



Internet Treasures

Recent finds I wanted to share.....

September 2004



Survey Monkey: www.surveymonkey.com - This site will allow you to create free 10-question online surveys that can be emailed to those whom you choose. Your survey results will be analyzed and can be exported.



Keyhole www.keyhole.com - This free trial of software that reminds me of TerraServer on steroids. This software will “quickly zoom from space down to street level and combine imagery, 3D geography, maps, and business data to get the total picture in seconds.” There is a video card requirement.



George Lucas Ed. Foundation www.glef.org - This site is full of professional development resources which include videos on technology. (“Turn the Tables” is one that showcases a program where students are teaching teachers before school!) Don’t miss signing up for Edutopia, a free magazine at www.glef.org/mag/0728.



My web site: 205.247.233.24. The Division of Instructional Services web site has not been migrated from the development site but I wanted you to know of my materials that are out there. To get to my site, please click on *DIS Programs & Services / Instructional Tech. Svcs.* The materials from today’s ITS Council meeting are available on the Professional Development and Networking Opportunities page under Instructional Technology Services Advisory Council.



School Staffing Guidelines: <http://techguide.merit.edu/> I know it’s never too early to be thinking of budgets and this site might be just the justification you need for new personnel you’d like to add to your tech department! Your school board might realize just how efficient you are when they see comparables and industry recommendations that this site offers.





PSSA Online Prep sites: Thank you to many of you for sharing these with me!
☺ This compilation is of various sites for PSSA practice, both printable and virtual.

- www.brainchild.com/gen/usmap.asp This is an online practice for both reading and math. Click on Pennsylvania. You can click *Continue* on the next screen (and skip the personalization). When students are done, there are links to another *Study* opportunity, as well as, an explanation of the answers.
- www.pmsd.org/pssa_math_prep.htm - This is a collection of Adobe PDF files that can be printed for math practice.



ArcVoyager Special Edition GIS free download: www.esri.com/industries/k-12/education/voyager.html#special : GIS, Geographic Information Systems, is computer-based technology that uses data from various databases and presents this information in visual form that can be manipulated. It is designed for authentic investigation. This site has many lesson plans that compliment.



Internet Education: As students rely more and more on Internet resources, perhaps it's a good idea to revisit some of these topics.

- Fair Use & Copyright Online Quiz:
www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/TL/2002/10/copyright_quiz.html:
 - Answers:
www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/TL/2002/10/copyright_answers.html
- Evaluating Online Resources online quiz: www.quick.org.uk/quiz.htm
- Internet Safety: www.safekids.com & www.safeteens.com -includes online safety quiz
 - <http://ireland.iol.ie/~dromore/safety/quiz/quiz.htm> - online safety quiz
 - www.protectkids.com/index.html - - online safety
 - www.cybertip.ca/childfind/cybertip/CFM_QUIZ_RULES/splash1.html - online safety



MarcoPolo: Have you been here recently? Admittedly, I was not a big fan in the past, but they have refined it and there is some wonderful stuff there.

(www.marcopolo-education.org)

- Read – Write –Think – Lots of Language Arts online tools:
http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/index.asp
- EconEdLink – Lots of economic lesson plans BUT they have an online student version too! (Find your lesson and click on the student version link in the blue box):
<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/>
- EDSITement – Lots of “juried” resources (humanities):
http://edsitement.neh.gov/websites_all.asp
- Science NetLInks – Lots of online tools:
http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/tool_index.cfm
- Illuminations – Lots of online mathematics resources:
<http://illuminations.nctm.org/tools/index.aspx>
- Xpeditions: Don't forget the great map masters.:
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/>





www.blendedschools.blackboard.com – Blended Schools.net has developed two online PSSA prep/recovery courses that are available to non-members, PSSA Recovery Math and PSSA Math Assistant. More courses are to be released this month. Click on the *Courses* tab and then *All available blendedschool.net courses*. Key in PSSA in the search box. Click on the *Preview* button on the right hand side for these courses. (Additional handout has more detail.)



http://education.discovery.com/player_1.cfm - This is a video from United Streaming that can be streamed regardless of whether you are subscribed to United Streaming or no. Choose which player in the right section and the 7 minute will begin streaming. There is impressive actual footage about 25 seconds into the video.



<http://www.cellsalive.com/index.htm> - No matter what grade level you are teaching, this site is great for cytology! The graphics are fantastic and the site is interactive and engaging. If only this had been around when I had to teach “the cell!”



http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web_games_menu.htm - Jaron Flickinger sent me this site with some great interactive educational games, from games dealing with world geography to the 50 U.S. states to vocabulary development. The trivia games are educationally focused also. The games require shockwave, and speakers will allow the students to hear feedback to their answers. (Thanks, Jaron!)



<http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/vlibrary.html> - Utah State University has created a ton of virtual math manipulatives. The K – 12 grid arrangement makes it easy to narrow to what you need quickly. Most of the games run on java and load quickly. Directions are typically on the right hand side (or press the instructions icon at the top).





<http://en.wikipedia.org> – This is a free online encyclopedia with pictures and nicely written articles that is easy to use. The main page displays current events articles with links to pertinent entries. Search results are displayed in an outline form.



<http://medialit.med.sc.edu> – This is site focused on media literacy that Cindy Keller recommended (Thanks, Cindy!). There's a ton of linked resources to help increase media literacy and for other educational uses.



www.moodle.org – Sue Sheffer asked me to look into this and what I found is that it's **FREE** distance learning software. You have to use your own server and your teachers must design their own courses, but from some contacts I ran into, it's been very effective. (Let me know if you would like names of those in south central PA using Moodle. There is a good review of Moodle at <http://writing.berkeley.edu/TESL-EJ/ej30/m2.html>.)



<http://www.nicenet.org> – This is another “pointer” from Sue. Nicenet is an online forum where teachers can set up classes and have the students communicate with them and each other through discussion boards, document share, etc. The good news is that it's another freebie and it is safe as this is all controlled internally. Teachers are given a sign-up code once they create a class and only those with the code can get it.



<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/> - This quality site offers many more features than just current events. Students can take practice test questions (partnered with Kaplan), write a letter to the editor or a reporter, etc. The teacher section has lesson plans, “this day in history”, crossword puzzles, etc.



<http://www.awesomeclipartforeducators.com/> - This site has been around for a while but it has a new facelift and more resources. Worth a revisit!





Google Earth: <http://earth.google.com> – If you haven't seen Google Earth, you have got to try it. This is the newest GIS supported by Keyhole and Google. You will need to download the 10 Mb file and then have internet access to explore. Some areas near major cities have more detailed pictures. (I could see my dad's van in his driveway in Rockville, Maryland!) You can save addresses. Be sure to check the 3D feature and then rotate the image of those cities that are in 3D. Check any other GIS layer you want and that will be displayed (e.g. golf courses, Starbucks – the important stuff!)



Thinkport: www.thinkport.org – This is a nice portal developed by Maryland Public Television. This site was featured in an eSchool News article touting how students reading score increased when using online field trips (in blue section). I was even admitted as a PA teacher!



Word Count: www.wordcount.org/main.php - This is a cool program that shows the ranking for the most 86,000 words used in the English language. Just key a word in the search under the graph area and it will locate it if it is one of the most used words. By the way, **technology** is the 834th most popular word, right before **spent**!



History and Politics Out Loud: www.hpol.org – This is a collection of historical and political recordings ranging from inaugural speeches to the Watergate hearings. You will need to have Real Player to listen to the streamed audio files. What a gold mine for social studies and history!



OLogy: <http://ology.amnh.org> – This is a very interactive site good for intermediate students. It is sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History. Students are presented with professionals in the field and activities based on the topics that range from astronomy to paleontology to physics and beyond.



21st Century Information Literacy Project: <http://21cif.imsa.edu> – Sue Sheffer shared this site with me (Thanks, Sue!). This interactive site provides professional development, tools and resources to develop the digital information fluency skills of educators and learners. There are tools, tutorials, resources and a ton of other relevant resources for educators that are all interactive!

