

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY NEWSLINE

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May 2008: Volume 9, Number 7

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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECTION UPDATE

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; Program Evaluation Narratives are due by June 30.

FY09 Update. A total of 43 first-year FY09 competitive grant applications were submitted, with 41 declared responsive and reviewed by teams of evaluators April 14-17. Reader scores and need points (assigned by Department staff) have been tallied. The deadline for submitting second-year grants is May 1. "Tentative" approval decisions will be made after Instructional Technology reviews the continuation applications to determine their preliminary budgets and the amount available for first-year grant approvals. The expectation is to post and email funding status information on or around May 16. Mailings to districts will include copies of the reader score sheets. **Note that these one-year grant awards will be made contingent upon Missouri receiving the state funding.**

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; Program Evaluation Narratives are due by June 30.

METS School Grants

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

FY09 Update. A total of 45 applications for FY09 METS School grant funding were submitted. The 31 eMINTS, 9 Science, and 5 Mathematics applications were reviewed by teams of evaluators April 15-17. Reader scores and need points (assigned by Department staff) have been tallied. "Tentative" approval decisions will be made once the General Assembly has finalized the appropriations. The expectation is to post and email funding status information on or around May 16. Mailings to districts will include copies of the reader score sheets. **Note that these one-year grant awards will be made contingent upon Missouri receiving the state funding.**

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- School 2.0 Website under development

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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; Program Evaluation Narratives are due by June 30.

FY09 Update. A total of 28 first-year FY09 competitive grant applications were submitted. These will be reviewed by a panel of evaluators the week of May 19. "Tentative" approval decisions will be made after the narratives have been scored and staff assign the need scores, and the appropriations bill has been finalized. The expectation is to post and email funding status information on or around May 30. Mailings to districts will include copies of the reader score sheets. **Note that these one-year grant awards will be made contingent upon Missouri receiving the state funding.**

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 in membership fees for FY09, it is expected that FY09 program expenses will exceed revenues and that membership fees will need to be increased for FY10.

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

Technology Plans and Data Collection

Technology Plan State Approval

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

A total of 56 plans were submitted for State approval and will be evaluated via peer review 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 ASAP

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

Districts are reminded that the required Census of Technology, collected via Core Data Screens 30 and 31, was to be submitted by April 15. [Screen 30 collects district-level data and Screen 31, building-level data from all the attendance centers.] Staff are reviewing the submissions and contacting districts and schools that have not submitted their data or have data edits. The expectation is for districts have their data submitted and "cleaned" by May 30.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

SMART Ideas™ concept-mapping software – special offer to DESE

SMART Technologies has made a special offer to DESE to provide SMART Ideas concept-mapping software throughout the State of Missouri at a special price of \$19.00 per license or \$1,999.00 per school site license. There is a minimum purchase of 5 licenses at \$19 each. Regular prices are \$59 and \$2,499.00 respectively. This offer will run until December 31, 2008.

STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS cont'd.

SMART Ideas: Concept Mapping: A SMART Way to Connect the Visual Learner

SMART Ideas software gives students the power to brainstorm, think visually and turn complex ideas into colorful multilevel concept maps quickly and easily.

- Encourage creative thinking in your classroom
- Promote inquiry based learning
- Engage students with visual learning techniques

Teachers can use SMART Ideas as a presentation tool, a Webquest tool and a lesson-planning tool. Find out more and download a trial version from www.smartideas.com. Live online presentations are available on a scheduled basis, visit: [view live presentations](#). Contact a SMART Ideas expert at SMART at 1.866.284.2769.

DESE to receive free Missouri Speak Up 2007 State Report

Thanks to all those who participated in the most recent Speak Up event! Because of the number of Missouri participants – school leaders, teachers, students, and parents – the Department will receive free summary reports of the participant surveys, valued at \$1,500 to \$2,500 (depending on state enrollment). The information should be valuable in our planning and decision-making. For more information about Speak Up 2007, see: <http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup/index.html>.

E-RATE PROGRAM

Funding Year 2008 –

USAC released FY2008 **Wave 1** Funding Commitment Letters (FCDLs) **May 1**. This wave included almost \$353 million in funding commitments for approved Priority 1 requests (Telecommunications Services and Internet Access) for schools and libraries at all discount levels. See: <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/y2008/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/>.

Funding Year 2007 –

USAC released FY2007 **Wave 48** FCDLs **April 29**. This wave included commitments for approved Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance requests at/above 81% and denials at/below 80%. As of April 25, FY2007 commitments totaled over \$2.29 billion. See: <http://www.sl.universalservice.org/funding/y2007/national.asp>.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES

Student Technology Literacy Resources

- **Ohio Academic Content Standards for K-12 Technology**

Recently, DESE received a complimentary copy of Ohio's ed-tech standards that provide "a set of clear, rigorous expectations for what all students should know and be able to do. The technology standards address a broad range of technology experiences with application in computer and multimedia literacy, information literacy, and technological literacy in order to provide the best possible foundation for technology achievement." See:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=339&ContentID=1279&Content=41281>

- **Edutopia article: "Technology Literacy the British Way"**

This article in the April/May 2008 *Edutopia* describes how the British government is using the ICT Literacy Test for students ages 11-14 to gauge not only their mastery of technical skills but also their readiness to apply these skills effectively in everyday life and work. By the end of 2008, a battery of 15 to 30-minute tasks will be available to teachers on demand, anytime.

RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES cont'd.

Edutopia: <http://www.edutopia.org/>.

Article: <http://www.edutopia.org/assessment-technology-literacy>.

ICT Literacy Test: <http://www.naa.org.uk/naaks3/>.

School 2.0 Website under development

The School 2.0 eToolkit, produced by SRI International Center for Technology in Learning with support from the U.S. Department of Education, is designed to help districts, schools, and communities develop a common education vision for the future and explore how that vision can be supported by technology. While still in beta version, the site is fully interactive – users can mouse over a building or interaction and right-click for a video for more information. Offerings include a self-reflection tool to identify resources tailored to responses, a bandwidth planner, and a set of tools for organizing a technology integration process. See: <http://etoolkit.org/etoolkit/>.

eMINTS UPDATE

submitted by Monica Beglau

Registration for summer workshops now open

Registration for several different Missouri-based eMINTS summer workshops is now open. Workshops include:

- options for veteran eMINTS teachers to brush up their tech and inquiry-based learning skills in Springfield and St. Louis;
- a special Inquiry in St. Louis workshop that brings enhanced learning to the field trip experience; and
- a special exploration of Web 2.0 tools in Columbia.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will remain open until workshops reach capacity enrollment or until two weeks before the first meeting date. Find details and register online from <http://www.emints.org/events/summer2008>.

Register for FY09 eMINTS professional development services & programs

Registration for eMINTS professional development services should be submitted not later than June 15, 2008.

Requests from schools/districts using grant funds will be accepted after the deadline date if grant awards are not made until after that date. Organizations using grant funds to cover eMINTS participation fees must submit registration within 10 calendar days following notice of grant award.

Professional development registration for replacement teachers in existing eMINTS and eMINTS4All classrooms should be made as soon as the replacement teacher is assigned. If replacement(s) have not been identified when the online registration form is submitted, please submit required contact information (items 1-6 below) for each replacement as soon as he/she is assigned by sending e-mail to emints-info@emints.org.

Each organization/district is required to provide the following information:

- Organization/district contact information.
- Contact information for the organization/district's official eMINTS project contact person.
- Contact information for each person who is registering for contracted eMINTS programs and services in FY09:
 - Legal first name (no nicknames, please)
 - Last name
 - Primary e-mail address
 - Alternate e-mail address
 - Work phone number
 - Home phone number

Submit information online

For FY09, use a new electronic form to submit all information for contracted FY09 eMINTS professional development services and participants registering for eMINTS PD programs. The eMINTS National Center will prepare a contract for professional development services each organization/district and create accounts for participants' access to eMINTS online learning environments based on the information submitted. Find details and register online at

eMINTS UPDATE cont'd.

<http://www.emints.org/application>.

Subscribe to eMINTS news and updates via RSS feed

Now you can use an RSS reader to receive notifications of eMINTS news and updates. Simply download an RSS reader (aggregator), then click the orange RSS icon on eMINTS webpages to subscribe to RSS feeds for news and podcasts.

New to RSS? Find a brief video and links to more information about feeds and feed readers from

<http://www.emints.org/news/index.shtml#rss>.

eMINTS events on the website

Find detailed information about upcoming eMINTS events, links to register or RSVP, and maps and driving directions to event locations, all available from the eMINTS National Center website – <http://www.emints.org/events>.

MODLA UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

Missouri Distance Learning Association (MoDLA) Presents: Keeping Pace with Distance Learning Annual Conference July 9 – 10, 2008

Dates: July 9-10, 2008

Location: Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO (<http://www.tan-tar-a.com>)

Registration Fee: \$175

Conference Program and Information: <http://www.modla.org/mod/resource/view.php?id=65>

Online registration opens April 1, 2008: <http://muconf.missouri.edu/MODLA>

Featured Speakers:

- Opening: Wesley Fryer, Director of Education Advocacy (PK-20) in Oklahoma.
- Closing: Dan Coyote and the SkyDancers – A Second Life, virtual world art form. (Don't miss it)

Topics Include (but not limited to):

- Missouri Distance Learning Content Providers,
- Videoconferencing (ITV),
- Instructional Design in Distance Learning,
- Getting Started with Online Learning,
- Distance Learning for At-Risk, Special Education Students,
- SCORM – (Sharable Content Object Reference Model),
- Continuing Education,
- Web 2.0,
- Virtual Worlds in Distance Learning,
- Learning Management Systems (Blackboard, Moodle etc),
- Social Networking,
- Distance Learning Best practices

Who Should Attend:

Teachers, Administrators, Technology & Distance Learning Coordinators, Video Technicians, CIO's, Instructional Designers and Professional Development Coordinators.

Distance Learning Exhibits and Vendors:

See the latest in distance learning technology in the exhibitors' area.

Additional Information:

For the latest updates on the conference schedule and information about joining the Missouri Distance Learning

MODLA UPDATE cont'd.

Association visit <http://www.modla.org>. Don't miss the many opportunities to hear Missouri distance learning experts share their knowledge and expertise at Missouri's premier distance learning event!

MOREnet UPDATE

submitted by Eric Nicklas

MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference

Call for Presenters The Missouri Research & Education Network (MOREnet) welcomes presentation proposals for the 2008 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC). The conference brings together educators interested in maximizing the opportunities for technology in Missouri schools.

Web 2.0. Blogs. Podcasting. Wikis. RSS. Tags. We've all heard these words, along with buzz that this kind of technology is revolutionizing the learning experience. But what exactly is this revolution about? How do these tools impact teachers and learners in the 21st Century? How can you integrate these interactive, dynamic tools with the existing technology and curriculum in the classroom?

At the 2008 MOREnet Instructional Technology Conference (MITC): Teaching and Learning 2.0., we'll be answering these questions and much more. In addition to the conference focus on Web 2.0 technology, attendees will have access to other topics in the areas of technology integration: SMART Boards, distance learning, administration, leadership and many more!

As a presenter, you are also invited to attend and participate in the conference. While presenters whose proposals are accepted must register for the conference, registration fees will be waived for one presenter per accepted presentation proposal.

There are several presentation options available and we encourage presenters to select the format that best suits their material and style. We also encourage sessions that allow more in-depth study, practice and discussion among participants. The high-quality professional development sessions include three and six hour pre-conference workshops, hands-on seminars, roundtable discussions, human networking and collaboration opportunities plus an Exhibitor Fair that boasts the latest technology tools and expertise.

Presentation proposals are being accepted online through May 16, 2008. Please go to <http://www.more.net/conferences/mitc> to complete the online submission form. We will notify you of your proposal's acceptance no later than June 13, 2008. We look forward to seeing you at MITC 2008. Please visit the MITC website for information and full conference details, or contact MOREnet conferences at (573) 882-0289 or conferences@more.net.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2008 June 29 – July 2	Event 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

UPCOMING CONFERENCES cont'd.

2008 July 17 – 18	Event 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
August 7 – 10	8th International Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) Conference Minneapolis, MN http://mic08.merlot.org

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 June 6	History Channel's Save Our History Grant Program http://www.history.com

GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES *cont'd.*

2008

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/\(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy\)/index.aspx](http://www.schoolfundingcenter.info/(xzvsqo2g4qqxuc55s0mcdmyy)/index.aspx)
- Sign up for the free GrantsAlert.com Weekly Recap for current K-12 Funding and Grants Alerts. For more complete information go to: <http://www.grantsalert.com>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2008	EVENT
May 1	<i>Newsline</i> published online
May 1	Title II.D Year 2 Applications Due
May 9	Technology Plan Review
May 15	Safe Schools Continuation Applications Due
May 19 – 20	Safe Schools Grant Review
May 25	Articles for <i>Newsline</i> due

FROM THE MAILBAG

From School Library Journal 4/22/2008 by Dodie Ownes

Remember When We Played Outdoors? Mobile Phone uses for gaming When Richard Vahrman and his wife Moira Nangle took walks, they sometimes mused on how today's children often preferred to play indoor video games rather than play outdoors. Global Positioning System (GPS) users themselves, it didn't take long for them to develop the concept of outdoor gaming using a GPS-enabled phone or compatible phone combined with a GPS receiver. Locomatrix, a mobile phone application, was born in 2006, developed in 2007, and is now ready to take

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

on gaming couch potatoes everywhere.

Take a look at the video on the Locomatrix <http://www.locomatrix.com/> website that demonstrates the game basics, and envision students eagerly exploring a botanical garden, historical battleground, or museum as they accumulate game points.

From the Locomatrix site Mobile phones enable people to connect with each other while on the go. Mobile games render players immobile, (except for your thumb) and disconnected (games are commonly single-player). Locomatrix is reshaping the mobile games industry by making it possible to play games on screen whilst moving around in real-life – with or in competition with friends or colleagues. Locomatrix does this by turning a phone into an outdoor gaming console. Locomatrix is a games platform, and will be freely open to other developers to create their own games. Three example games that demonstrate some of the more flexible and inspirational features of this mobile application are available on the website <http://www.locomatrix.com/>. Things Locomatrix is working on right now include:

- Providing a new kind of entertainment/exercise/engagement medium.
- Engaging our primary market of young people.
- Testing three playable games with our target groups.
- An open API (application programming interface) – this is the bit that allows other developers to connect to our system to make their games.
- Building a community of “Locos” – gamers, developers, game theorists, educators, mobile experts, funders, anyone interested in being “inside” the project.
- Exploring applications beyond gaming, e.g. education, tourism, team and organizational development.

Find Success, Satisfaction, and Recognition through the ISTE Career Center When it comes to making career connections in the field of educational technology, trust ISTE®, the world’s leading organization of education technology professionals, to do the homework. The ISTE Career Center puts education technology employers together with education technology professionals for that perfect match.

- **Job Seekers:** Make the ISTE Career Center your first stop when looking for a new educational technology job. Whether you're looking for increased responsibility, better pay, or greater job satisfaction, you'll find it an easy, convenient way to locate reputable employers. ISTE is your trusted source for making career connections in the Educational Technology Field.
- **Employers:** Target your recruiting to reach qualified professionals quickly and easily. Search the resume database to contact candidates, and get automatic e-mail notification whenever a candidate matches your criteria.

Visit http://www.iste.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Career_Center

From 21st Century Connections: linking students, teachers and administrators to the latest resources, creative tools and educational leaders behind digital learning. Provided by Lenovo, Adobe, Intel and Futurekids, and hosted by Technology & Learning, NewBay Media. <http://21centuryconnections.com/>

National Archives Offers Training to Use Primary Sources Studied on their own or used in presentations, primary sources bring 21st century learning to life. They can also be a bit intimidating to sort through and integrate effectively in classroom instruction, which is why the National Archives makes free teacher training available with their documents.

A Teaching with Documents videoconference workshop for teachers uses primary sources such as Joseph Glidden's patent for barbed wire, FDR's "Date Which Will Live in Infamy" speech, photographs from the Civil War, and the canceled check for the purchase of Alaska provide students with exciting learning opportunities.

Teaching with Documents lesson plans include reproducible copies of primary documents from the holdings of the National Archives of the United States, teaching activities correlated to the National History Standards and National Standards for Civics and Government, and cross-curricular connections.

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

Teaching with primary documents encourages a varied learning environment for teachers and students alike. Lectures, demonstrations, analysis of documents, independent research, and group work become a gateway for research with historical records in ways that sharpen students' skills and enthusiasm for history, social studies, and the humanities. Many teacher-education events are available in Washington D.C. Regional resources and training opportunities are available in Alaska, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington State.

For more information, see National Archives: Educators and Students at <http://www.archives.gov/nae/education/>.

Win an Interactive Classroom Makeover in the *Content Meets Technology Contest*

Classrooms around the United States are invited to enter the *Content Meets Technology Contest* and share how their class imagines the world of learning through technology. The eInstruction *Content Meets Technology* prize package includes:

- [Interwrite Workspace with ExamView reader](#)
- [Interwrite Board](#)
- [Interwrite Pad](#)
- [32-Pad CPS RF Clicker System](#)
- [One year subscription to ExamView Learning Series](#)
- [Epson Short-throw Projector Wall Mount](#)
- Free Installation Training

Entering the *Content Meets Technology* sweepstakes is easy - just click on the <http://contentmeetstechnology.shycast.com/entryguide/> to get started. Deadline is May 13, 2008.

From iSAFE iEDUCATOR Times March-April 2008 <http://www.isafe.org/> The iSAFE goal is to educate students on how to avoid dangerous, inappropriate, or unlawful online behavior, through dynamic K-12 curriculum and community outreach programs to parents, law enforcement, and community leaders. Resources include:

- **Creativity Comes to Classrooms** Empower students through problem-solving exercises, exploration, creativity and the inventive process, while engaging them to learn about the intellectual property protections of patents, trademarks, copyright, and trade secrets.

The **i-©eaTM curriculum** is an interactive age-appropriate unit of instruction designed for upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. Each main lesson is supported by a selection of *Curriculum Connections*, cross-curricular activities, including *Historical Connections*, *Be Inspired* (true stories of creativity and invention) and *Technology Connections*. The invention process is explored through options that include teacher-facilitated lesson/activities and a workbook-style resource, to enable students to study and engage in the various elements of the creative process and learn the documentation necessary to protect creative works.

The easy-to-use teacher's resource guide makes implementation of these lessons/activities a seamless part of any of the following academic subjects: computer/technology, social studies/history/civics, science, language arts, and library science.

The development of this curriculum is the result of an i-SAFE / United States Patent and Trademark Office collaboration. The **i-©eaTM** lessons/activities are part of the i-SAFE Intellectual Property curriculum for grades 4-12. It is provided to i-SAFE trained educators who fill out an online Implementation Plan at http://www.isafe.org/channels/sub.php?ch=ai&sub_id=uspto. Not i-SAFE certified? Professional development training is available through i-LEARN Online. Completing the video-based training modules allows educators to access and download the full range of curriculum, including more than 150 age-appropriate lesson plans and interactive activities for students in K – 12. Get certified today at <http://ilearn.isafe.org/>.

- **The Internet and Social Studies** i-SAFE continues to look for ways to help educators make e-Safety and responsible use education an integral part of the school experience. The connections between cyber-safety

FROM THE MAILBAG cont'd.

issues and Social Studies are sometimes overlooked.

- **Think about it! Social Studies** is the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence; today's cyber experiences are intricately woven into today's social experiences. The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the nation's leading professional association of social studies educators, is taking the lead in keeping educators informed about how to use and integrate technology concepts into the social studies curriculum.
- **Digital Age: Technology-Based K-12 Lesson Plans for Social Studies**, the 105th Bulletin published by NCSS, provides a collection of thirty lesson plans for grades K-12 written by classroom teachers from around the country. These lessons build on the NCSS and NETS-S standards, and include a section on tools and techniques making the Internet Safety Connection in Social Studies Classrooms continued on page 6 about management, Internet safety, software, images, and podcasting.
- **Internet Safety and Digital Literacy Strategies for the Social Studies Classroom** written by i-SAFE's Director of Education and Curriculum Development for the Internet safety section, provides insight, tips, and techniques on how to meaningfully integrate cyber-safety strategies and concepts into social studies at all levels. Visit <http://www.socialstudies.org> to learn more about the National Council for the Social Studies. For information on how to purchase the book visit <http://www.ncss.org/publications/books>. The editors are Linda Bennett, associate professor in the Department of Learning, Teaching, at the University of Missouri – Columbia, lb@missouri.edu and Michael Berson, professor in the Department of Secondary Education at the University of South Florida. Email: berson@tempest.coedu.

Primary source documents from American History available online The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is making primary source documents and educational resources from all eras of American history available for free online. The website receives more than 1 million visits per year, and offers a variety of free online resources to improve the study of American history. Features available on the website include podcasts of historians discussing their work, lesson plans on major topics in American history, a searchable database of more than 60,000 primary source documents from the Gilder Lehrman Collection, featured documents with printable images and transcripts for classroom use, and online exhibitions. In addition to the main website, the Institute also maintains a quarterly online journal of American history, *History Now*, which offers articles by scholars, as well as lesson plans, interactive features, and links for further study. <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/>

Free lesson plans help bring Google Earth into classrooms "Google Earth Lessons" is a free public resource created by teachers, for teachers, to give educators tools and ideas for using the free Google Earth software in their classrooms. Using the ideas and resources found on this site, teachers of all subjects and grade levels can incorporate Google Earth into their curriculum. A section called "Google Earth How-tos" gives educators the basic skills they need to use the software, and a discussion section includes threads for exchanging ideas on a variety of topics. Users also can search for lessons by content area, share lessons with other, search through a library of screenshots, and more. All that is needed to use the lessons is a free download of Google Earth software. <http://www.gelessons.com/lessons>

From THE Journal <http://www.thejournal.com/> Free Science Resources Online

- **MIT's SLS Lecture Browser** Looking for more advanced science material online? Looking for ways to encourage student interest in science? These authoritative sites arm teachers not only with free multimedia, projects, and other deep resources, but also lesson plans and standards-aligned, curriculum-focused materials that will help make the most of these educational and entertaining tools. MIT's **Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL)** <http://www.csail.mit.edu/index.php> provides video archives of actual MIT lectures in a searchable format through its Spoken Language Systems Lecture Browser. (Real Player required.) More Information **Spoken Language Systems Lecture Browser** <http://web.sls.csail.mit.edu/lectures/>
- **MIT Open Course Ware for Secondary Education (OCW SE)**, also known as *Highlights for High School*, is the first attempt on MIT's part to bring OCW to secondary education and the first step in a broader plan for secondary education that has been in development since 2006. Targeted specifically for schools, the resource

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provides 15,000 lecture notes; 1,800 syllabi; 2,600 videos, audio clips, and animations taken from actual MIT courses; 9,000 assignments; and 900 assessments. MIT's broader OpenCourseWare initiative is also available to students of all ages, though it's focused on post-secondary students. See sidebar for more information on MIT courses online, including the incredible SLS Lecture Browser from CSAIL.

<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/hs/home/home/index.htm>

- NASA: Online Science and Project-Based Learning** provides a wide range of science resources online--some for students, some for educators, and some for people who just think space science is cool. Its educator site provides resources by grade level, including videos, animations, simulations, educational opportunities, and links to relevant sites. For students, the site also provides a wealth of educational resources, as well as games, trivia, social features, a searchable subject database, career opportunities and profiles, and even a picture dictionary for younger audience members. NASA's online materials also go well beyond the classroom, with information about near-Earth objects, <http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/>, a Solar System Simulator <http://space.jpl.nasa.gov/>, planetary surface maps, <http://maps.jpl.nasa.gov/>, and news on the latest space missions. Check out the Jet Propulsion Laboratory site, <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/index.cfm>, for more. NASA Quest, <http://quest.nasa.gov/>, also provides grade-based online materials focused on project-based learning. <http://education.nasa.gov/home/index.html>
- Smithsonian Institution: Standards-Aligned Science Resources** The Smithsonian Institution's Smithsonian Education site, in addition to offering a vast repository of browsable historical materials, also provides teacher-focused resources geared toward the real-world requirements of public science education, including materials aligned to state and national standards. Its standards-aligned materials are searchable by state (or nation), grade, and subject area, and its general resources--more than 1,300 strong--can be browsed by specific subjects within science, such as air and space, Earth science, general science, etc. Of course, it also includes resources on a wide variety of subjects outside STEM subjects, including art, literature, and language arts. <http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/>

Sense of Wonder Contest Rachel Carson aficionados will recognize *The Sense of Wonder* as the title of one of this environmentalist's books. The Environmental Protection Agency is using that title to invite people young and old--literally and collaboratively--to explore that sense in poetry, essays, and photography. It's inviting submissions from intergenerational teams "that best express the 'Sense of Wonder' that you feel when observing the sea, the night sky, forests, birds, wildlife, and all that is beautiful." Contest deadline is June 16. For rules, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/>.

Gardening Projects and Reports from the National Gardening Association (NGA)

- Citizen Science with Sunflowers** San Francisco State University biologist Gretchen LeBuhn has launched *The Great Sunflower Project* that asks participants to grow a sunflower and monitor bee traffic once it blooms. Bee watchers are asked to spend half an hour on two Saturdays per month taking note of what kinds of bees visit their sunflowers and how long it takes for the first five to arrive. Sunflower seeds are provided. <http://www.greatsunflower.org/>
- Botany on Your Plate Science Unit** The National Gardening Association has announced a new publication, *Botany on Your Plate*. Written by education staff at The University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley, this science unit for grades K-4 inspires fascination for and exploration of the structure, function, and flavors of the plants we eat. Visit the Teachers' Room for an introduction to the curriculum and a sample lesson, as well as other resources to help take investigations further. <http://www.kidsgardening.com/teachers.asp#les>
- School and Youth Gardens Grants Impact Report** What are the benefits of school and youth gardens? For a summary of data reported by grant program recipients, visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/2007-evaluation-summary.asp2007>.
- Human Dimensions of Urban Greening Resources for Educators** Looking for information about the latest research on the benefits of a green city? Check out *The Human Dimensions of Urban Green*,

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<http://www.cfr.washington.edu/research.envmind/> featuring research on people's perceptions and behaviors regarding nature in cities. Find information on Nature and Consumer Environments, Trees and Transportation, Civic Ecology, Policy and Planning, and Urban Forestry and Human Benefits.

- **Children and Nature 2008** The Children and Nature Network has published *Children and Nature 2008: A Report on the Movement to Reconnect Children to the Natural World*, a resource for leaders, organizers, and participants at all levels as part of their ongoing efforts to build the movement to restore children's link to nature. It makes the case for children having frequent opportunities for outdoor experiences, citing many positive benefits. For a PDF of the report, visit <http://www.cnaturenet.org/uploads/CNMovement.pdf>.
- **Planting a Bee Garden** Bees of all kinds are important plant pollinators in North America, but for years their numbers have been declining. Learn about planting a bee-friendly garden to give young gardeners the opportunity to learn about these important insects and foster an understanding of the role they play in nature and agricultural production. Check out Urban Bee Gardens at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/> for more details.
- **Grow Dwarf "Space Crops" in Your Classroom from FREE SEEDS** Utah State University's Crop Physiology Laboratory provides teachers with instructions and free seeds for growing dwarf "space crops." Explore plant biology and plant growth systems such as hydroponics; compare plant growth with conventional crops grown here on Earth; and identify other differences between crop production on Earth and in space. Learn more at <http://www.usu.edu/cpl/outreach.htm>.
- **Parents' Primer** This primer is not just about creating one garden for children. It's about parents taking advantage of "gardening moments" with their children every week in their own backyard ... and front yard and in the garage and at the windowsill and in the basement ... The Parents' Primer can be found in the Family Resource Room <http://www.kidsgardening.com/family.asp> – share with parents how to engage children in outdoor explorations that cultivate their love of plants, gardening, and the environment.

Funding Opportunities for Garden and Environmental projects from the National Gardening Association (NGA)

- **Captain Planet Foundation** Committed to supporting hands-on environmental projects for young people, the foundation provides grants from \$250 to \$2,500 to school and community groups. There are four quarterly proposal deadlines per year. Visit <http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/grants.html> for guidelines and a proposal form.
- **2008 Hooked on Hydroponics Awards** Classroom hydroponics offers eager students loads of opportunities to explore concepts across the curriculum, from biology to economics. The sponsor, The Grow Store <http://www.growstore.com/index.asp> has increased the number of award packages for 2008 to 36. Winning programs receive a compact hydroponics package that includes everything required to grow plants successfully indoors. To learn more and download an application, visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/grants/hoh.asp>. Deadline: September 15
- **2009 Youth Garden Grants** NGA is happy to announce that The Home Depot has returned to sponsor our Youth Garden Grants for 2009. For this cycle, NGA will award 125 grants. Packages are as follows:
 - Five (5) programs will receive gift cards valued at \$1,000 (a \$500 gift card to The Home Depot and a \$500 gift card to the Gardening with Kids catalog and store) and educational materials from NGA.
 - Seventy (70) programs will receive a \$500 gift card to The Home Depot and educational materials from NGA.
 - Fifty (50) programs will receive a \$250 gift card to The Home Depot and educational materials from NGA.

For full eligibility criteria and grant categories, visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/YGG.asp>. Deadline: November 1, 2008

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- **The Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Fund** This nonprofit gives small grants to schools and other educational organizations committed to creating natural landscapes using native plants. Visit <http://www.for-wild.org/sfecvr.html>. Deadline: November 15

Library of Congress Experience debuted April 12 The Library of Congress has announced the debut on April 12 of an immersive, new *Library of Congress Experience*, offering visitors unique historical and cultural treasures brought to life through cutting-edge interactive technology and a companion website.

The Experience comprises a series of new ongoing exhibitions, dozens of interactive kiosks, an inspiring multimedia "overture" on the collections and programs of the Library. All exhibits are free and open to the public.

There will also be a continuing online educational experience at the upcoming website [myLOC.gov/](http://www.loc.gov/experience/). <http://www.loc.gov/experience/> The site features interactive versions of the same exhibition content from the physical experience, educational resources, information for visitors, and a page where users can create their own virtual collection of Library objects.

The site also enables the public to participate directly in the Experience by way of *Inspiration Across the Nation*. Because the Experience celebrates and showcases the creativity and contributions of our nation's early cultures, great minds, and other founding influences, people nationwide will have the opportunity to submit to the Library their own creative works in the form of stories, poems, video, audio, photos—anything that can be transmitted in an electronic file. Select entries will be chosen to be part of the Library's permanent collections, joining the likes of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and other cultural and historic legends.

Interactive educational content will be the hallmark of the Library's new Experience. Teachers will have access to a range of educational resources that will transform a visit to the Library into a meaningful experience for learners of all ages. Onsite and online multimedia activities will engage young people to think critically, inspiring lifelong learning and future exploration of the Library's collections.

Detailed information on the Experience can be found at a new microsite, <http://www.loc.gov/experience/>.

New Pokémon Learning League Lesson Focuses on Cyberbullying Pokémon USA, Inc. has added a lesson on cyberbullying to the Pokémon Learning League Internet Safety Program, developed in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education. Students, educators, and parents can use this new educational resource in the classroom and at home.

Pokémon Learning League is an online suite of animated, interactive lessons in math, science, language arts, and life skills. The Internet Safety Program teaches students to think critically about their online activities. The two-week unit consists of:

- Four lessons in online safety, media literacy, and cyberbullying.
- Upper and lower elementary lesson plans and unit quiz.
- Tips for parents and guardians.
- Printable Internet Safety certificates for students.
- Printable poster to remind students how to stay safe online.
- Teacher's guides to help educators integrate the lessons into classroom planning.

Students are often unaware that their online behavior has consequences, and may send rude or disparaging messages to other students that they wouldn't say in person. The new Pokémon Learning League lesson helps students understand what a cyberbully is, and learn to recognize different forms of cyberbullying, strategies for dealing with a cyberbully, and the importance of enlisting the help of a trusted adult when they or someone they know has been cyberbullied.

Pokémon Learning League reinforces prosocial skills by weaving the Pokémon themes of collaboration, helping others and ethical behavior in general into math, science, language arts, and life skills lessons. Pokémon Learning League's

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"mission guides" are diverse characters who serve as mentors to students, leading them through the lessons and demonstrating positive attitudes and life skills such as teamwork.

The Pokémon Learning League lessons combine sound educational practices with the enduring popularity of Pokémon characters to engage students in essential life skills and core curriculum topics, according to the announcement. Each lesson guides students through a three-step approach to learning: an animated, narrative tutorial (Watch), guided practice (Try) and an interactive challenge (Apply).

For more information on the Pokémon Learning League Internet Safety Program, go to <http://www.PokemonLearningLeague.com/internet>.

Educator Resource Center on Integrating Geospatial Technologies

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/gis-and-geographic-inquiry/> When most people hear of geospatial technologies such as geographic information systems (GIS), global positioning systems (GPS), and remote sensing (RS) tools, they often think about car navigational systems or mapping tools. But these applications can be used as learning tools in the classroom, too.

Educators are using geospatial tools to help students think spatially, an increasingly important skill used in hundreds of today's jobs in fields such as law enforcement, environmental management, and public safety.

School leaders, too, are using geospatial technologies to help with planning and decision making. These tools can help districts make more informed decisions related to facilities planning, student transportation, school safety, and more.

To help educators integrate GIS and other geospatial technologies into classrooms and district offices, eSchool News has assembled a collection of stories, best practices, and other resources to further enhance an arsenal of teaching tools. Visit their *Educator Resource Center on Integrating Geospatial Technologies in the Classroom* at <http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/gis-and-geographic-inquiry/> and find out how educators are using GPS, GIS and remote sensing tools to augment learning opportunities for their students. What you'll learn:

- How Google maps are inspiring student creativity.
- How students use computers to design real-world service projects.
- Why schools are being urged to teach spatial literacy.
- How to easily teach spatial learning and thinking.
- How to help students land top jobs.
- How to enhance planning and decision making.
- How to add to your arsenal of teaching tools.

Newsletters 'R Us is a simple concept. Education World presents features that staff can copy and paste directly into their school-home newsletters. Click and voila! These features are tailor-made for your newsletters -- written with the parents of your students in mind. Use these images freely for send-home newsletters -- no further permission required.

- **ABCs of Student Success** Written by Addie Gaines, principal at Kirbyville (Missouri) Elementary School, these 26 copy-and-paste images emphasize the important role that parents play in the achievement of a school's students. http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/newsletter/success/index.shtml
- **Caught On the Web** Parents are always looking for websites that are safe and fun. The sites in this weekly cut-and-paste feature are that and more. In addition to being child-friendly, they might even result in a little learning. http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/newsletter/web/index.shtml
- **Clipart Library for Newsletters** Bring life and color to newsletters with this library of free clipart. Clipart is offered for each month of the school year. Public or private school educators can simply copy and paste the clipart into school newsletters, flyers, or web pages. For school use only! http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/newsletter/clipart/index.shtml
- **Fun Facts** Liven up a weekly parent or staff newsletter with these amazing -- or just plain interesting -- Fun Facts. Simply copy and paste this ready-made feature into a space in the newsletter. Readers are bound to learn a fact or two! http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/newsletter/funfact/index.shtml

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- **Math@Home** Include these copy-and-paste images in weekly newsletters to parents. Each activity offers an easy way for parents to reinforce math skills at home. Many of these activities are fun games for parents and children to play together. http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/newsletter/math/index.shtml
- **Parent Newsletter Templates** Looking for a simple template for a parent newsletter? Here are ten of them -- one for each month of the school year. These Word document templates have space to type in a newsletter title, articles, and even a monthly school calendar. http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/newsletter/templates/index.shtml
- **Parent Pointers to Ponder** Marguerite McNeely, principal at Hayden R. Lawrence Middle School, a grade 4-6 school in Deville, Louisiana, provides these quick pointers for parents. Each short and to-the-point tip is great filler for the top or bottom of any page in a newsletter. http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/newsletter/pointers/index.shtml
- **"quoted"** Inspirational quotes make great additions to parent or staff newsletters. These 36 quotes (one for each week of the school year) have been hand-picked for their educational messages. They are designed to fit the bottom length of an 8-1/2- x 11-inch newsletter page. http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/archives/quoted.shtml

What else can you find at EducationWorld <http://www.educationworld.com/>?

- **Regular columns such as:**
 - **Pete Hall** Award-winning young principal confronts the challenges of the job.
 - **Evelyn Cortez-Ford** Tips for coaching teachers to become leaders.
 - **The Principal Poet** Mr. Ivan's poems should ring familiar to all educators.
 - **George Pawlas** Improve school-community relations with PR strategies that work.
 - **Sandra Harris** "BRAVO Principals" Build Relationships with Actions that Value Others.
 - **Principal Files** School leaders share their best ideas with one another.
 - **Pawlas on PR** Dr. George Pawlas offers quick tips, fresh ideas, PR inspiration.
 - **Take Five...** 1-2-3-4-5 tips on a wide range of principal topics.
- **Principal Ideas** More great ideas from principals.
- **Instant Meeting** http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/archives/meetingideas.shtml Tips for lively, focused staff meetings.
- **Partners for Student Success** School leaders share how they bring together schools, parents, communities.
- **How I Handled...** Our principal team solves problems every day.
- **Exceptional Events** A year of weekly events that bring together schools and families.
- **Morning Math** Add fun to your a.m. announcements.
- **Great Meetings** Improve meeting leading skills with these tips.
- **Parent Involvement** Connecting schools, parents -- 100's of ideas.
- **School Grant\$** Sources and tips for locating grant monies.
- **Message Boards** Join the conversation!

The Air Force Brain Booster Book is a collection of 52 activities loosely placed into three categories: puzzles, patterns, or curios. The book focuses on problems that can be explored or solved using skills learned in grades K-12. Since humans seek to find patterns in the world, the book offers both students and teachers the chance to casually explore selected numerical or visual relationships. <http://www.ecs.org/00CN3825>

The Harvey Mudd College mathematics department has created a site with ideas and puzzles designed to change the way students think about math. It includes things like the math behind card shuffling, poker, fractals and music, and memorizing the first few digits in pi using sentence mnemonics. The site was designed as a resource for enriching math courses and nurturing interest and talent in mathematics. <http://www.math.hmc.edu/funfacts/>

SpellingCity, an online spelling program to help improve spelling skills:

- contains over 30,000 spelling words, including plurals, contractions, future and past tenses
- uses a REAL human voice that says both the word and the word in a sentence

This spelling program provides spelling practice for spelling help at home or school.

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- Teachers and parents can enter and save their own spelling lists for their students/children.
- Students can play games with their words or any saved lists.
- Teachers and parents can save and share their lists.
- The forum allows teachers and parents to share lists and ideas.

http://www.spellingcity.com/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Earth Day - Everyday activities from Everyday Teaching Newsletters, a low cost, excellent teaching resource that keeps giving more, all year round. For your own annual E.T. Membership, visit

<http://www.everydayteaching.com/Members/Subscriptions/subscriptions.php>

- **I Spy In The Woods** Find a list here to print out and use with early elementary students when out for a walk. They can find objects according to the adjectives listed here, and even add their own. Further activities include giving each student a color card, which he or she will match to an object in nature.
http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/fun_n_games/printables/activities/assets/science_nature/eye_spy.pdf
- **Make A Classroom Rainforest** Celebrate Earth Day by creating a rainforest in your own classroom! Find drawing lessons for making murals here, with primates, insects, foliage, and flowers. Use newspaper end rolls (visit the local newspaper for free rolls), or butcher paper to do it up large.
<http://www.chunkymonkey.com/murals/murallessons.htm>
- **Watch Worms At Work** Early elementary students will be creating their very own worm farm in this lesson plan. Worms are highly efficient composters, and elementary students can see them at work in a see-through jar following the directions here.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening_with_children/homegrownprojects_watchworms.shtml
- **How Much Garbage Do You Throw Out?** Try this activity in the classroom - or at home, as suggested here, where students can track and record their data and bring it back to class. However, it would also be interesting and applicable simply to measure classroom trash, or office garbage (ask for their donations at the end of each day or offer to clean their bins). Weigh the trash, and then try separating out, if it's not too messy, the materials which could be recycled. Lots of math activities here to accompany the lesson plan.
http://www.ecokidsonline.com/pub/fun_n_games/printables/activities/assets/environmental/garbage.pdf
- **Create A Forest In A Jar** What is succession? Students will be able to understand this process as they design one habitat and see it replaced by another. Use the 2nd link to record student observations and notes. They will also be creating a poster to demonstrate and explain their science experiment. <http://www.col-ed.org/cur/sci/sci63.txt> <http://www.everydayteaching.com/Worksheets/Lab.Observ.Record.pdf>
- **Where Does Waste Go?** Students will be examining the classroom waste bins - and other waste bins in school - to determine how trash is separated and where the different types of garbage end up. Find a guide here. http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/enved/Rec_Lessons/waste.htm
- **Global Warming Now** PBS offers this lesson plan for grades 9-12, with assorted handouts for understanding Global Warming. Students will read and/or listen to NPR transcripts on talks with experts on the greenhouse effect and global warming, and read a debate on the changing climate. Teaching backgrounds and strategies are available, along with an online global warming movie, at the 2nd link. Students will compare facts and opinions about global warming to draw their own conclusions, and work in groups to complete a Global Warming Project List. http://www.pbs.org/now/printable/classroom_globalwarming_print.html
http://epa.gov/climatechange/kids/global_warming_version2.html
- **What's Up With The Weather?** How much fossil fuel do we each use? Check under the *Your Carbon Diet* game. Want to know what kinds of options are available beyond fossil fuels? Read the interview with Professor Martin Hoffert of NYU, an alternative energy expert. *Stories in Ice* provides a fascinating account of Nature's Time Machine, while the Teacher's Guide for this NOVA resource features classroom activities and related resources. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/warming/>
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/teachers/programs/27gw_warming.html
- **K-12 Energy Lesson Plans & Resources** Select your grade level (1st link K-4; 2nd link 5-8; 3rd link 9-12) for a vast array of lesson plans and teaching resources on energy. Topics range from biofuel projects, to solar

WEBSITES OF INTEREST cont'd.

strategies, Energy Detectives, Comparing Light Bulbs, and Solar Cell Simulation, to help students understand basic energy tenets and to delve into renewable energy sources.

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/education/lessonplans/grades.cfm/grade=1>

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/education/lessonplans/grades.cfm/grade=2>

<http://www.eere.energy.gov/education/lessonplans/grades.cfm/grade=3>

- **Teaching Environmental Issues To ESOL** Specifically written to guide ESOL teachers in the area of environmental issues, this online workbook provides teaching background on the topics involved, a multi-media curriculum with lesson plans at different skills levels, a glossary, and numerous student worksheets. Take a look at the activities even if you are not teaching ESL students, for relevant Earth Day teaching ideas. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/pdfs/tesol.pdf>
- **The Planet Janitor Coloring Book** The youngest students will enjoy this coloring book, with text in both English and Spanish. It explores recycling and trash issues in an introductory way, talking about trees acting as sponges, for instance. http://www.eere.energy.gov/education/lessonplans/pdfs/environment_planetjanitor.pdf
- **Earth Day Coloring And Activity Booklet** Download this Earth Day themed coloring and activity book for early elementary students to help celebrate and better understand the event. <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/kids/happy.pdf>
- **Frog Sticker Reward Charts** Print out these colorful sticker reward charts for an Earth Day incentive program in your classroom, or for spring rewards for reading, behavior, assignments, etc. <http://www.everydayteaching.com/Helpers/Frog.sticker.pdf>
- **Recycling Poster** This Earth Guy has an appeal all his own on this printable, recycling poster for the classroom, complete with blank spaces for students to fill in their own ideas of how to recycle. <http://www.everydayteaching.com/Holiday/Earthday/RecycleSymbol.png>
- **Froggy Math** On this printable math worksheet for grades PreK-1, students will add the frogs in each row and enter the sums in the squares provided. http://www.everydayteaching.com/Worksheets/ET_work/Sponge.14.pdf
- **Name That Frog!** Frog names are all scrambled up in this unscramble and match activity for the elementary classroom. Frog nature cards are included, each with a brief description of the frog itself. http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/fun_n_games/printables/activities/assets/wildlife/frog_matchup_act.pdf
- **EcoKids** is a free, environmental education program that offers curriculum-linked materials and activities for Canadian elementary schools to engage in environmental action. The centerpiece of the program is an interactive environmental website for children, their families, and educators in Canada and around the world. It offers topical information about the environment through interactive, fun, educational games and activities that utilize participants' willingness to learn. <http://ecokids.ca/pub/index.cfm>
- **Printable Ocean-Themed Bookmarks** Print out these four ocean scene bookmarks for your students. Each bookmark has a write-on rectangle for students to record their own thoughts and ideas as they read, encouraging pre-writing skills and active reading responses. <http://www.everydayteaching.com/Holiday/Earthday/OceanBookmarks.pdf>
- **Pack A Waste-Free Lunch** Use this poster to encourage students to pack a waste-free lunch, with tips on how to do it, and facts on what happens to waste. Keep this one in the school cafeteria. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/education/pdfs/lunch.pdf>
- **Earth Day Wordsearch** For a quick and easy printable activity to review terms for Earth Day, try this no-frills Earth Day word search. http://www.everydayteaching.com/Worksheets/ET_work/w.s.Earth.Day.pdf
- **Writing Exercise A Day In The Arctic** Use this printable worksheet for students to plan and write about their day in the Arctic. What kinds of events might happen during their day? How would they need to dress? Where would they live? How would they get in and out? How would they like the sun never setting? How would they get around? Include these and other questions in your prompts for this exercise. http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/fun_n_games/printables/activities/assets/wildlife/arctic-actsheet.pdf
- **Online Earth Day Word Scramble** Complete this word search online, with terms your students will more than likely become familiar with during your own Earth Day lessons. http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/fun_n_games/printables/activities/assets/wildlife/arctic-actsheet.pdf
- **Which Bin Does It Go In?** Which bin is required for each item that needs to be recycled? Students will find out here, in this online and interactive recycling game.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST cont'd.

- <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/games/bingame/>
- **Recycle City** Students will learn what happens to trash and how to recycle in this classic online game for Earth Day. <http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/>
- **Earth Day Crossword Puzzle Online** Fill in this crossword online, answering the clues for Earth Day issues to fill in both across and down in this interactive crossword. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/games/crossword/index.htm>

From **FREE**, the website that makes teaching resources from federal agencies easier to find:

<http://www.free.ed.gov/>

- **Drake's West Indian Voyage 1588-1589** is a lesson investigating maps of a voyage by Sir Francis Drake that involved attacks on Spanish settlements off the coasts of Africa (Santiago), South America (Cartagena), and North America (St. Augustine). Students examine various maps and draw conclusions about individual events and the entire voyage. http://free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource_id=2038
- **Louisiana: European Explorations and the Louisiana Purchase** features an essay accompanied by 119 documents and maps that tell the story of the Louisiana Purchase. Learn about Louisiana under French rule and later Spanish rule. Find out why Jefferson felt that "the future destinies of the republic" depended on the purchase of "the Isle of Orleans and the Floridas" and why Napoleon had already decided to sell the entire territory of Louisiana. http://free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource_id=2033
- **Slaves and the Courts, 1740-1860** presents over 100 books and pamphlets on experiences of African and African-American slaves in American colonies and U.S. The documents, published between 1772 and 1889, include trial cases and proceedings, journals, and other documents of historical importance. A special presentation looks at the slave code for the District of Columbia. http://free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource_id=2039
- **Waldseemuller's Map: World 1507** is a lesson designed around one of the world's most important maps. The first to use the name "America," this map resulted from an effort to document geographic discoveries of the late 15th and early 16th centuries. Students investigate sections of the map and consider what this new world may have meant to people in 1507. http://free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource_id=2037
- **National Environmental Education** aims to increase the impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums. Sign up to participate. Use Classroom Earth to find selected environmental education materials, including teachers' top 10 and materials for after school programs and home schooling. http://free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource_id=2032
- **Looking Good, Feeling Good: From the Inside Out** explores bone, muscle, and skin. Through seven lessons, students learn how the musculoskeletal and skin systems work, how cells contribute to each system, how the structure of bone relates to its function, how body systems interact, and how behaviors (such as exercise) and the environment (such as sunlight) influence body systems. Students develop lifestyle recommendations for maintaining healthy body systems. http://free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource_id=2036
- **Using Technology to Study Cellular and Molecular Biology** introduces students to the concepts of scale, resolution, and probe size in cellular and molecular biology. Students play the role of a medical team that has discovered a muscle-wasting disease. They must choose which technology to use to investigate the disease (e.g., light microscopy) and must answer questions: What is the infectious agent? How does it cause disease? Is there a drug to treat or prevent it? http://free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource_id=2034
- **BioWorksU** introduces students to life science careers. Set in a virtual university, BioWorksU uses games, experiments, and simulations to show jobs at a range of locations—a nurse's station, ambulance bay, diagnostic lab, pathology lab, radiology department, pharmacy, physical therapy room, dentist's office, and more. Watch videos of professionals describing what they do. Play the ambulance maze game. <http://bioworksU.com/>
- **Computing Life** looks at ways physicists, biologists, and even artists are harnessing the power of computers to advance our understanding of biology and human health. Learn how computers are used to simulate the spread of flu through a school, the movement of cells in our bodies, and the beating of a heart. Find out how computers help in the search for gene variations that could lead to disease. <http://publications.nigms.nih.gov/computinglife/>

WEBSITES OF INTEREST cont'd.

- **K-12 Energy Lesson Plans and Activities** offers 350 lessons on energy efficiency and renewable energy. They're organized by grade level and topic—biomass, geothermal, fuel cells, ocean energy, solar power, transportation fuels, wind energy, and energy efficiency and conservation. Learn about passive solar buildings, advanced photovoltaics, or basic wind turbines. Take an energy awareness quiz. Estimate your carbon footprint; find ways to reduce it. <http://www.eere.energy.gov/education/lessonplans/>
- **Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure Movie** provides photos and video clips from this movie about creatures that roamed the seas 82 million years ago. Discover sea monsters of the past and present using the interactive time line. Excavate fossils on a "virtual dig." See a video on how to survive a shark attack. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/seamonsters/>
- **Space Food and Nutrition Educator Guide** looks at the history of preparing and packaging foods that taste good, provide necessary nutrients, and travel well in space. The guide includes math and science activities in which students (K-8) classify space food, ripen fruits and vegetables using a chemical inhibitive, measure food packaging, determine the percentage of water reduction by dehydrating fresh food items, and plan a nutritionally balanced 5-day menu for astronauts. http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Space_Food_and_Nutrition_Educator_Guide.html
- **Suited for Spacewalking Educator Guide** examines the technology behind space suits. Students learn about the environment of space, the history of spacewalking, NASA's current space suit, future space suits, and work that astronauts do during spacewalks. Students (grades 5-12) are challenged to design and build a protective garment that will permit future space travelers to explore the surface of Mars. http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/topnav/materials/listbytype/Suited_for_Spacewalking_Educator_Guide.html
- **Voyages Through Time** is a year-long integrated science curriculum for 9th or 10th grade based on the theme of evolution. It is presented in six modules: cosmic evolution, planetary evolution, origin of life, evolution of Life, hominid evolution, and evolution of technology. Individual modules can be used in discipline-based science courses such as biology, earth science, geology, or astronomy. <http://www.voyagethroughtime.org/>
- **Planetary Photojournal** is a photo album of the universe. See images of the planets. Look through the Hubble telescope at nebulae far beyond our galaxy. Watch a video of the Mars rovers, or catch up on news about space surveillance technology. Use the solar system simulator to view celestial bodies from various perspectives: from above or below, from an orbiting spacecraft, or from another planet. <http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/index.html>
- **Understanding Alcohol: Investigations into Biology and Behavior** provides simulations, videos, and lessons on the pharmacokinetics of alcohol, the biological and behavioral effects of alcohol, youth and alcohol, the consequences of alcohol abuse and alcoholism. Lessons focus on body type and a person's response to alcohol, factors that influence alcohol use and abuse, calculation of blood alcohol concentrations, and more. Discover how different doses affect the activity of mice. Experience a simulation of driving while intoxicated. <http://science.education.nih.gov/supplements/nih3/alcohol/default.htm>
- **Brain: Our Sense of Self** helps middle school students understand basic scientific principles related to the brain and nervous system. Five lessons examine the structure and specialized regions of the brain, its diverse functions, how the body receives and delivers information through the nervous system, factors that affect learning, and our sense of self. Interactive web activities are included. <http://science.education.nih.gov/supplements/nih4/self/default.htm>
- **Materials World Modules Program presents** interdisciplinary modules on topics in materials science—composites, ceramics, concrete, biosensors, biodegradable materials, smart sensors, polymers, food packaging, and sports materials. Modules are inquiry based and hands-on. They incorporate concepts from chemistry, biology, physics, and mathematics. http://www.classzone.com/books/earth_science/terc/navigation/visualization.cfm

From Everyday Teaching <http://www.everydayteaching.com/Members/Subscriptions/subscriptions.php>

- **Odd/Even Beetles** Early education students can use this printable worksheet to follow directions, and to learn about odd and even numbers. They will color the odd numbers one color, even numbers another, write down

WEBSITES OF INTEREST cont'd.

- both sets of numbers in the assigned places, and then finish coloring and designing their beetles with this combined art and math exercise. <http://www.everydayteaching.com/Subject/Math/oddevenbeetle.pdf>
- **Tessellation Town** Every morning this special town needs to be rebuilt, with tiles of people, buildings, floors, flowers, and more. Elementary students will have fun putting the tiles together to create their own creative villages. <http://www.mathcats.com/explore/tessellationtown.html> Part of Math Cats <http://www.mathcats.com/>
- **Polygon Playground** Early elementary students can build anything they want with this interactive polygon playground game. Challenge them to construct buildings, a quilt pattern, or...? <http://www.mathcats.com/explore/polygonplayground.html>
- **Build A Pyramid** Print out copies of this student art and math worksheet, where your classes will be cutting out the pyramids, coloring the designs, and then assembling the pyramid boxes by folding and gluing. <http://www.everydayteaching.com/Subject/Math/buildapyramid.pdf>
- **Dollar Dive** In this online math game from the U.S. Mint, students have to recognize coins and tally their sums in order to collect \$5.00, buy sails for their boat, and escape the sea monster. They manipulate the diving pig and click on him to release "bubbles" to catch the needed coins. Three levels of difficulty are available. <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/games/dollardive/>
- **Polygon Quilts** A playing grid is available here for this two player or two team math game, where students are challenged to use adjacent right triangles to construct different polygons, with varying points awarded for the degree of difficulty of the polygon created. <http://teams.lacoe.edu/documentation/classrooms/amy/geometry/3-4/activities/quilt.html>
- **Order Of Operations** Students must solve these equations using the rules of Order of Operations, in this online and interactive math learning game. <http://cemc2.math.uwaterloo.ca/mathfrog/english/kidz/order.shtml>
- **Decimultiplication** Practice multiplying decimals online, entering the digits required to solve for the equations. <http://cemc2.math.uwaterloo.ca/mathfrog/english/kidz/decmulti6.shtml>
- **Teacher Line Interactives** PBS offers these online and interactive simulations and learning tools for elementary and middle school math teachers, with games teaching students about tessellation, functions, graphing and values, surface area, ratios, number patterns, histograms, number relations, geoboards, and more. <http://www.pbs.org/teacherline/resources/interactives.cfm>
- **Integer Bars** Students experiment with integer bars in this interactive game, where they can select varying sizes of "bricks", manipulate them horizontally or vertically, exchange them, and build patterns for a brick wall or other designs. <http://www.arcytech.org/java/integers/integers.html>
- **Pattern Blocks** In another online and interactive math game, students can use these pattern blocks to build tessellation patterns, or to experiment with patterning and design. Challenge them to use an assigned number of blocks and to create a symmetrical pattern. http://www.arcytech.org/java/patterns/patterns_j.shtml
- **The Cereal Box Problem & Simulation** This engaging math lesson on probability challenges students with something they are familiar with - cereal box prizes. They will model the problem and use the online simulation at the 2nd link, with further expected value problems available at the 3rd link. <http://www.mste.uiuc.edu/reese/cereal/intro.html> <http://www.mste.uiuc.edu/reese/cereal/cereal.html> <http://www.mste.uiuc.edu/reese/cereal/questions.html>
- **Virtual Math Manipulatives** Explore all sorts and levels of math concepts with these online and interactive manipulatives. Resources gathered here are numerous, and are sure to suit many math classroom situations and needs, no matter the grade level or ability. http://www.ct4me.net/math_manipulatives.htm

NEWEST eTHEMES

Author Study: Eve Bunting These sites are about author Eve Bunting and her works. Read interview transcripts and watch videos. There are teaching ideas and lesson plans for using picture books to teach about character development, plot development and conflict resolution, and the six traits of writing. Includes lesson plans to connect the books with real-life and historical events. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on story elements. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002305.shtml>

Author Study: Tedd Arnold These sites are about the author and illustrator, Tedd Arnold. Learn about his life and works. Includes interviews, photos, lesson plans, and coloring pages. There is a link to eThemes Resources on the Human Body System. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002322.shtml>

NEWEST eTHEMES cont'd.

Down Syndrome These sites are about Down Syndrome. There is information on what it is, what causes it, and how it is treated. There is also information on prevention and testing.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002225.shtml>

Economics: OPEC These websites are about the economics behind OPEC. Learn about the impact OPEC has on the world economy and specifically the cost of gasoline. Explore the concepts of supply and demand and how it impacts the price of oil. Included are statistics, audio components, and (an interactive) lesson plans. Also included are eThemes Resources on Renewable and Non-Renewable Energy and Economics.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002236.shtml>

Grammar: Spelling: Word Work These sites provide online and interactive activities on spelling and word work. Learn about and practice spelling patterns and rules, vowels and consonant patterns. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Spelling; Literature: Online Activities for Lower Elementary; Literature: Online Activities for Upper Elementary; Teaching Tips: Phonemic Awareness; and Reading Skills: Vowels.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002319.shtml>

Immigration: Hispanic Immigrants These sites are about Hispanic immigration. Learn about experiences and stories of Hispanic immigrants, what challenges they faced, where they are in the U.S., what culture they brought to the U.S., and how the immigrants affect U.S. economics and policy. Includes interactive maps, lesson plans, video clips, and photographs. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Immigration: Angel Island, Immigration: Ellis Island, Immigration: Immigrants and Problems Encountered, Latin American Culture, and Famous Americans: Latin American Connections. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002291.shtml>

Literature Theme: Nonfiction: Tolerance These sites are about the theme of tolerance in literature. Find out which nonfiction books deal with tolerance. There are also classroom activities and a case study that have a tolerance theme. Includes eThemes Resource on Literature Themes: Bullying.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002290.shtml>

Literature: "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury These sites are about the book "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury. Learn about the author of the book and his works. Includes study guides, teacher's guides, lesson plans, discussion questions, suggested activities, and author interview. There is a link to eThemes Resources on Science Fiction.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002321.shtml>

Literature: "Pictures of Hollis Woods" by Patricia Giff

These websites are about the book "Pictures of Hollis Woods" and author Patricia Giff. See her official website to learn more about her. There are also worksheets, games, and lesson plans to go along with the book. Includes links to eThemes Resources on hands-on crafts students can do in class in conjunction with reading the book.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002277.shtml>

Literature: "The Family Under the Bridge" by Natalie Savage Carlson These websites are about the book "The Family Under the Bridge" by Natalie Savage Carlson. Includes author's biography, activity ideas, study guides, discussion questions, and games. There are also links to eThemes Resources on France, Friendship, Family, Christmas Around the World, and Adoption. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002280.shtml>

Math: Fractions for First Grade These sites focus on fractions for first grader students. There is information on identifying fractions and practice dividing fractional parts. Includes interactive sites, online games, visual manipulative, printable worksheets, and quizzes. There is also a link to eThemes Resource on Fractions.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002298.shtml>

Math: Fractions for Lower Elementary These sites are about fractions for lower elementary. Learn about fraction concepts, comparing fractions, reading fractions, different ways to representing the same fraction, estimating fractions, and more. Includes online games, interactive visual manipulatives, online quizzes, printable worksheets, and lesson plans. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Virtual Manipulatives and Fractions for First Grade.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002299.shtml>

NEWEST eTHEMES cont'd.

Matter: Properties: Tools for Measuring and Observing These sites compile simple tools that are used for measuring and observing the properties of matter such as thermometers, rulers, and balances. Includes games and lesson plans. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Matter: Properties and Metric Measurement. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002244.shtml>

Ocean Exploration These sites provide information about ocean exploration. Learn about animals, plants, and habitats in the ocean, things to do when visiting the ocean, ocean jobs, and ocean pollution. Includes photos, videos, lesson plans, and games. There are also links to eThemes Resources on various themes on oceans and sea animals. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002300.shtml>

Poetry Anthologies What is an anthology? With the information on these sites, you can see examples of published anthologies, discover what kinds of poetry are included in them, and find instructions for creating your own anthology. Includes eThemes Resources on Poets and their Poetry as well as Poetry: Simile and Figurative Language. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002272.shtml>

Poetry: Value of Poetry These sites are about the value of poetry. Read articles to find information about and functions of poetry in education and therapy. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on Poetry: Imagery. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002284.shtml>

Questioning Skills: Thick and Thin Questions These sites provide information on thick and thin questioning. Learn the difference between thick and thin questions as well as how to generate these questions. There are lesson plans, printable posters, and worksheets. Includes eThemes Resources on Reading Strategies for Elementary Students and Teaching Tips: Questioning. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002293.shtml>

Responsibility in Secondary Schools What does student responsibility in a secondary school look like? These sites contain sample policies, teacher resources, and information for students on how to adapt to the increased expectations as they transition to the next level in their education. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002269.shtml>

Science: Balls and Ramps These resources explore basic concepts of science related to balls and ramps. Learn about the characteristics and properties of balls and ramps, relationship between the physical properties of balls and their motion, and some of the factors that affect the way balls behave. Includes lesson plans, experiments, and simulations. There are also links to eThemes Resources on force and motion, and gravity. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002266.shtml>

Standardized Test Taking for Elementary Grades These sites are about standardized test taking tips and strategies for intermediate elementary grades. Learn information about what children should eat and how much sleep they should get before a test. Find out tips for answering multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer question. Includes links to eThemes Resources on study skills and MAP test tips. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002268.shtml>

Teaching Tips: Applied Behavior Analysis These sites are about applied behavior analysis or behavior modification. Learn what it is as well as strategies and techniques to help students develop social and emotional skills and how to encourage desired behaviors in classroom. Includes articles, tips, classroom activities, downloadable introductory packet, charts, and free software. There are also links to eThemes Resources on Special Education: Teaching Resources and Teaching Tips: Learning Disabilities. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002237.shtml>

Technology: Flash Files These sites provide flash files specifically for using with a Smart Notebook. Includes instructions for how to import flash files into the Notebook and how to retrieve flash files. There is also a link to an eThemes Resource on Teaching Tips: SMART Board Resources. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002323.shtml>

Writing: Reader's Notebooks These sites have activities and downloadable guidelines to help students modeling writing a thorough response in reader's notebooks, applying comprehension strategies, and following a friendly letter format. There are links to eThemes Resources on letter writing, reading comprehension strategies, and story

NEWEST eTHEMES cont'd.

elements. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00002276.shtml>

UPDATED eTHEMES

Animals: Birds These sites include information about several different types of birds, including a gallery of the official state birds. Learn about their physical characteristics and habitats and listen to their calls. View photographs, short videos, and live Webcams. Includes links to eThemes Resources on barn owls, raptors, penguins, and cardinals. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000640.shtml>

Agriculture: Farming Today These sites contain information about farming today. Learn about modern day techniques such as crop rotation, organic farming, and hydroponics. Play a game, get an idea for a science fair project, or see farm equipment that is used by farmers. Two eThemes Resources on Dairy Farming and Farm Animals are included. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000315.shtml>

Ancient Civilizations: Maya These websites are about the Mayas and their culture. There are lesson plans, maps, timelines, quizzes, and cartoons. There is information about their culture, government, religion, and more. Includes a link to eTheme Resources on Native Americans: Maya and Ancient Western Civilizations. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001416.shtml>

Animals: Butterflies and Monarch Migration

These sites provide information on the life cycle, habitats, and behaviors of butterflies. View images and see the distribution of various butterfly species. Learn about wildlife migration and why it occurs. Several sites focus on monarch butterflies and their annual migration. An eMINTS WebQuest on monarch butterflies and their life cycle is linked. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000113.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>

Author Studies These websites are about a variety of authors. Learn about Mary Pope Osborne, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Barbara Park, R.L. Stine, and other famous authors. There is also an example of a student-created author study and a lesson plan for author studies. There are also many other author studies listed in the eThemes Resources. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001556.shtml>

Author Study: Gary Paulsen These websites are about author Gary Paulsen and his books. Includes biographical information, interviews, lesson plans, activity ideas, and book reviews. There is also a booklist of adventure stories for teens. Many of the websites and lesson plans deal with the common Paulsen theme of survival. There are links to eThemes Resources on "Mr. Tucket" by Gary Paulsen and the Iditarod. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001391.shtml>

Author Study: Tomie dePaola These sites are about author Tomie dePaola and his many books, including the "26 Fairmont Avenue" series. Includes lesson plans, biographies, interviews, and activity ideas. There are links to eThemes on author studies, book activities, and story elements. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001182.shtml>

Barbarian Invasions in the 4th-6th Century These sites are about the Barbarian invasions in the 4th through 6th centuries and include information on Germanic tribes, the Huns, and the Mongols. View many maps showing the routes of the invasions. Also includes timelines, a video, and some activity ideas. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000757.shtml>

Calendars These sites are about calendars. Learn about days, weeks, months, and years. Includes information about ancient calendars from the Babylonians, Egyptians, Aztecs, and Romans. Convert dates into Roman and figure Easter

UPDATED eTHEMES cont'd.

Sunday. There are also links to eThemes Resources on telling time and calendar creators.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000190.shtml>

Debate Topic: Year Round School These sites explore the advantages and disadvantages for following a year round school schedule versus a traditional schedule that features a summer break. The information on these sites can help students create their debate arguments for or against this type of schedule. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on debate. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001241.shtml>

Family These websites are about families. Children can learn about the different types of families that there are in the world. There are many student activities such as make a family tree, paint a family portrait, or make a poster about how they celebrate special occasions in their families. There are also eThemes Resources about grandparents.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001730.shtml>

Famous African Americans: Inventors and Scientists These sites are about African American inventors and scientists, their lives and achievements, and impacts on American technology advancement and industries. Also includes biographies, activity ideas, games, lesson plans, audio clips, a timeline, and a 2-hour documentary on Percy Julian. There are links to eThemes Resources on George Washington Carver, Famous Americans: African Connections, and Inventions. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001976.shtml>

Famous People: Benjamin Franklin Learn about Benjamin Franklin and his achievements as an inventor, scientist, and statesman. Includes many lesson plans and hands-on activities to explore his contributions to society. There are also interactive games and video clips. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001053.shtml>

Health: Sleep and Dreams This resource contains sites about sleep and dreams. Discover the different stages of sleep and the importance of sleep. Includes reasons for dreaming, symbols found in dreams, and nightmares. There are also activities and experiments to record and interpret dreams.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001027.shtml>

Historic Documents: Emancipation Proclamation These sites have information about the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. See the actual document and read about its impact on slavery and the Civil War. Includes a timeline with important events. There are links to eThemes Resources on slavery during the Civil War, the slave trade, and the Underground Railroad. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000712.shtml>

Holiday: April Fool's Day Learn when April Fool's Day began and why it is celebrated. Read about some famous April Fool's Day jokes, including the story that Taco Bell was going to buy the Liberty Bell. Includes some common pranks for kids that are intended to be funny and not hurtful. There are recipes for unusual April Fool's Day dishes. Includes a link to an eThemes Resource on jokes and riddles.

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001265.shtml>

Holiday: Arbor Day These sites offer ideas and activities for celebrating Arbor Day. Includes information on the history of Arbor Day, plus interactive games, online puzzles, and hands-on crafts. Also includes general information about trees and the products that come from them. There is a link to eThemes Resources on Trees, Plants: Species and Parts, and Earth Day. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000623.shtml>

Holiday: Memorial Day Learn about the history of Memorial Day and find out how this holiday began. Includes transcripts of interviews with war veterans as well as letters that they wrote. There are videos, photographs, games, and craft ideas. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000395.shtml>

Inventions This resource provides information on various inventions and inventors. Learn about scientific and just for fun inventions. Play games and answer trivia questions about inventions and patents. Included is an eThemes Resource on space spin-offs. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000127.shtml>

Literature: "Mr. Tucket" by Gary Paulsen

These sites are about the book "Mr. Tucket" by Gary Paulsen. Includes book reviews, biographies on the author, and

UPDATED eTHEMES cont'd.

suggested activities. There are links to eThemes Resources on covered wagons, the Oregon Trail, and pioneers. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001003.shtml>

Solar System These sites are about the solar system, the sun, moon, stars, and planets. Find out what are the different 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>

Writing: Letters: Friendly, Business, and Thank You These sites provide examples of friendly and business letters. Includes explanations on the different parts of letters and general writing tips. Also covers thank you notes and how to address envelopes. There is an interactive quiz and a Powerpoint presentation as well as letters from famous people from George Washington to J.K. Rowling. <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000524.shtml>