Internet Resources for Children & Teens By Blythe Bennett

ere teachers, parents, and students in grades 3-12 will find some of the best educational Web sites for use during the 2002/2003 school year and beyond. Each annual ERIC Web Links, published every September, describes and links to over 50 additional sites, covering not only the core curriculum of math, science, language arts, and history/social studies, but also art, health, music, and more. Last school year the Scout Report recommended ERIC Web Links 2001/ 2002: Internet Resources for Children, hundreds of schools and public libraries linked to it from their own Web sites, and tens of thousands of teachers. parents, and students from across the country used it.

ERIC Web Links are available at www.ericit.org in both an html version, with links, and a pdf version for ease in printing and photocopying. All ERIC publications are in the public domain and may be freely reproduced and disseminated.

Art

- ► National Museum of African Art Exhibits house collections of paintings, currency, masks, ceramics, everyday household objects, and furniture. www.si.edu/nmafa
- ► Art Safari
 An interactive adventure for analyzing and writing about famous works of art.

 artsafari.moma.org

Health

► The Pizza Explorer

Food chemistry, food processing,
nutrition, and health benefits of pizza's
ingredients.

www.efph.purdue.edu/pizza

► TEAM Nutrition

Learn to make healthy food and physical activity choices, including healthy eating at school, plus nutrition-related activities for the whole family. www.fns.usda.gov/tn

► USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference

Contains data for over 6,200 foods and 82 nutrients such as minerals, vitamins, lipids, and amino acids. www.nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/Data

- ➤ National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
 World's largest resource for current information and materials concerning substance abuse.

 www.health.org/features/kidsarea/kidsarea.htm
- ► National Institute of Mental Health: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Provides information on mental illnesses in children, mild to severe, including learning disabilities, clinical depression, eating disorders, autism, and suicide. www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/ childmenu.cfm

► Atlas of the Body
Everyday health information for everyone.
Illustrations of the nervous, circulatory,
digestive, endocrine, reproductive,
skeletal, muscular, lymphatic, respiratory,
and urinary systems.
www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/
category/7140.html

History/Social Studies

- ▶ Perseus Project Provides an atlas, encyclopedia, dictionaries, and introductory essays on ancient Greek and Roman life. www.perseus.tufts.edu
- ▶ Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids
 Information about the United States government, including government symbols, three branches of the government, and a glossary.

 bensquide.gpo.gov
- ➤ Statistical Abstract of the United States

A collection of statistics on social, political, and economic conditions in the U.S. www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-us.html

▶ U.S. Census Bureau--Kids' Corner Teaches about the census, facts about the states, and why it is important to participate in the census. factfinder.census.gov/home/en/kids/ kids.html

History/Social Studies cont.

- ► We Shall Overcome: Historic Places of the Civil Rights Movement An itinerary of 49 historic places of the civil rights movement from the National Park Service. www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/civilrights
- ► Explore Your Family History at Ellis Island Search the database of millions of immigrant arrival records and view a timeline of major immigration events. www.ellisislandrecords.org
- ➤ Go West Across America with Lewis & Clark

An interactive, choose-your-own-adventure style of story traveling with Lewis, Clark and their crew in 1804. www.nationalgeographic.com/west/main.html

► MapMachine

Provides an atlas, maps, flags, facts and a tutorial on cartography. www.nationalgeographic.com/maps

► America's Library

A timeline from the colonial period to modern time, as well as information about each state from the Library of Congress. www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi

► Avalon Project

Primary source materials in the fields of law, history, economics, politics, diplomacy and government. www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm

- ► Biography of America
 Topics ranging from New World
 Encounters to Contemporary U.S. History.
 www.learner.org/biographyofamerica
- ► Camp Life: Civil War Collections from Gettysburg
 Highlights the common, everyday items that Civil War soldiers used off the battleground.

 www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/
 gettex/live1.htm

► Learning Resources from Colonial Williamsburg

Virtual trips address slavery, courts, and transportation during the colonial era. www.history.org/teach

- ► The National Women's Hall of Fame Read biographies of famous American women and learn about women's suffrage and women's rights. www.greatwomen.org
- ► Ancient Egypt from the British Museum

Explore Ancient Egyptian life, gods and goddesses, mummification, pyramids, trade, temples and writing. www.ancientegypt.co.uk/menu.html

▶ Infonation

Up-to-date statistical information for each country in the United Nations. www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/infonation/e_infonation.htm

- ► The Middle Ages
 - Explains feudal life, religion, homes, clothing, health, arts and entertainment, and town life. www.learner.org/exhibits/middleages
- ► United States Holocaust Museum Online exhibitions, educational materials and resources on Holocaust issues. www.ushmm.org

Language Arts

▶ BookHive

A guide to children's books for PreK through 12 years, with hundreds of book reviews in different reading levels and interest areas. www.bookhive.org

 Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee

Explore word elements and learn various ways to study and practice spelling. www.spellingbee.com

► Traditional Grammar: An Interactive Book

An introduction to the basic syntactic structure of Modern English and the most common errors in formal writing. www.niu.edu/english/deh/grammarbook/title.html

- ▶ Big Dog's Guide to Grammar: A Bare Bones Guide to English
 An advanced grammar site for older students, a quick guide to the MLA guidelines for proper citations, and information on how to avoid plagiarism. aliscot.com/bigdog
- ► The Building Blocks of Language Introduces the eight parts of speech, with clear definitions and examples. www.learn.co.uk/ default.asp?WCl=Unit&WCU=415
- ► Online Writing Lab (OWL) from Perdue University Over one hundred "handouts" on topics related to the writing process. owl.english.purdue.edu
- ► HandSpeak!

A visual sign language dictionary of keywords and short video files that demonstrate the movement of each sign. www.handspeak.com

▶ Verbix

Conjugate regular and irregular verbs in modern and extinct languages in all tenses. www.verbix.com

▶ Braille Bug

Designed to teach sighted children about Braille. www.afb.org/braillebug

Math

- ► Maths Thesaurus

 Over 4000 definitions of mathematical concepts, with cross-references.

 thesaurus.maths.org
- ➤ Figure This! Math Challenges for Families

 Math's everyday applications related to health, transportation, and food.

www.figurethis.org

Math cont.

▶ Math in Daily Life

Introduces students to the multiple applications of math in everyday life including cooking, finance, and population growth. www.learner.org/exhibits/dailymath

▶ Powers of Ten

A visual journey of 42 powers of ten, from as large as the universe to quarks within a proton.

www.wordwizz.com/pwrsof10.htm

► Zillions--Consumer Reports for Kids Consumer math and consumer education including allowance, savings, and spending habits. www.zillions.org

► Convert It!

Common units of length, volume, and area as well as less familiar energy/work, pressure, and power units. www.microimg.com/science

► MathWorld

Interactive mathematics encyclopedia and recreational mathematics topics. mathworld.wolfram.com

► Aunty Math

Challenging math problems in story form for K-3 students. www.auntymath.com

► Math Stories

Applies math skills to hundreds of word problems and encourages critical thinking

www.mathstories.com

▶ Purple Math

Algebra modules on over fifty topics; includes math homework guidelines. www.purplemath.com/index.htm

Media/Information Literacy

► TILT Texas Information Literacy **Tutorial**

A tutorial focusing on fundamental research skills and information literacy skills.

tilt.lib.utsystem.edu

► Graphic Organizers

Provides guidance in using different types of graphic organizers: webs, concept maps, matrices, and flow charts for various purposes. www.graphic.org

► KidsClick Worlds of Searching Provides help in learning to navigate the Web in an efficient way. www.worldsofsearching.org

Music

▶ Essentials of Music

A basic education in classical music, providing a glossary of musical terms, biographies, and audio clips. www.essentialsofmusic.com

▶ Lift Every Voice: Music in American

Ballads, hymns, spirituals, patriotic odes, minstrels, musicals, and protest songs that reflect music in American life. www.lib.virginia.edu/speccol/exhibits/ music

► Melbourne Symphony Encounter --From Silence to Symphony

Provides a visual and aural stimulus to assist in exploring the various facets of a symphony orchestra. www.mso.com.au/edu/front.html

Science

▶ Animal Diversity Web

An online database of animal natural history, distribution, classification, and conservation biology. animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu

► Froguts

A virtual frog dissection allows students to make "incisions" and investigate the frog's circulatory, respiratory, digestive, skeletal, nervous, and other systems. www.froguts.com

► Monterey Bay Aquarium Explore kelp forest, reefs, estuaries, rocky shores and open water habitats. www.mbayaq.org

- ▶ Dig This! The Cretaceous Period Explore the earth, seas and air, and creatures from the Cretaceous period. www.museevirtuel.ca/Exhibitions/ Dinos/English/home/home.html
- ▶ Museum of Paleontology The Geologic Time Machine highlights dinosaurs, plants, animals, and other prehistoric organisms. www.ucmp.berkeley.edu

▶ My Body

Covers major body systems, including digestive, muscular, respiratory, and skeletal.

kidshealth.org/kid/body/mybody.html

▶ DNA: The Instruction Manual for All Life

Provides an interactive exhibit about DNA and the implications of genetic engineering.

www.thetech.org/exhibits_events/ online/genome

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Blythe Bennett is Virtual Reference Desk (VRD) Coordinator at the Information Institute of Syracuse, Syracuse University, where she manages a network of collaborating Question-and-Answer services and a team of volunteer librarians to answer K-12+ questions. Before joining the VRD project, she coordinated the KidsConnect project, an Internet-based O&A service for K-12 students, taught both high school Spanish and sixth grade, and served as an elementary school librarian. She recommends educational Web sites for PBS TeacherSource and Web Feet.

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