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Quote of the month: "Being ignorant is not so shameful as being unwilling to learn"
(Anonymous)

Take a Museum Field Trip -- Without Leaving Your Classroom!

The following information is taken from Education World found at http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr057.shtml

When a field trip is out of the question, journey to a virtual museum! Join Education World as we visit science, art, and history museums around the world.

A class field trip to a museum can spark intense student interest as well as nurture thinking skills. But practical concerns, such as money and time, limit the location and number of museums a class can visit. An alternative to real-life field trips is online virtual visits that can be taken via computer. Clearly, nothing replaces the actual experience of a museum tour, yet experiencing a high-quality online museum yields its own rewards.

Here is a sampling of excellent online museums to visit with your class, divided by category. Suggested activities accompany the descriptions of the Web sites.

SCIENCE MUSEUMS

[The Franklin Institute Science Museum](#)

This Philadelphia-based museum has structured its online site in a way that is ideal for educational purposes. The presentation is straightforward; you won't have to spend much time finding what you want. The site offers a number of interesting exhibits, and there is almost definitely going to be some content that relates to your curriculum. At this time, the following are among the offerings:

- EARTHFORCE, about volcanoes, quakes, and raging rivers;
- Hot Air Over Hot Water, an experiment that relates to El Nino; and
- Franklin's Forecast, an exhibit about weather forecasting. You'll also find online study units, such as Wind and Living Things. And that's just the beginning! The site boasts much more.

Activity: Click on the Hot Air over Hot Water exhibit; then have students try the experiment with hot water to help them understand the phenomenon of El Nino. You might have students look for weather stories about El Nino in the media and bring them into class to serve as a basis for discussion.

[Museum of Science and Industry](#)

Variety is the spice of this Web site from a Chicago, Ill., museum. Online exhibits include AIDS: The War Within; Apollo 8 Command Module; the Big Dig Construction Site; the Coal Mine; Hatching Chicks; Giant Heart; and Animated Industrial Gears. A nice aspect of the virtual museum

is the inclusion of exhibits that will appeal to students in grades 1 to 4 as well as exhibits more suitable for older students.

Activity: Click on the Coal Mine exhibit; after students tour the exhibit, ask them to write a paragraph explaining whether they would like to work in a coal mine, and why or why not. A more complex activity for students in grade 5 or above involves visiting a local business or industry and photographing its operations. Students can then use the photographs as a basis of their own exhibit on the business or industry.

Optional Activity: Click on the Hatching Chicks exhibit; have students write captions for the online photographs of a chick's birth.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS

[American Museum of Natural History](#)

The museum is one of the world's foremost scientific and educational institutions. It contains enormous collections of specimens and cultural artifacts. Museum collections, including more than 30 million items, are a "field guide" to the life forms and cultures on earth.

Activity: Have students read "About the Museum" and explore the Web site. The Fossil Exhibitions may be of special interest to students. Then ask students to make a four-page, illustrated brochure about the American Museum of Natural History.

[The Worldwide Museum of Natural History](#)

The Worldwide Museum of Natural History (WMNH) is an online museum of photo galleries that features excellent educational products for schools and homes. New galleries and updates are added every month. Categories of exhibits are Vertebrate Life Galleries; Invertebrate Life Galleries; Planetary Science and Astronomy Galleries; and Gem and Mineral Galleries.

ART MUSEUM

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)

The museum houses one of the largest, most varied, and most prestigious collections of art in the world. More than two million works of art -- several hundred thousand of which are displayed at any given time -- in its collections are drawn from more than 5,000 years of world culture. The site provides an overview of the collections from the museum's galleries. Be forewarned: There are occasional nudes on the site, and you may want to preview any areas before having students explore them if this might present a problem in your community.

Activity: Scroll down to and click on the Mary Cassatt exhibit; have students explore the exhibit. Several of her paintings are on display in the Works of Art section by clicking on the title of the painting at the end of the text. (One shows a nude girl who looks maybe 4 or 5 years old; just a caution.) A brief biography is included, as is information about her painting style. After students explore the site, ask them to imagine they are journalists interviewing Mary Cassatt about her life and work. Have students write five interview questions they would ask her.

ADDITIONAL MUSEUM RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

- **Natural History Museums on the Web**
 - [Academy of Natural Sciences](#)
 - [Berkeley Museum of Paleontology](#)

- [Bishop Museum \(Hawaii\)](#)
 - [Florida Museum of Natural History](#)
 - [Los Angeles County Natural History Museum](#)
 - [Museums Informatics Project](#)
 - [London Natural History Museum](#)
 - [Paris Natural History Museum](#)
 - [Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History](#)
 - [Smithsonian Museum of Natural History](#)
 - [University of Nebraska State Museum](#)
 - [University of Texas at El Paso Centennial Museum](#)
- [Virtual Fieldtrips and Tours](#) This compilation includes virtual field trips to Asia, Europe, the United Kingdom, and America as well as museums, galleries, and environmental and geology field trips.
 - The RECIT Web Page has an On-Line Museum found at <http://www.wqsb.qc.ca/staffdevelopment/RECIT-Resources-Search%20Engines.htm>

The Educators Network has a unit on spring designed for Cycle 1. This unit includes art activities, simple word games, pattern books as well as math and science ideas. It also lists a spring alphabet package that is really cute. <http://www.theeducatorsnetwork.com/main/unitfeature.htm>

Keeping with a spring theme, there is a pdf document titled A Garden of Patterns designed for Grade 3 by the Ontario Curriculum Unit Planner. It is an integrated unit including "Patterns around us", "Pan the garden", "Hundred chart", "rose, rose, tulip", "How does your garden grow?", "Planting in groups", "Water, Water, Weed", "The garden creation" and finishing with a celebration. It includes worksheets, introduction and evaluation. http://www.tcdsb.org/ice/elementary_documents/GuardIt_Patt.pdf

Another great spring unit is spiders and a wonderful web site is <http://www.spiderroom.info/teachers.html>. It covers the anatomy, life cycle (all with photos), spider webs, spider survival and spider species.

The University of South Carolina has put together a list of theme based units for primary teachers that include such topics as Ancient Egypt, ducks, fruits and vegetables, to mention but a few. All together there are 30 units to choose from. It is worth taking a look. <http://www.libsci.sc.edu/miller/Unitlink.htm>

The media awareness Network is a Canadian organization which offers media and internet education resources for parents and teachers. The teachers' component includes lesson plans, classroom activities, background articles and Canadian resources for media education. <http://www.media-awareness.ca/>

CanTeach is a Canadian web site which offers lots and lots and lots and lots of resources and activities on various topics. It is organized by theme. The home page can be found at <http://www.canteach.ca>. One example of some of the resources on this site is a list of 100 writing prompts for journal entries. It can be found at: <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/prompts.html>.

edhelper.com has put together a list of Mother's Day Math Worksheets

- [Mother's Day: Addition and Subtraction Math Problems](#)
- [Mother's Day: Multiplication and Division](#)
- [Mother's Day: Money Problems](#)
- [Mother's Day: Time Problems](#)
- [Mother's Day: More Challenging Problems](#)
- [Mother's Day: Mix of all above Math Problems](#)

Mother's Day Word Searches

[Build Mother's Day Word Find \(with at most 20 words\)](#)

[Build Mother's Day Word Find \(with at most 40 words\)](#)

[Build Mother's Day Word Find](#)

Mother's Day Word Puzzles!

[Fill in the Missing Mother's Day Words Puzzle](#)

[Mother's Day Crossword with just the words scrambled as hints](#)

[Vocabulary Mother's Day Crossword](#)

Mother's Day Word Worksheets

[Fill in the Missing Letter](#)

[Unscramble the Words](#)

[Circle the Correct Word](#)

[Fill in the Missing Vowels](#)

[Mother's Day Vocabulary Matching](#)

[Multiple Choice Vocabulary](#)

[Word Chop](#)

Also Visit:

[**Mother's Day Lesson Plans, Printables, Crafts, Activities, Bulletin Boards, and more at edHelperNet**](#)

The Technology Advancing Student Knowledge (TASK) is an American web site that has organized and listed various activities all of which integrate technology for both elementary and secondary students. It is well worth looking at.

<http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/task/>

Teachers' @ Work is a web site designed to help teachers with providing internet tools. These tools include internet policy, consultancy, lecture notes, teacher toolkit, hardware, software, connecting to the Internet, publishing a web site, network architecture, international vacancies, as well as PD reading. Enjoy!

<http://teachers.work.co.nz/>

A Generations CanConnect project is a collection of stories about older Canadians, written by students and published on the GCC Website. Students interview older Canadians on themes related to their life experiences, write content, prepare images or other media, and publish these stories online using basic or advanced templates. Upon completion, a student can invite the people who were interviewed to get together to showcase the final results during a celebration event (optional).

There are two types of GCC projects — GCC Level 1 and GCC Level 2. Each level corresponds to a different level of multimedia use. It is best to choose a level that corresponds to the skill set of the students involved. If you have never participated in GCC, we recommend that you try a GCC Level 1 project first.

http://www.schoolnet.ca/grassroots/gcc/about/gcc_e.asp



Core Knowledge Lesson Plans is a web site that offers links to various grade-level and subject level lesson plans and ideas. It covers up to grade 8 and also includes arts and music.

<http://www.coreknowledge.org/CKproto2/resrcs/lessonsindex.htm>

The Educators Network has put together a link to PlasmaLink web service which put together a glossary of Instructional strategies. It is easy to use and easy to access. It has 875 listed strategies and terminology.

<http://glossary.plasmalink.com/glossary.html>

Remember, if you need a little help with this, or any other technological project, I would be more than happy to discuss it with you. Please don't hesitate to contact me by phone (819-684-1313 X211), by fax (819-684-9061), by email (ldiner@wqsb.qc.ca) or in person (The Board Office, 170 rue Principale, Aylmer, 3rd floor).

Pour les profs de français

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<http://www.media-awareness.ca/>