

KIDS: PROGRAMMING RESOURCES, LESSON PLANS and IDEAS:

IMPORTANT NOTE: Many great and extremely useful Internet sites for Kids are noted in the Emporia State University (Kansas) site: <http://ejw.i8.com/kids.html>

The overall site (also extremely useful, especially for students,) is at <http://ejw.i8.com>

Cool Site for Kids to explain USG Branches

http://www.congressforkids.net/games/threebranches/2_threebranches.htm

The Top 10 **Search Engines** for Kids:

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/10-search-engines-kids-parents-safe-browsing/>

3 places to find free Audio Books for Kids:

3 Places to Find Online Children's Audio Books



MeeGenius is a great source of free and paid ebooks for kids. There are lots of sites that offer the same thing as MeeGenius but MeeGenius distinguishes itself with one excellent feature. That feature is automatic word highlighting to accompany the narration of each book. When children open the ebooks online, on an Android tablet, or on an iPad, they can choose to have the story read to them or to read the story on their own. When the story is read to them each word in the story is highlighted on the page. Children can then follow along with the story: <http://meegenius.com/store/books/free/>

The Woodlands Junior School is a school website based in the UK.: they also have a useful collection of links to free online talking storybooks.

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/onlinestory.htm>

Magic Keys is another site with a good collection of talking picture books for children. Use it to find storybooks for your students rather than sending your students to the site on their own, as the site is a bit difficult to navigate: www.magickeys.com/books/

MORE SEARCH ENGINES FOR KIDS:



Sweet Search is a search engine that searches only the sites that have been reviewed and approved by a team of librarians, teachers, and research experts. In all there are 35,000 websites that have been reviewed and approved by Sweet Search. In addition to the general search engine, Sweet Search offers five niche search engines. The niche search engines are for Social Studies, Biographies, SweetSites (organized by grade and subject area), School Librarians, and Sweet Search 4 Me (for elementary school students). <http://www.sweetsearch.com/>



KidRex is a new kid-safe search engine powered by Google custom search. KidRex uses a combination of Google's safe search mode and their own database of filtered keywords, phrases, and websites. In the event that a questionable website does get past the filters, KidRex has a site removal request form. <http://www.kidrex.org/>



Famhoo is another option for kid friendly searches. Famhoo draws on the collective results of the major search mainstream search engines like Google, AOL, and Yahoo. Famhoo simply provides a stricter family filter than the filters available on mainstream search engines. <http://www.famhoo.com/>



Ask Kids is the kid friendly, kid safe version of the popular search engine Ask.com. Ask Kids is divided into five categories of which one is a general search option. The five categories are School House, movies, games, images, and video. The School House category provides students with suggested topics and links to resources for those topics. The School House also serves as a general search tool. In the other search categories Ask Kids makes suggestions for search refinement. A great aspect of the search results that Ask Kids provides is the option to refine searches based on a student's age. <http://www.askkids.com/>

The ALA [The American Library Association] MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KID WEB SITES, 2011: THE TOP WEB SITES FOR KIDS THAT ARE KID FRIENDLY AND SAFE:

Exceptional Websites for Children: <http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/ala/alsc-announces-exceptional-websites-children>

ALA's Great Web Sites for Kids: American Library Association <http://www.ala.org/greatsites> (updated for 2012)

Also from ALA:

Great Sites for Kids: **Every Child Ready to Read:** Success Stories and Ideas: (includes Handouts)
http://wikis.ala.org/ecrr/index.php/Main_Page

CHILDHOOD LITERACY: INFORMATION LITERACY and KID SITES:

ALA has several resources that address teaching students how to evaluate media sources. AASL offers [KCTools](#), which is a research toolbox for students. Information literacy also covers the concept of critically evaluating information.

The ALA Library has gathered resources about [information literacy](#) and [teens and young adults](#). (Includes programming ideas for these groups as well)

AASL also has a [blog](#) and a [wiki](#) which address *Essential Links: Resources for School Library Program Development*

Also, ACRL has a section dedicated to [information literacy for college-age students](#). From the [ALA Professional Tips wiki](#).

USG SITE: <http://www.kids.gov>

Covers the grades K through 8 and has a separate Tab for Educators with Lesson Plans.

Includes the following Hot Topics:

- [Government](#)
- [American History](#)
- [Earth Science Environment](#)
- [Games and Activities](#)
- [State Websites](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Social Studies](#)
- [Money](#)

Libraries: International Children's Digital Library: a Library for the World's Children

<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

From the Website's **Fast Facts** section:

- The ICDL has been visited by **over three million** unique visitors since the launch in November, 2002.
- The ICDL collection includes **4446** books in **54** languages, including Farsi, Finnish and Mongolian.
- ICDL is now free on iTunes: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/icdl-free-books-for-children/id363731638?mt=8> ICDL is making its books available for free from iTunes.

- **CHILDREN's LIBRARY:** The books reflect children's literature from around the world.

<http://www.archive.org/details/iac>

Drawing on materials from the New York Public Library, the National Yiddish Book Center, and the University of California Libraries, the Internet Archive has created this trove of digitized children's books. Currently, there are over 2,700 books available here and they include works like "Infant's cabinet of birds & beasts" from 1820 and "What the Moon Saw: And Other Tales" from 1866. On the left side of the page, visitors can take a look at the "Spotlight Item" and there is a tag cloud available here as well. Those persons looking for the most popular items can view the "Most Downloaded Items Last Week". Not surprisingly, some of these items include "Pinocchio" and "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." Visitors are also welcome to receive updates from their forum here, and they can also chime in with their own questions.

Story Telling:

Story Cove - A World of Cultural Stories



[Story Cove](#) is a free service that hosts audio and video stories based on folktales from a variety of places and cultures. In all there are twenty-five stories hosted on [Story Cove](#). The stories are divided by their continent of origin. Each story is intended to convey a lesson on culture and society. The stories can be watched as videos or listened to as audio-only recordings. [Story Cove](#) provides a nice selection of lesson plans to accompany each of the stories in its collection. The lesson plans are in PDF form and include handouts for students. **The lesson plans are categorized by story and by grade level, pre-K through grade 3.** [Story Cove](#) also provides printable activities like mazes and word searches to accompany each story. [Story Cove](#) could be a good resource for early childhood and elementary school teachers. Through the videos and audio recordings the stories are accessible to students even if they cannot yet read on their own.

Here are some related resources that may be of interest to you:

[Word Ahead Vocabulary Videos](#) and [WeboWord - Vocabulary Visualized](#)

EcoKids - Environmental Science Games &Activities



EcoKids <http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/index.cfm> provides free resources for teaching and learning about topics in environmental science. The resources designed for teachers require registration, but the resources for students can be accessed without registration. The [games and activities section](http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/games_activities/index.cfm) http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/games_activities/index.cfm for kids offers dozens of online games across eight categories. Within each of the eight categories the games and activities are again categorized according to age appropriateness. The [eight games and activities categories](http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/games_activities/index.cfm) http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/games_activities/index.cfm are: wildlife, climate change, energy, water, waste, land use, the North, and First Nations & Inuit.

More GAMES and PUZZLES:

Lesson Plans and Fun Games for Children K through 5:

<http://www.freetech4teachers.com/2009/08/abcya-fun-educational-games-for-k-5.html>

[Chess Kid - Online Chess Games and Lessons](#)



There are plenty of places to play chess online. There aren't, however, a lot of chess sites designed for kids that are as well designed as [ChessKid](#)

[ChessKid](#) has the word "learn" prominent on the site. [ChessKid](#) offers some free video lessons for first time chess players. Of course kids can play games on [ChessKid](#). Games can be played alone or against other kids in the [ChessKid](#) network.

To preserve privacy [ChessKid](#) only allows players to use predefined avatars and predefined, randomly generated usernames. This makes it impossible for kids to accidentally display their real names in any games.

Learning Games for Kids http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/math_games.html offers games for mathematics as well as many other content areas. Most of the games on [Learning Games for Kids](http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/math_games.html) http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/math_games.html can be played directly on the website although some do link out to other sources.

The [**Grammar Practice Park**](#)

http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/preview/harcourt_language/grammar_park.html produced by Harcourt School Publishers provides 12 games for students in grades three, four, and five.

The British Council's [**Learn English**](#) website <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/> offers activities for learning the rules of grammar. The activities are not listed by grade level so you will have to preview them to determine which activities are best suited for your students.

[**Learn With Math Games**](#) <http://www.learn-with-math-games.com/index.html> is a site that offers online games as well as PDF templates for games that teachers and students can play in their classrooms. [**Learn With Math Games**](#) is organized by grade level and by mathematics topic.

[**Playing History**](#) <http://playinghistory.org/> is a collection of 128 games related to topics in US and World History as well as civics and geography. The games come from a variety of sources across the web. Feedback on every game and suggestions for future additions are welcomed by the hosts of the site. Visitors to [**Playing History**](#) can search for games by using the tag cloud, by using the search box, or just browse through the entire list.

[**Think About History**](#) <http://www.history.com/games> is a fun trivia game on History.com. The object of the game is to cross the playing board by correctly answering a sequence of history trivia questions. The game has multiple levels that get progressively more difficult throughout the game. The questions on [**Think About History**](#) are a mix of video-based and text-based questions. The game can be played as an individual game or a two player game.

[**National Geographic Kids**](#) <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/games/geographygames/> has a wide variety of games, puzzles, and activities for students of elementary school age. National Geographic Kids has nine games specifically for developing geography skills.

[**Learning Together**](#) <http://www.usa.learningtogether.net/> offers four activities for learning about the geography of the United States. Learning Together also offers a game about world geography and a game about European geography.

[**Brain Bashers**](#) <http://www.brainbashers.com/index.asp> offers visitors a nice selection of word games, logic games, and puzzles. [**Brain Bashers**](#) is updated regularly with many games that change daily and new games added every week. [**Brain Bashers**](#) was developed and is maintained by Kevin Stone. Kevin Stone is a mathematics teacher in England.

The [**Discovery Channel**](#) <http://dsc.discovery.com/fansites/cashcab/quizzes/> website lets you test your trivia knowledge while playing the same quizzes the contestants on Cash Cab play. Play the [**Cash Cab quiz game**](#) and earn fictitious money for every question you answer correctly. Answer three questions incorrectly and the game is over.

[**Kids Past - History eBooks and History Games**](#)



[Kids Past http://www.kidspast.com/world-](http://www.kidspast.com/world-history/index.php)

[history/index.php](http://www.kidspast.com/world-history/index.php) has put together an easy-to-read World History "textbook" for kids. [Kids Past](#) also offers five history games to which students can apply the knowledge they find in the textbook. The textbook and games correspond to each other. This could be a nice supplement to a classroom textbook or lesson. A teacher could use the games as a review activity for students. With the congruence between the textbook and the games a student could have two browser tabs or windows open and refer back to the textbook when they get stuck on a question. Educational games like those offered on [Kids Past](#) can be super opportunities to assess a student's learning in an informal environment that they enjoy. Educational games are also a method of allowing students to progress at a self-determined pace.

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