About 25 exemplar species pages that show the kind of rich environment, with extensive information, to which all the species pages will eventually grow. These pages have been authenticated (endorsed) by scientists.
- Tens of thousands of additional species pages are authenticated, but do not as yet contain the rich array of information found on the exemplar pages.
- About 1 million minimal species pages that contain the scientific and common names for a species and often have a distribution map, but lack other authenticated information.

Visit <http://www.eol.org/index>

PowerUp, a new, free 3-D video game designed to supplement science education by asking players to work in small teams or individually to save a planet approaching ecological disaster, is a free download accompanied by lesson plans. <http://www.powerupthegame.org/home.html>

Looking for a learning resource that will grab students' attention and engage them as thoroughly as the video games they play at home and on their mobile phones? For a classroom resource that will motivate students to apply science and math concepts to real world problems? Want to spark students' interest in pursuing a career in Science or Engineering? Enter the world of PowerUp, a free, online, multiplayer game that allows students to experience the excitement and the diversity of modern engineering.

Playing the game, students work together in teams to investigate the rich, 3D game environment and learn about the environmental disasters that threaten the game world and its inhabitants. Players meet Expert Engineer characters and experience the great diversity of the field. Conversations with these experts and engaging interactive activities allow players to explore ways engineers design and build systems to harness renewable energy sources as alternatives to burning fossil fuels. Players take on the role of Engineers, working together designing and building energy solutions to save the world.

The Teacher's Guide is designed to be a classroom companion to PowerUp, providing background information for teachers and lesson plans that give students opportunities for more in-depth exploration of science and engineering concepts addressed in game play. Each of these lessons is designed to be flexible and scalable. Feel free to use the lessons and activities as raw materials and break them up, combine parts, skip parts and extend lessons with your own content. Extension activities and resources for more information are suggested. This flexibility will allow you to best adapt the lessons to your students' needs.

The two lessons based on the Orientation Center (Lessons 1 and 2) review concepts that are integral to the game's back story and provide students an insight into the diversity of the Engineering field. In the three lessons based on the game's missions (Lessons 3, 4, and 5), students will take on the role of engineers and work in groups to solve a challenge. Students will design, prototype, test and revise their solution using a low-cost collection of recycled school and household materials. A sample assessment rubric and other resources for facilitating effective Project Based Learning are included in this Teachers Guide. Finally, working on the research project (Lesson 6) students have the opportunity to investigate how issues that are critical in the game world impact their own communities. Research projects will also provide a context for students to meet local Engineers. Students will work in groups to create presentations that can be published on TryScience.org and shared with other classrooms.

<http://www.powerupthegame.org/home.html>

Growing Up Online" Film and Teacher's Guide This provocative new documentary produced by PBS Frontline delves deep into adolescent online behavior since teens are spending a lot of time interacting with others via digital media. This film takes viewers inside the private worlds that kids are creating online, raising important questions about how the Internet is transforming the experience of adolescence. At school, teachers are trying to figure out how to reach a generation that no longer reads books or newspapers. Fear of online predators has led teachers and parents to focus primarily on keeping kids safe online. But many young people think these fears are misplaced. Online media has also intensified the social dimensions of adolescence as teens create and play with identities on sites like MySpace and Facebook and encounter intense peer pressure in a variety of virtual worlds. Parents are confused about how to respond to the increasingly private worlds inhabited by their children, lacking an understanding of both the creative potential and the genuine risks of this new dimension of our cultural environment. FRONTLINE had developed materials for teachers, parents and kids to accompany Growing Up Online. These resources include downloadable viewing guides for parent and for teachers that includes a seven-part discussion question section, lesson plans for the classroom, resources for building parent-teen online engagement, and a Cyberquiz: "What Kind of Cyber Guide are You?" that explores parents' media management styles. Growing Up Online can be purchased from Shop PBS for Teachers: www.teacher.shop.pbs.org. Also, teachers and students can watch the program streamed in its entirety on FRONTLINE's website: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/kidsonline/>.

The Math Forum, <http://www.mathforum.org/index.html>, is a leading center for mathematics and mathematics education on the Internet. The Forum's mission is to provide resources, materials, activities, person-to-person interactions, and educational products and services that enrich and support teaching and learning in an increasingly technological world. Operating under Drexel's School of Education <http://www.drexel.edu/soe/index.html> this online community includes teachers, students, researchers, parents, educators, and citizens at all levels who have an interest in math and math education. They work together toward this end in the following ways:

- **Encouraging communication throughout the mathematical community** The Forum is committed to creating discussion opportunities for all those interested in math. Through a growing collection of mailing lists, Web-based discussion areas, and ask-an-expert services, individuals interested in math have places to talk, to reach others with similar interests, and to find answers to their burning questions.
 - Discussions, <http://mathforum.org/kb/forumindex.jspa;jsessionid=1E8CC78C6E1ED0A55C17B5A684D311BF>
 - Bridging Research and Practice (BRAP) <http://www.mathforum.org/brap/wrap/>
 - T2T Teachers' Lounge <http://www.mathforum.org/t2t/discuss/>
- **Offering model interactive projects** The Forum's volunteer 'math doctors' and the archive of answers will help with math questions.
 - Ask Dr. Math <http://www.mathforum.org/dr.math/>
 - Problems of the Week (PoWs) <http://www.mathforum.org/pow/> provide creative, non-routine challenges for students in grades three through twelve.
 - The ESCOT Problems (archived) <http://www.mathforum.org/escotpow/> provide interactive challenges for middle and high school students.
- **Making math-related web resources more accessible** Want to use or develop educational technology?

- Math Tools, <http://www.mathforum.org/mathtools/> the Forum's community digital library supporting the use and development of software for mathematics education.
- Forum Internet Mathematics Library, <http://www.mathforum.org/library/> which covers math and math education websites in depth.
- Mathematical Sciences Digital Library (MathDL) <http://mathdl.maa.org/mathDL/>. In collaboration with the Mathematical Association of America, collects mathematics instructional material with authors' statements and reader reviews; and catalogs mathematics commercial products, complete with editorial reviews, reader ratings and discussion groups.
- The Problems Library <http://www.mathforum.org/library/problems/> offers a convenient interface for searching and browsing the collective archives of the six Problem of the Week services.
- **Providing high-quality math and math education content** There's a lot of material on the web, but how good is it, and how does it take advantage of new technologies or implement new pedagogy? The group works with teachers, students, and researchers to put the best materials on the web.
 - Teacher Exchange: Forum Web Units, <http://www.mathforum.org/te/> Teachers are invited to use the Web interface to contribute their own lessons.
- **Growing with the Web** The newsletter lists new sites of interest, features the latest and best, and hosts focused and timely discussions of math education and associated source materials.
 - Subscribe to the Newsletter <http://www.mathforum.org/electronic.newsletter/>

Visit the free Apple Learning Interchange (ALI) and find a wealth of content.

<http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/> For example, you can explore these topics:

- Ken Burns, THE WAR collection: A seven-part series telling the story of the Second World War through personal accounts. <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/collection.php?collection=1622>
- Introduction to River Studies: At St. George's Independent School in Collierville, TN, they are conducting river studies in every discipline. <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=819>
- Apple Distinguished Educators Podcast Collection: A sampling of exemplary educational podcasts from the classroom to the boardroom. <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=11850>
- Developing the Listening Mind with iPod: Radford University students make the critical connection between what they hear in an audio example and concepts that they have learned in class. <http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=11251>

From **ResourceShelf**, where dedicated librarians and researchers share the results of their directed (and occasionally quirky) web searches for resources and information. <http://www.resourceshelf.com/>

Quick Guide to Military Information Unless you work with military information on a regular basis, it can often be frustrating to find what you need. What's here? Links to resources that provide the type of information I often need. Everything here, at least right now, is freely accessible on the open web. That being said, there are at least a few sections on some of these websites that are not open to the general public. This guide is divided into nine sections:

- **Major Directories and Search Engines** http://www.resourceshelf.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/mil_guide.html
- **Academic Sites** http://www.resourceshelf.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/mil_guide.html#academic
- **Demographics and Statistics** http://www.resourceshelf.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/mil_guide.html#demographics
- **Facilities and Installations** http://www.resourceshelf.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/mil_guide.html#facilities
- **International Interest** http://www.resourceshelf.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/mil_guide.html#international
- **Legal** http://www.resourceshelf.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/mil_guide.html#legal
- **Rank Insignia and Uniforms** http://www.resourceshelf.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/mil_guide.html#rank
- **Miscellaneous (defense business, imagery, publications, etc.)** http://www.resourceshelf.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/mil_guide.html#misc

The image repositories are particularly interesting. Unless otherwise specified, all DoD images are in the public domain, although you should credit the photographer for anything you use. Audio and video is also available on some servers. Who knew? http://www.resourceshelf.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/mil_guide.html

Subject Guides from the UC-Boulder Government Publications Library

<http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/us/federal.htm> The virtual pulse quickened at the ResourceShelf when they encountered this large and beautiful collection of government-oriented subject guides covering everything from Acronyms to Worldwide Demographic Information.

Mixed in with the actual guides are direct links to such key resources as The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance and earthquake/seismic info from the U.S. Geological Survey. But sometimes, along with a direct link to a resource, there is a nice surprise. For example, a click on the link for the Government Accountability Office, open to a page that explains what it is, what it does, and how to use it, including integration with the local OPAC.

The subject guides themselves comprise collections of links to agencies, databases, reports and other items, with brief annotations. There are some unusual collections here, including:

- **Ask an Expert!**, including links to "Ask an Expert" pages at many different agencies, including the Census Bureau, the National Park Service, and NASA. Note that a couple of the "experts" aren't government-affiliated, and there are some broken and outdated links here. But this type of aggregation is really a good idea. <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/experts.htm>
- **Kids Pages** from various agencies (including the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Who knew?) <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/us/kids.htm>
- **Declassified Documents**, from the U.S. and other countries. <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/us/declassified.htm>
- **Parks, Forests, Grasslands, Wildlife Refuges and Historic Places** <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/us/parks.htm>
- **Technical Reports** - a nice compendium, which also includes links to subscription databases accessible to the university community. <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/us/techrep.htm>

Find these resources at: <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/us/federal.htm>

The Verizon Foundation, sponsor of Thinkfinity.org, has announced the popular online hub for educators is getting a face-lift. Improvements to Thinkfinity.org announced by the Verizon Foundation and its partners include the addition of 500 new resources; individual portals to allow users to search for resources targeted to educators, students, parents, or after-school programs; a more comprehensive search engine; and the ability to search for resources according to individual state standards. The site will also sport a new look.

Thinkfinity.org, formerly Marco Polo, is the Verizon Foundation free online portal to 55,000 educational and literacy resources for teachers, parents, and students and includes standards-based, grade-specific, K–12 lesson plans and interactive projects. Site content is provided through a partnership between the Verizon Foundation and 11 national education and literacy organizations, such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, International Reading Association, National Center for Family Literacy, National Council on Economic Education, National Geographic Society, ProLiteracy Worldwide, and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

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

Flash tutorials present complex biological concepts in an engaging way

The research department at Children's Hospital Boston has developed a series of web-based Flash tutorials to present complex medical and biological concepts in an interactive, user-friendly format. These free science "interactives" are useful for students and educators, as well as anyone interested in the latest medical research and how it works. Recent additions to the site include "How Cancer Grows and Spreads," an animated feature that illustrates the growth, progression, and metastasis of carcinomas, and "The Neuron," which allows users to experiment with a virtual neuron to see what conditions are needed to make it fire and with a circuit of interconnected neurons to see how neurons work together to process information. Other tools on the site let users manipulate stem cells and control cell structure.

<http://www.childrenshospital.org/research/interactives>

Win one of five "21st-century classrooms" valued at more than \$50,000 each. Each year, CDW-G and Discovery Education give educators the chance to win technology for their schools through the companies' Win a Wireless Lab Sweepstakes. This year, in honor of the program's sixth anniversary, CDW-G and Discovery Education will provide five winning K-12 schools with a 21st-century classroom solution valued at more than \$50,000. Each solution includes 20 laptop or tablet computers, a mobile cart and three wireless access points, a video projector and printer, a document

camera, an interactive whiteboard, a personal response system, educational software, and training. In addition to the five grand-prize winners, the companies will award five first prizes, consisting of either an interactive whiteboard or video projector; 10 second prizes of a notebook computer; and five third prizes of a digital camcorder. Deadline: May 1 <http://cdwg.discoveryeducation.com/new/site/index.cfm>

Up to \$10,000 for projects that preserve community history Museums, historic sites, historical societies, preservation groups, libraries, and archives are invited to partner with a local school or youth group and apply for funding to help preserve the history of their communities through the History Channel's Save Our History Grant Program. Each year, the History Channel awards grants of up to \$10,000 to organizations across the country that partner with schools or youth groups on community preservation projects that engage students in learning about, documenting, and preserving the history of their communities. Deadline: June 6 <http://www.history.com>

Up to \$250,000 per award to spark an interest in STEM-related fields The Motorola Foundation's Innovation Generation Grants support breakthrough programs that use innovative approaches to develop students' interest in science and technology-related fields, while strengthening their leadership and problem-solving skills. In 2007, the Motorola Foundation provided \$3.5 million in grants through the program, which targets girls and minorities who are underrepresented in technology fields in particular. The programs supported by these grants range from after-school and summer science enrichment programs to activities that promote innovative technology use and teacher-training initiatives. Awards range in size from \$5,000 to as much as \$250,000. Deadline: June 15 <http://www.motorola.com/content.jsp?globalObjectId=8153>

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

From School Notes schoolnoteshome@educationworld.com and **Education World®**
<http://www.educationworld.com/> **Projects for Parents and Kids**

- **Great Games Online** Find fun math games such as Farm Addition and Monster Numbers for students ages 3-6 at <http://www.kidsdomain.com/games/math1.html>. Find more challenging games, such as 31-Derful and Go Karts for older children at <http://resources.kaboose.com/games/math2.html>
- **How Long is the Line?** Students learn about estimation as they complete this activity. http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/homework/pdfs/backpackivity_005.pdf
- **Reader's Theater: Scripts for Reading Aloud** Good to Be Green Little Gerry Green Thumb has applied to become the newest character in Nursery Rhyme Kingdom. A committee of current characters reviews his application and interviews him. Will they look beyond his unique appearance and accept him into their group? http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/reading/ReadersTheater/ReadersTheater022.shtml
- **Nutrition Café** A joint effort of the Pacific Science Center and the Washington State Dairy Council, this site offers students the opportunity to learn about nutrition in a fun, interactive way. http://exhibits.pacsci.org/nutrition/noflash_nutrition.html

From the School Library Journal, 3/1/2008 Online by Gail Junion-Metz: Science Fair Web Resources
Science fair season looms. These sites will help you prepare.

- **Canada Wide 2008 Virtual Science Fair** For those about to stage a Web-based event, this site's a must see. In addition to hundreds of online science projects, discussion boards provide valuable tips on organizing a virtual fair, from how to register to how to post digital projects. Created by: Virtual Science Fair Inc., Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. <http://www.virtualsciencefair.com/>
- **Online (and Hands-on) Activities** Created by San Francisco's Exploratorium, this trove of activities is particularly suited for middle school students. <http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/hands-on.html> Don't miss <http://www.exploratorium.edu/explore/online.html>. Looking for starter projects geared for elementary kids? Check out the "Science Snacks" <http://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/snacksbysubject.html>. Detour: For more elementary and middle school project ideas, visit Dragonfly TV's "Try This" at <http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/try/index.html>
- **Newton's Apple Science Try Its** Too often, science activities are cut and paste. Students simply log on to a science fair website, download the project instructions, and even print the results at the same time. Not so with Newton's Apple Try Its. These fun project ideas require that kids get hands-on. Created by: Twin Cities Public Television, St. Paul, MN. http://www.newtonapple.tv/ScienceTryIts_Index.php
- **Science Buddies** Sure, Science Buddies offers plenty of fair-quality projects. But it's the teacher resources

that are the real treasure on this site. To find them, click on the teacher's tab at the top of the home page. Created by The Kenneth Lafferty Hess Family Charitable Foundation, Carmel, CA. Don't miss: Good rubrics for grading science projects are hard to find. Here you'll find 10, covering all aspects of a project, from start to finish. <http://www.sciencebuddies.org/>

- **Science Fair Project Resource Guide** Created by librarians, this website is a well-known classic among science-fair veterans. Guidance found here is designed to lead kids step-by-step through the process of selecting a topic, doing a project, and creating a fair display—along with helpful links to other resources for learning more about the scientific method, creating graphs, and even avoiding judges' pet peeves. Created by The Internet Public Library Consortium. <http://www.ipl.org/div/projectguide/>
- **ZOOMsci** These simple science experiments are ideal for elementary students and teachers seeking in-class projects. Especially cool is the "Can Car" experiment. Created by WGBH, Boston, MA. <http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/> Detour: For more simple science activities, each with a printable "Try it Offline" handout, visit TryScience at <http://www.tryscience.org/home.html> and click on "Experiments."

Scholastic Launches Summer Reading BUZZ! Beware the "summer slide." That's Scholastic's intention this spring, as it rolls out its Scholastic Summer Reading BUZZ! offering kids book lists, interactive book-themed activities, and a chance to donate books to underprivileged children.

For every four books that kids read and log online, Scholastic will donate a book to **Room to Read**, a nonprofit that establishes libraries and schools in the developing world.

"Kids can help keep their learning skills strong by reading four or more books during the summer," says Francie Alexander, chief academic officer at Scholastic. "Summer Reading BUZZ! gives kids a chance to have fun finding great books to read, while helping children around the world get good quality books that are so desperately needed."

The BUZZ website <http://www.scholastic.com/summerreading/> launches April 15. Kids who sign up automatically will be placed into a "Reading Hive" based on their grade. There, they can start a reading log and track their books for the donations program. Monthly book genre themes will be featured, along with author Q&As and "buzz boards" where kids can connect to each other. Extensive age- and grade-appropriate book lists in English and Spanish also will be posted.

Other offerings will include a "Book Buzz" wallpaper for computer-desktop downloads; celebrity book picks featuring teen sports and entertainment idols; and a sweepstakes awarding one lucky winner a family vacation to the Walt Disney World Resort.

NEWEST eTHEMES

Africa: National Parks These sites are about Africa's National Parks. Learn about the animals, the climate, and the purposes behind why National Parks play an important role in Africa. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on the continent of Africa. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002215.shtml>

Animals: Beluga Whales These websites are about beluga whales. Learn all about these aquatic mammals, what they look like, where they live, how they communicate, and more. There are fun facts, interactives, videos, audio files, and many photographs. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002217.shtml>

Animals: Bobwhite Quail These sites are about Bobwhite Quail. Learn what these small game birds need to survive, why their numbers are declining, and what people can do to help them. There are quick facts, photos, audio files, and more. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002216.shtml>

Animals: Monarch Butterflies These sites focus on monarch butterflies and their life cycle. Learn about their habitat, needs, and characteristics, and more. Includes a video clip, printouts, and photographs. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Butterflies and Monarch Migration, Missouri Butterflies, and Life Cycles for K-2 Grades. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002282.shtml>

Author Study: Homer Hickam These websites are about author Homer Hickam and his books. Includes biographical information, interviews, lesson plans, activity ideas, and study guides. Many of the websites and lesson plans are

related to the "Rocket Boy" and "October Sky." There is a link to eThemes Resources on Science: Rockets.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002219.shtml>

Author Study: Janet Lee Carey These sites are about the author Janet Lee Carey. Includes sites featuring information about Janet's life as an author, interviews, and curriculum guides to several of her books. Learn about the author as a person and get a better understanding of her work.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002220.shtml>

Author Study: Leo Lionni These websites are about the author/illustrator, Leo Lionni. Learn about his life, careers, and works. There are lesson plans, a book list, biography, photographs and posters of his works, and samples of his writing and illustrating of children's book. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002221.shtml>

Author Study: Mo Willems These sites are about author Mo Willems. Read a biography or watch a video interview with the author, learn about his characters, or play an online game. There are lesson plans, activity ideas, printable coloring pages, and more. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002222.shtml>

Author Study: Norman Bridwell These websites are about author Norman Bridwell and his creation, Clifford the Big Red Dog. Read a biography of the author or watch videos in which he talks about his books. There are interactive games, activities, and printable worksheets. There is also an eThemes Resource on dogs.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002206.shtml>

College Search: Learning Disabled Students These websites are about helping students with learning disabilities search for colleges with programs to fit their needs. Students can learn what steps to take when transitioning from high school to college and find information about individual schools.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002224.shtml>

Decade: 1990-1999 These sites are about the decade of the 1990's. Learn about President Bill Clinton, trends and styles, the war in Iraq, and sports stars from the 1990's. Includes video/audio files and editorials for the decade. Included are eThemes Resources on the Iraq War. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002193.shtml>

Digital Calligraphy These sites are about digital calligraphy and typography. Learn about the art of ornamental lettering, and how to create decorative type in Photoshop and other programs. There is also information about historical typefaces and layout design. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002188.shtml>

Forest and Wild Fires These resources are about forest fires and wildfires. Learn what they are and how people have tried to manage them. Find out what to do to prepare if you live in an area prone to fires. There are videos, audio files, interactives, and more. Includes eThemes Resources on fire safety.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002226.shtml>

Library Skills: Searching the Internet These sites focus on library skills of how to conduct Internet search effectively and how to evaluate the quality of websites. Learn about various search strategies such Boolean and keyword search. There are resources, guidelines, tutorials, and criteria on searching the Internet and website evaluation. Includes a lesson plan, a checklist, and a quiz. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Information Searching Strategies, Reference Resources Online, and Internet Safety. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/Resources/S00002176.shtml>

Literature: "Bud, Not Buddy" by Christopher Paul Curtis These sites are about the book, "Bud, Not Buddy" and the author Christopher Paul Curtis. Includes lesson plans, discussion questions, study guides, online quiz, interviews, and photographs. Also covers the topic of the Great Depression, jazz in America, and attractions in Flint, MI. There is a link to eThemes Resources on the Decade: 1930-1939. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002229.shtml>

Literature: "Four Perfect Pebbles" by Marion Blumenthal Lazan These websites are about the book, "Four Perfect Pebbles" and co-author Marion Blumenthal Lazan. Go to the official website to learn more about the book and author. There are lesson plans and a link to an audio presentation by Marion Blumenthal Lazan. Includes links to eThemes Resources on the Holocaust and a related book, "The Diary of Anne Frank."
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002254.shtml>

Literature: "Hoot" by Carl Hiaasen These websites are about the book "Hoot" by Carl Hiaasen. There are book

reviews, lesson plans, quizzes, and activities. Learn more about Burrowing Owls and the environment of south Florida where the book is set. Included are three eThemes Resources on owls, environmental restoration, and bullying.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002210.shtml>

Literature: "Night of the Twisters" by Ivy Ruckman These websites are about the book "Night of the Twisters" by Ivy Ruckman. Includes an author biography, activity ideas, lesson plans, and games that go along with the book. There are also lesson plans for weather activities. Includes a link to eThemes Resource on Tornadoes.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002249.shtml>

Literature: "No Talking" by Andrew Clements These sites about the book, "No Talking" by Andrew Clements. Read book reviews and information about the author. Includes a site about the national Girl Talk mentoring program.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002258.shtml>

Literature: "Riding the Flume" by Patricia Curtis Pfitsch These sites provide suggested readings and activities for the book "Riding the Flume." Includes sites on the related themes of lumber mills, log flumes, and images/information for the region. There are links to eThemes Resources on Writing: Fiction and Writing: Historical Fiction.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002257.shtml>

Literature: "Scorpions" by Walter Dean Myers These sites are about Walter Dean Myers' book, "Scorpions." Learn about Walter Dean Myers' life in his own words and about his outlook on growing up in the inner-city. Included are lesson plans, audio and video resources from the author as well as information from the National Youth Gang Center. There is also a link to eThemes Resource on Author Study: Walter Dean Myers.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002230.shtml>

Literature: "The Gingerbread Man" by Jim Aylesworth This is a compilation of websites about the traditional story, "The Gingerbread Man." Included are websites that use the story as a teaching tool for a variety of subjects. These subjects include math, language arts, and geography. Also included are links to sites with templates for making your own gingerbread people and houses as well as recipes for baking gingerbread.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002232.shtml>

Math: Geometry: Transformations for Lower Elementary These sites are about geometric transformations including sites to help students visualize shapes after they have been reflected, rotated, flipped, and translated. Includes lesson plans and printable card games as well as virtual interactive manipulative that lets students change the shapes online. There are also links to eThemes Resources on transforming shapes, visual spatial skills, and shapes.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002262.shtml>

Math: Shopping at the Mall or Going Out to Dinner With these pages and activities, students can learn practical math skills that are used when shopping and eating out. Learn to total a bill, shop within a budget, and calculate discounts, sales tax, and tips. Included are two related eThemes Resources.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002251.shtml>

Math: Surface Area and Volume These sites are about the math concepts of area and volume. Learn about calculating measurements in terms of volume and area. Includes several interactive sites and a lesson plan. There are links to eThemes Resources on Geometry: Geometric Solids and Math: Customary or Standard Measurement.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002243.shtml>

Missouri History: Joplin These sites provide information about the history of Joplin, Missouri. Learn about the history, economy, architecture, and historical sites of this once mining capital of the world. Includes information on famous people from Joplin, photographs, maps, and primary documents. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Missouri Regions: An Overview and Missouri: Famous People.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002248.shtml>

Missouri: Ice Age Animals These websites contain information about the large mammals found in Missouri during the last Ice Age, with particular attention to mastodons. Learn how these animals lived, what they ate, and why they likely died out. Includes information about the important historic sites of Kimmswick Bone Bed in Mastodon State Historic Site, and Riverbluff Cave in Greene County. There is also a link to an eThemes Resource on mammoths.
<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002241.shtml>

Native Americans: Arkansas Tribes These sites provide information about Native Americans in Arkansas. The topics include location, history, and cultures of the tribes in Arkansas and how tribes lived and survived in Arkansas. Includes timelines, a lesson plan, virtual environment, games, and pictures. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Native Americans: Origins, Native American Culture, and Native Americans: Lifestyles, Native Americans: Osage Tribe, and Native Americans: Choctaw. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002218.shtml>

Nursery Rhymes These sites are about nursery rhymes. There are many lesson plans and ideas for teaching early reading skills to young students using familiar rhymes. There are many printable worksheets as well as games and activities. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002235.shtml>

Physics: Sound for Lower Elementary These sites explain sound and properties of sound. Includes information on pitch, frequency, volume, and sound made from different sources. Listen to a variety of sounds, read misconceptions about sound, conduct experiments, and try hands-on activities. There is also a link to eThemes Resources on Sound. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002264.shtml>

Social Injustice in Literature/History These websites are about social injustice and oppression. There are lesson plans and activities that use primary source documents as well as literary interpretations of these issues. Included are several eThemes Resources on specific literary works that have social injustice as a central theme. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002213.shtml>

Teaching Tips: Multiple Intelligences These sites are about multiple intelligence and how you can find your preferred intelligence. Includes information of Howard Gardner as well as eThemes Resources on Learning Styles. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002260.shtml>

Teaching Tips: Shared Writing These sites provide teaching resources for teachers on implementing a shared writing approach as well as model writing in the classroom. There is information on techniques, lesson plans, and student work samples. There is also a link to eThemes Resources on Writing: 6 + 1 Writing Traits. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002274.shtml>

The Solar System These sites are about the solar system, the sun, moon, stars, and planets. Find out what are different the 8 planets. Learn about the planets' different climates and structures. Includes simulations, videos, and photographs. Also includes links to eThemes Resources on planets, sun, and earth. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002261.shtml>

Weather These websites are about weather. Learn the basics about temperature, clouds, and storms. There are interactive games and quizzes, printable activities, and science experiments that you can try. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002194.shtml>

Women in Sports These sites provide information about women in sports. Learn about the changing roles of women in American sports history, Title IX, and some of greatest female athletes. Includes a timeline, lesson plan, and photos. There is also information on Mia Hamm, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Billie Jean King, and Martina Navratilova. Includes a link to eThemes Resource on Women's History Month. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002240.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES

African American Firsts These sites include information about African-American firsts in literature, sports, politics, education, music, etc. Significant contributions of African-Americans in contemporary and past history have been identified. Includes eThemes Resources on Famous African American Inventors and Scientists, African American Contributions, and Black History month. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001977.shtml>

Animals: Insects Explore these websites about insects and their relatives. Included are picture galleries of different types of insects, insect themed activities and games, and insect recipes. There are also online videos, audio clips, and quizzes. Includes are eThemes Resources on ants, bees, ladybugs, butterflies, silkworms, and grasshoppers. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001759.shtml>

Animals: Mammoths These sites are about mammoths that lived until the end of the Ice Age. Learn about the woolly, Columbian, and the Jefferson's mammoth. There are printable sheets, illustrations, maps, and an animated movie

showing mammoths fighting. Includes information about excavating mammoths in Siberia and reasons why scientists believe the animals became extinct. Includes an eThemes resource on Ice Age animals.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001009.shtml>

Animals: Ocean and Sea Creatures Learn more about the hundreds of creatures that live in the oceans and seas. Includes many photos and videos, audio files, and real-time images from Webcams. The animals covered include whales, jellyfish, dolphins, sea turtles, seahorses, and more. Includes links to eThemes Resources on Geography: Oceans and Animals: Sharks. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000626.shtml>

Animals: Raptors These sites have information about various raptors, including Screech Owls, Great Horned Owls, Red-Tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles. Many sites contain audio and video clips, plus a Webcam. Includes links to eThemes Resources on barn owls and spotted owls. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000442.shtml>

Animals: Whales These sites are about whales. Learn about the characteristics, behavior, and classification of whales. Topics include the habitat, life cycle, communication methods, and migration. There are videos, photographs, and sound files. Several hands-on activities and online games and quizzes are included. eThemes Resources on beluga whales, endangered species, and ocean animals are linked.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001041.shtml>

Art: French Art and Artists Discover French art and artists. Find out about the art periods such as Romanesque, Gothic, Fauves, Cubism, and Impressionism. Learn their distinct characteristics, influence, and reflection of culture. Read biographies of Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Claude Monet, and many other famous French artists. View paintings, architecture, sculpture, and stained glass works created by French artists throughout the centuries. Includes image galleries, games, and quizzes. There are links to eThemes Resources on art museums, artists, Renaissance, and the country of France. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001644.shtml>

Author Study: Gail Gibbon Learn about the author Gail Gibbon and the books she has written. Biographies, interviews, and a lesson plan for creating an author study are included.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001641.shtml>

Ecosystems: Restoration of Natural Environments What is ecological restoration? Why is it important? On these sites you will find information about restoring parts of the environment that have undergone degradation to their natural state. There are articles, photographs, video clips, and lesson plans. Included are two eThemes Resources on ecosystems and habitats. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002000.shtml>

Elections for Elementary Students These sites for younger students explain how primaries, caucuses, and general elections work. Find out the reason why people vote and learn how a single vote can make a difference. There are links to eThemes Resources on the executive branch, U.S. presidents, and citizenship.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001234.shtml>

Figurative Language These sites are about figurative language in the context of reading. Includes idioms, jargon, slang, similes, metaphors, and personification. There are language definitions, lesson plans and activities, and interactive quizzes. Included are links to eThemes Resources on figurative language, similes, metaphors, and personification. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001955.shtml>

Holocaust These sites are about the Holocaust and the devastating impact that it had on Jewish people and others. Also includes information about Adolf Hitler, concentration camps, crematoriums, and resistance fighters. There are videos of survivors talking about their experiences, plus many photos. Includes links to eThemes Resources on World War II and "The Diary of Anne Frank." <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000539.shtml>

Lewis and Clark Expedition: Louisiana Purchase and Exploring the West Learn about Corps of Discovery led by Lewis and Clark and their journey that began in Missouri. View the Louisiana Purchase and other documents from that time period. Includes two eMINTS WebQuests on Lewis and Clark as well as a video from the Finding Missouri: Our History and Heritage series. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000019.shtml>

Literature: "The BFG" by Roald Dahl These sites have information about author Roald Dahl and his book "The BFG." Includes suggested lesson plans, a play script, and online quizzes. There is also information about giants and a

link to eThemes Resources on adjectives, character traits, and the United Kingdom.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000879.shtml>

Literature: "The Call of the Wild" by Jack London These sites are about the novel and author Jack London. There are author biographies, book summaries, lesson plans, and several study guides with suggested activities. Also includes online quizzes and audio and video clips. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on the Iditarod.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000824.shtml>

Medieval Knights These sites are about the knights from the Middle Ages or the Medieval period. Covers the topics of heraldry and chivalry. Includes photographs of armor and weapons used by knights. There are links to eThemes Resources on medieval castles and feudalism. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000798.shtml>

Missouri: Agriculture These sites have information about Missouri agriculture. Learn about the common crops grown in the state such as soybeans and corn. See Webcams of corn and soybean fields.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000397.shtml>

Physics: Sound These sites explain sound waves and how the ear hears sounds. Includes information on sonic booms and decibels. Listen to a variety of sounds, watch movies about sound, and try several hands-on experiments. Includes links to eThemes Resources on radio waves and light.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000332.shtml>

Quilts: Past and Present Look at quilts throughout history including patterns and design construction. Covers quilts from the United States, Great Britain, Asia, Australia, Latin America, and elsewhere. Includes classroom activity ideas, audio recordings of quilt makers, an online game, and many photos of quilt patterns. Underground Railroad quilts are found on some sites. Includes an eThemes Resource on Quilts: Literature Activities.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000494.shtml>

Seasons: Spring These sites have spring crafts, worksheets, and lesson plans. One link is a slide show created by elementary school students. There are links to eThemes on kites and Easter.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001372.shtml>

Technology: Movie Maker Projects These sites focus on how to integrate technology, specifically digital movies, in the classroom. Ideas, lesson plans, and samples of movie projects are included. An eThemes on Windows 2.1 Movie Maker is included. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001585.shtml>