
Fun things to do on the Internet

1. How can the Internet be 'fun'?

The Internet is full of fun and exciting projects in which students and teachers from across the world can become involved.

There is a wealth of information; research and professional communities that exist in cyberspace to support you in the work you do as educators.

The question is where do I start?

Activity 6.1: Pre-planning

In this module, we are going to present you with a wide range of ideas and options that you may choose to follow.

But, like any good planning, it's good to spend a few minutes outlining the areas you may be interested in. Decide what topics, themes and key questions you want information on. What research or professional communities and opportunities do you hope to find?

In this activity, spend **5 to 10 minutes** on your own, brainstorming interest areas that appeal to you. The work you do now will provide you with some direction later in for the self-paced portion of this workshop.

1. Here are some of the topics, themes, subject areas and key questions

I am interested in as a teacher:

2. In terms of projects, online professional communities or research,

I would like to find out more about:

2. Online Collaborative Projects (OCPs)

The Internet is a great environment in which to foster global collaboration on projects that teachers and students find interesting.

The tyranny of distance no longer applies in the online world and students can become involved in exciting activities around the world.

Online Collaborative Projects (OCPs), otherwise known as Global Classroom Projects, link learners from across the globe in meaningful, Web-based work. These also can become international communities of sharing for teachers.

OCPs exist on any teaching and learning topic you could imagine! From sharing stories about teddy bears to the tracking a Mars space probe, OCPs present teachers and learners with unique and authentic opportunities to go beyond the walls of the classroom.

If you want to know more about global classroom collaborative projects, check out these resources:

The Global Schoolhouse Collaborative Learning Projects Registry

http://www.gsn.org/pr/_cfm/index.cfm

Web Tools Newsletters

<http://Webtools.cityu.edu.hk/news/newslett/interschool.htm>

I*EARN – International Education and Resource Network

<http://www.iearn.org>

Oz Projects

<http://ozprojects.edna.edu.au>

Global Classroom Project

<http://www.sofWeb.vic.edu.au/gc>

Teacher's Guide to International Collaboration on the Internet

<http://www.ed.gov/Technology/guide/international/index.html>

Working the Web for Education

<http://www.ozline.com/learning/theory.html>

Online teaching and learning ideas – for higher order / higher level thinking

www.Web-and-flow.com

3. Useful Educational Sites

Most education systems around the world have unique online education 'portals' or gateways to education-specific content.

Here, you are able to search high-quality, educationally relevant resources for use in your classroom.

Some examples:

BECTA – British Educational Communications and Technology Agency

<http://www.becta.org.uk/index.cfm>

Europe's eSchoolnet

http://eschoolnet.eun.org/eun.org2/eun/en/index_eschoolnet.cfm

EdNA Online – Education Network Australia

<http://www.edna.edu.au/index.html>

SOFWeb (Schools of the Future – Australia)

<http://www.sofWeb.vic.edu.au>

U.S. Department of Education – Education Resources

<http://www.ed.gov/topics/topics.jsp?&top=Education+Resources>

4. Online Educational Publications

As you browse the Web and find educational sites that look useful, consider subscribing to online newsletters or ‘e-zines.’ These are sent out regularly to share up-to-date and highly innovative educational information.

Here are some to start with:

From Now On

<http://www.fno.org>

A useful, regular and often stimulating insight into education and learning technologies / IT / ICT (information and communications technology), edited by internationally renowned educator, Jamie McKenzie.

Virtual Teacher

<http://www.virtualteacher.com.au>

A biweekly online newsletter edited by Australian educator Cathy Brown highlighting great educational Web sites, exciting projects and troubleshooting issues for teachers.

ASCD Smartbriefs

<http://www.ascd.org>

The American Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development publishes Smartbriefs, a news service on salient educational issues. While the focus is mainly on the US, there are insights into educational hot topics from many other countries.

BECTA ICT Research Network

<http://www.becta.org.uk/research/index.cfm>

Sharing information from educators around the world, this network distributes access to the latest research into ICT, teaching and learning.

The Educators Network

<http://www.globeteacher.com>

Highlights current issues in education – mainly in the US.

5. Hot lists

Hot lists are online lists of sites that students can use on an assignment. These lists save students time searching the Internet. Hot lists can provide them with a single page that has links to sites the teacher wants them to use. These sites are placed in categories for easy access.

Here are some examples:

Researching the World!

<http://www.Web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/research/hotlist.htm>

World War One

<http://www.Web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/nationaldays/hotlist.htm>

The French Revolution

http://www.Web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/french_rev/hotlist.htm

For more information on educational hotlists, go to:

The Franklin Institute Online

<http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/hotlists/hotlists.html>

Hotlists and Webquests

<http://edWeb.sdsu.edu/courses/EDTEC596/Project2/Project2Index.html>

College of Education Web Links

<http://edWeb.sdsu.edu/links>

6. WebQuests

WebQuests are problem-solving activities for students in which most or all of the information used is drawn from the Web. In the end, students share what they have learned and develop a group response to the initial question.

Some examples:

Best Webquests

<http://www.bestWebquests.com>

I Want My Mummy!

<http://home.cfl.rr.com/mrshebert/Mummy/index.htm>

7. Fun things with online Science

The TryScience Web site <http://www.tryscience.org> provides a rich array of online and offline science activities and resources for students aged from 10 to 15. Spend a few minutes navigating around the site to see what it offers.

Activity 6.2: Conduct an online experiment

Now try some of the online activities. They are very challenging.

Suspect Sketcher

[http://www.tryscience.org/fieldtrips/
fieldtrip_shockwave.html?technopolis_sketch](http://www.tryscience.org/fieldtrips/fieldtrip_shockwave.html?technopolis_sketch)

Can you identify the suspect in this online science interactive? If you get a perfect match you should consider a career. Good luck!

Name that Plane

[http://www.tryscience.org/fieldtrips/
fieldtrip_shockwave.html?omsi_buildplane](http://www.tryscience.org/fieldtrips/fieldtrip_shockwave.html?omsi_buildplane)

Are you good at making paper planes? Try this online interactive on the TryScience Web site to test your engineering skills and play ‘Name that Plane.’ Good luck!

8. Your turn

You've been taken through some fabulous educational resources, which you could readily use in your classroom.

Activity 6.3: Find it for yourself

It is now time to surf the Internet, use search engines if you'd like (to help you find more resources than those outlined here), and find a few ideas for use in your classroom next week. As you go, jot down the details below so you can return to the sites as you plan your next class:

Topic/area of interest:

URLs:

Notes/comments:

Actions – what am I going to do next in my class:

End session!