

Annotated internet bibliography of lesson plan sites

Links to lesson plan sites are recorded in the table below in addition to ranking data and annotations. Quantity of sites is emphasized rather than quality of the lesson plans. This is intentional and is motivated by several considerations:

- I anticipate more difficulty finding any lesson plan on a particular topic than finding a good lesson plan. This is a side effect of striving for an integrated curriculum in which subjects like social studies spin off into math and science lessons.
- An otherwise good lesson plan may not captivate my students or be optimal for my classroom. I would likely back up the best lesson with ideas from other lessons, especially if I anticipate needing to make accommodations for exceptional students. This requires more sources.
- Many sites offer user contributed lesson plans that vary widely in quality. Only the lesson plan I'm looking for needs to be of high quality, not all of them.
- Web sites are very dynamic and I would rather keep track of a link and check up on it periodically than not include it in the list. Data such as number of links or content such as a single especially good lesson plan can change overnight. I did drop some sites that did little more than repackage links to other sites.
- I would rather judge quality based on actual use of a site rather than an anticipated need long before it materializes.
- The list may eventually be added to a database to drive a meta search or web mining project for which completeness is important.

The rating system (ratio column) is based on the "batting average" for a site. If I visit the site and find a good lesson plan, hit is incremented; if none is found, then miss is incremented. The table can be copied into Excel and sorted by ratio to find the good sites or by $\text{hit} + \text{miss} = \text{visits}$ to find sites that might not have been given enough chances.

Data in this table can easily be rewritten in a more conventional paragraph form even though it makes comparison between sites more difficult. Here is an example:

A to Z Teacher Stuff provides lesson plans for students across the entire grade range (pre-kindergarten through 12) and spectrum of subjects (16 of them). Subjects are conveniently accessed from a single web page requiring no navigation of a confusing topic hierarchy, but resulting in perhaps overly general headings. Lesson plans are located by using the search function based on keyword and/or grade level or by browsing first by subject and then by grade level (or the other way around). Results show a lesson plan title, helpful description, grade level, and rating. The lesson plans are contributed by users via a web form, which results in a standardized format, but widely varying quality. Some lesson plans are accessed via links to external sites and can therefore have unrelated formats. One very annoying aspect of the site is the advertising which "features" distracting animated gifs and even worse, popups. The present rating for this site is 0.500 resulting from one hit and one miss.

Source Name/Link	Ratio*	Hit	Miss	Grades	Site Description (search, browse, funding) and Lesson Plan Types (subjects, sources, grades)
A to Z Teacher Stuff	0.500	1	1	PK-12	Subjects: 16 on single level Search: grade level and keyword Browse: subject then grade level or vice versa, then title with description, grade, and rating Sources: user contributions via web form, links Funding: ads including animation and popups
Academy Curriculum Exchange	0.333	1	2	K-12	Subjects: 5 on single level (language, math, misc., science, social studies) Search: no Browse: subject and grade combined then title Sources: workshop, donation Funding: donations
Access Excellence	0.667	2	1	1-12	Subjects: mainly science Search: under Activities-To-Go by keyword or grade and subject combined, then title Browse: by format Sources: team, expert contributions Funding: government
ArtsEdge	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: mainly art Search: keyword or subject and grade combined then title and description Browse: some, maybe not all by sortable table Sources: hand collected Funding: foundation
Awesome Library	-	0	0	?	Subjects: 16 on level one then tree structure Search: seems to be full text Browse: tree then title with short description Sources: links Funding: ads
BrainPOP	-	0	0	?	Lessons plan page was being updated and unavailable for an excessive amount of time.

CanTeach	-	0	0	Prim.	Subjects: 14 on level one then tree structure Search: no Browse: tree then title with grade level Sources: users via web form Funding: individuals
CIESE	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: science and engineering Search: no Browse: type then combined title, description, grade level Sources: collaborations, institution Funding: educational institution
Columbia Education Center	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: 5 on one level (language arts, math, science, social studies, misc.) Search: no Browse: subject, grade, then descriptive title Sources: teacher contributions Funding: educational institution
Curriculum Archive	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: 12 on one level Search: combined grade, subject, title, author, objective, topic, body then title with ratings Browse: grade then title with ratings Sources: reviewed user submissions Funding: very annoying flashing ads
Discovery Channel	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: 20 in first of at least two levels Search: combined subject and grade range Browse: subject tree then grade and title Sources: edited contributions Funding: commercial without ads
Education World	-	0	0	?	Subjects: 31 in archive, but not really subjects Search: keyword, but not limited to lesson plan resources Browse: subject then title with description Sources: edited contributions Funding: abundant ads
Educator's Reference Desk	-	0	0	PK-12	Subjects: 13 in first of at least two levels Search: combined fields and grade Browse: subject tree then combined title and grade Sources: selected user contributions Funding: educational institution

EduHound	-	0	0	?	Subjects: 9 on one level Search: keyword and then sort by popularity Browse: subject then title with description and link to external site Sources: links Funding: ads
emTech	-	0	0	?	Subjects: 12 on one level Search: no Browse: one page of link titles Sources: links only Funding: partners
EvalUTech	-	0	0	?	Subjects: 4 (math, language arts, social studies, science) Search: broken Browse: subject then title and description of links Sources: links Funding: educational
Gateway	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: 12 useable only to refine a search Search: text, title, description, or keyword Browse: search, then title with description Sources: link directly to lesson on different site, web mining Funding: NEA
History Channel	-	0	0	?	Subjects: history Search: entire site Browse: one level to lesson plan Sources: spin off from programs Funding: commercial with some ads
Lesson Planet	-	0	0	PK-12	Subjects: 9 with subtopics Search: combined keyword, rating, and grade Browse: subject tree, then title, description, rating, and grade Sources: link directly to lesson on different site Funding: membership, bronze level is free
Lesson Plans 4 Teachers	-	0	0	?	Subjects: 19 Search: ineffective Browse: subject, then link to external site Sources: site links Funding: ads

Lesson Plans Page	-	0	0	PK-12	Subjects: 10 on one level Search: no Browse: subject, grade, then title Sources: user contributions via form Funding: ads including popups
Lesson Plan Search	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: 16 on first level then tree Search: text Browse: subject, then grade, and finally title with description and rank Sources: contributions Funding: ads
Library of Congress	-	0	0	Sec.	Subjects: 11, mostly history Search: no Browse: organized by topic, title, grade or title, grade, description, topic Sources: institution Funding: government
MarcoPolo	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: 12 major and then subfields Search: combined text, subject, and grade Browse: subject, subfield, then title with description and grade Sources: partners and links to lessons Funding: consortium, foundation
Math Forum	-	0	0	PK-12	Subjects: math Search: no Browse: grade, lesson plans, title with description, Sources: links to lessons, some local Funding: educational institution
McREL	-	0	0	?	Subjects: 13 with topics and subtopics Search: no Browse: subject, topic, subtopic, then title with source Sources: links Funding: educational research
Microsoft	-	0	0	5-12	Subjects: 30 themes Search: combined grade and theme then title and description Browse: no Sources: site Funding: software used in lessons

NASA	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: astronomy Search: under Quest, by combined title, topic, area, and grade level then list Browse: by topic Sources: institution Funding: government
National Geographic	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: geography, social studies Search: entire site Browse: grade, standard, then title Sources: institution Funding: commercial, ads
NYTimes	-	0	0	6-12	Subjects: 16 on single level Search: combined keyword, subject, grade Browse: subject then title with description and grade Sources: institution and collaborators Funding: commercial
PBS	-	0	0	PK-12	Subjects: 7 on first level then topics as part of search Search: combined keyword, subject, and grade then title with description and grade Browse: subject then combines with search Sources: institution Funding: viewers, government
Read Write Think	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: language arts Search: combined grade, topic, subtopic then sortable title with abstract, grade, and date Browse: no Sources: institution Funding: foundations
Reading A-Z	-	0	0	?	Subjects: reading Search: ? Browse: ? Sources: ? Funding: memberships

RetaNet	-	0	0	6-12	Subjects: 11 with emphasis on Hispanic social studies and language arts Search: combined keyword and topic then title Browse: single level Sources: reviewed teacher contributions Funding: educational institution
Scholastic	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: 5 (language arts, social studies, math, science, other) with topics Search: combined subject, topic, grade then title with description and grade Browse: subject, topic, subtopic, then type with title, grade, and description Sources: institution Funding: commercial
Science Friday	-	0	0	?	Subjects: science Search: no Browse: topic then title Sources: institution Funding: listeners, government
SCORE	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: language arts Search: no Browse: grade, then title with author Sources: teacher contributions Funding: government
Sites for Teachers	-	0	0	?	Subjects: ? Search: entire site by keyword, then search with browser for "lesson plan" Browse: rank with title and description Sources: contributed links Funding: ads
TeachNet	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: 13 in first level then tree of topics Search: keyword Browse: subject, topic, Sources: user contributions via form Funding: ads
Teacher Created Resources	-	0	0	1-8	Subjects: 4 (science, language arts, math, social studies) Search: no, use browser search Browse: subject, grade, title on single page Sources: institution Funding: commercial, related products

teachers.net	-	0	0	PK-12	Subjects: 18 Search: keyword then title Browse: subject then title with author Sources: user submissions via web form Funding: ads
teachers network	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: 17 on one level, 10 emphasized Search: combined subject and grade then title Browse: subject then combined grade and title Sources: teachers Funding: foundation
TeacherVision	-	0	0	?	Subjects: 7 subjects, 31 topics Search: combined keyword, topic, grade then Browse: topic, sub-topic, then title with grade and description Sources: ? Funding: ads with popups and flash, memberships (7 days free)
TUSD Lesson Plan Book	-	0	0	K-12	Subjects: templates only Search: no Browse: no Sources: institution Funding: government
Using English	-	0	0	?	Subjects: ESL Search: entire site by keyword Browse: level and title Sources: contributors Funding: ads

*Ratio is hit/(hit+miss).