

Catalog of interactive multimedia resources and materials

Resource	+	Usage	Source	Notes*
General – link collections very similar to this one that students can use				
Blue Web'n	W	This is a collection of blue ribbon learning sites on the web with high quality links including summaries, ratings, and dates for all subjects. Use this to track down primary sources.	http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn/	Real people have been here and it looks trustworthy.
BrainPOP	W	These are visually appealing Flash animations on lots of topics, some of which are free. Use it to introduce or reinforce material otherwise covered in a more mundane manner.	http://www.brainpop.com/	Has won about 15 awards. Free content may be slow to load.
Busy Teachers' WebSite	W	This has links to other web sites under lots of subject headings including exhibits, lesson plans, activities, and games. Check here for recommendations before going to Google.	http://www.ceismc.gatech.edu/busyt/	Links are high quality, but alphabetical, and the subject list is detailed. It isn't just general science.
Education Index	W	This is another collection of links, some broken, some commercial, but with descriptions. Use the site to find primary sources.	http://educationindex.com/	This one contains some unusual subject headings.
Education World	W	The site includes an interesting lesson of the day, teacher submitted lesson plans, and complete web quests. Adapt them. Read about school issues.	http://www.education-world.com/	The animated GIF ads are very distracting.
EduHound	W	Like they say, they've tracked it down so you don't have to. Look here when you need to track something down.	http://www.eduhound.com/	The page transitions are distracting and navigation needs improvement.
EduPuppy	W	This site specializes in links up to about third grade. If teaching a higher grade, use it for reteaching or remedial materials.	http://edupuppy.com/	This site has won about 20 awards.
Emerging Technologies	W	A huge collection (15,000) of links to other resources is collected here. It includes gateway to kids search engines. Start searches here.	http://www.emtech.net/	Some pages haven't been updated for a year. No descriptions or ratings.
Encyclopedic software	S	The classroom is more likely to have the software than the hard copy and the library is far away. Use it as a primary source or to browse for topics of interest for further research. Examples are Encarta, Encyclopedia Britannica. Use foreign language version in language classes.	http://www.microsoft.com/products/encarta http://www.britannica.com/	Encarta has a Parents' Choice award. Britannica has won more than 20 industry awards from teachers, librarians & publishers.
FirstGov forKids	W	Most links are to government web sites, but at least those will be rated G. Lots of NCLB information is included. Use it especially for social studies.	http://kids.gov/	Watch for bias.

Great Web Sites for Kids	W	This is a collection of links to sites recommended by the American Library Association and arranged by subject and age level. Use links in web quest or scavenger hunt.	http://www.ala.org/greatsites	Librarians have been busy.
Inspiration web site	W	Check here for examples of visual learning, but probably use other software to do the drawing	http://www.inspiration.com	Purports to meet NCLB requirements.
Kathy Schrock	W	This includes materials for students and teachers from a trusted source. Link count is manageable with Schrock awards are noted. Find the best site fastest.	http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/	Performance Bike is included for some reason. Sports are listed.
KidsClick	W	This is another set put together by librarians. Search and surfing is safe. Let kids look around for interesting topics to report on.	http://sunsite3.berkeley.edu/KidsClick/	This could be my future babysitter.
Learning Page	W	Get a classroom free membership. The clipart looks good. Generate custom vocabulary lessons and borrow from their worksheets.	http://www.learningpage.com/	Requires free membership
Marco Polo	W	Calls itself "internet content for the classroom" and includes lots of complete lesson plans connected to a search engine. Check here for content ideas for nearly any subject.	http://www.marcopolo-education.org/	Some content requires free registration, including the how to use document. Register and read it.
News sites	W	Review radio, television, and print media for current issues that can be integrated into the classroom as they happen. The web version is quicker than the live presentations. Also have one student report on current events each day.	http://www.npr.org/ http://www.cnn.com/ http://www.nytimes.com/ http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/	Newswire monitor is just one of the many special classroom roles I have planned.
Theme Pages	W	This includes good ideas for writing prompts. The site is designed for distance learning. Pages have good overview of a topic and then links to other sites. Students can use this directly.	http://www.cdli.ca/CITE/themes.html?	Background images are very nice.
Search – either kid safe or kid oriented				
Ask Jeeves Kids	W	This is a safe search engine for kids. They can use it on a scavenger hunt, for example.	http://ajkids.com/	The natural language query will be interesting.
Tek Mom	W	This is another Google replacement that also offers subject specific searches of more specialized databases. Have kids start here on treasure hunts.	http://tekmom.com/search/	The site has won kudos from several organizations.
Yahooligans	W	This is a safe search engine for kids that could be used to track down useful information from which to build a web quest.	http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/	Recommended by instructor. Includes some self-contained content without links to outside sites.
Art				
Create Together	S	This is a multimedia authoring tool for kids that includes a programming language. Use in a manner similar to Inspiration, but with more interaction.	http://www.bytesoflearning.com/english/view/59	It's a little expensive.

Louvre	W	Take a virtual field trip. There is a great presentation about the Mona Lisa. A recent movie should make it even more interesting.	http://www.louvre.fr/louvre.htm	Not too much of the web site seems dedicated to educational materials.
Smithsonian	W	The art exhibit has lots of Flash slides and there is a special link for kids including some idea labs and an interesting art mystery.	http://www.si.edu/	There are museums other than art, of course.
Language Arts				
ePALS	W	Use to correspond with other classrooms like pen pals, especially internationally, with supervision.	http://www.epals.com/	Individual accounts look too expensive.
Kids Reads	W	Check here for reviews of books that kids are interested in and background information on books that the whole class reads together. Especially note the podcasts of interviews with authors.	http://www.kidsreads.com/	This site has great graphics.
My Reading Coach	S	One program can isolate specific phonemic awareness problems. Others are just for practice. Try it especially on kids who seem to be behind.	http://www.mindplay.com/	This software is produced locally in Tucson, so it might be customized. They have other titles as well.
Reader Rabbit	S	Use for drills. Let people check it out and use after school, during recess, or at home.	http://www.learningcompany.com	Used copies of the software have been seen at Bookmans.
Math				
Math/phonics Companion	S	Create quick worksheets for math and phonics.	http://www.mythicwave.com/	Software and site are dated. Demo version not apparent.
Math Forum	W	Use the challenging puzzles that will get kids to think outside the box. It also includes teacher to teacher connections for advice on how to teach topics. Includes Ask Dr. Math for kids to use.	http://mathforum.org/	There are probably math teacher newsgroups for some of this.
Geometer's Sketchpad	S	Use it to allow kids more direct manipulation of equations and ability to experiment. Make the math come alive.	http://www.learningcompany.com	The demo looks impressive and it's much cheaper than Mathematica. UK math might be different.
Riverdeep	S	The company offers all sorts of educational software grouped by age and subject. Especially interesting is the critical thinking category that includes Galactic Brain Benders. Logal Science has also been recommended. Many titles can be used for drills, but may also include good teaching tips for specific skills.	http://www.riverdeep.com	The PDF catalog gives lots more information on specific titles.
Science				
Biomes and Natural Cycles	S	This is similar to SimEarth, but is not a simulation. Use it to teach the cycles in a more lively manner.	http://isacsoft.cogniscienceinc.com/en/biomes-e-description.html	The same company offers other software, but this one was named in the textbook.

Flandrau Science Center	L	Use the planetarium program to reinforce astronomy unit, the mineral exhibit at the end of geology, and museum for hands on exploration to see what the kids are interested in.	http://www.flandrau.org/	Kids like this.
Maxis simulation software	S	SimEarth for climate and evolution issues. SimCity for transportation, maps, and systems. SimFarm for plant and animal biology. SimCoaster for physics. Play team against team with different roles within teams.	http://www.maxis.com	Many of these seem to be out of print.
NASA	W	Check the kids and students web pages and use this to build web quests. Check here for any astronomy information, especially movies and background for current events.	http://www.nasa.gov	The site has great graphics. We paid for them.
Physics Bus	L	It includes audio, motion, explosions, lasers, etc. and can be performed live. Invite the bus to the school or give extra credit for attending a Physics Phun Nite.	http://www.physicsbus.com/	I have attended the Phun Nite with children and the bus has visited schools of kids I know. Kids were pleased and excited.
SAHRA	W	The organization provides good information on local water issues. Consider making this a science unit with emphasis on Tucson.	http://www.sahra.arizona.edu/education/	This is a local group. Get word of mouth reviews.
SAMEC	L	Track local science events for both teachers and students. Have teacher attend, do a class field trip, or offer individual extra credit.	http://samec.lpl.arizona.edu/	This is a local group. Get word of mouth reviews.
Science Friday	B	This includes science material especially tailored to kids while the live broadcast is more for adults. Use the kids' connection for content. Do listen live as an exercise.	http://www.sciencefriday.com/	I listen as often as possible.
Social Studies				
Ben's Guide	W	The site explains US government for different age levels. Ben is Benjamin Franklin. Use this as the first of many sources to supplement textbook.	http://bensguide.gpo.gov/	Watch for bias.
Carmen Sandiego	S	This might be best as some kind of reward. The teacher should know what it's about and refer to the software during the geography lesson.	http://www.learningcompany.com/	This software is getting dated.
Mobility	S	This is urban planning software that would be part of a larger project including economics, math, social studies, government and more.	http://www.mobility-online.de/	Won numerous awards and has page for school materials on web site.
National Geographic	W	The kids site is fairly basic. Try the GeoBee and check for games related to current unit.	http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/	No topless pictures here.
Google maps	W	As often as possible we will look at a satellite photo of a location and explore its surroundings.	http://maps.google.com/	This should make geography more real.

Teaching – sites more for the teacher than the student				
AskERIC	W	The site provides access to a database of educational literature including full text to articles. No membership or fees are required. Check it for other educators' opinions on the best way to teach or explore a topic.	http://www.eric.ed.gov/	The thesaurus is a good browser through a hierarchical collection of categories. AskERIC is included in our technology textbook.
Awesome Library	W	This is a well organized library of links to educational materials. Check here for lesson plans, background information, and links for use in WebQuests.	http://www.awesomelibrary.org/	Some links are stale and there is advertising, but no pop-ups. Information is available in multiple languages.
Educator's Reference Desk	W	The site includes links to lesson plans, alternative assessment methods, learning theories, peer education, etc. Check this for a head start at a lesson.	http://www.eduref.org	The question archives are useful, especially to new teachers.
Evalutech	W	Look for reviews of educational software here before buying.	http://www.evalutech.sreb.org/	They admit too much eLearning software to evaluate.
Filamentality	W	This is a web interface to building things like link collections, treasure hunts, and web quests. It is a custom web page builder with some server space. Let kids use it if the school is not able to provide the service or if teacher can't build web pages.	http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/	A more general solution is a wiki.
Gateway to Educational Materials	W	Site contains links to educational materials. Search by topic then choose grade level or drill down to what looks like primary sources for use in planning a lesson.	http://www.thegateway.org/	This site attempts to be a digital library. It uses Dublin Core metadata.
Sites for Teachers	W	This is another list of links. They have short descriptions composed by whoever added the link. Use this to check ratings of pages already found elsewhere.	http://www.sitesforteachers.com/	Links are rated by popularity in this one, but it seems that anyone can add links.
Teachers Count	W	Monitor this site for all sorts of teaching tips. There are book reviews. Use them to recommend books that specifically match a student's interests.	http://www.teacherscount.org/	This site is probably good for a pep talk when no human is available.
TechLearning	W	The teacher should read this periodically to keep up with technology advances.	http://www.techlearning.com/	Information includes social software tools like blogs, wikis, RSS, podcasting, social bookmarking, and Flickr.
WebWhacker	S	Use this to download web sites to the local hard drive, check for broken links, grab the large movie files, and watch for updated content.	http://www.bluesquirrel.com/products/webwhacker/	There are probably free programs now that do the same thing.

Wiki	S	I like PmWiki the best. Just put it on the web server and let the kids create their own web pages via the web interface. The teacher can have a separate installation for documentation of things like class procedures.	http://www.pmwiki.org/	This is the fastest way for kids to see online results.
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+ W for web site, S for software, L for live performance, B for broadcast

*Suggested notes include reviews, field tests, and awards. In general just check Google for this kind of information online.