

Thinkfinity and ELLs: A Perfect Partnership

NJTESOL/NJBE Spring Conference
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Verizon Foundation's <http://thinkfinity.org>

Math Resources:

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/Activities.aspx?grade=1&grade=2&grade=3&grade=4>

Colorful, engaging K-12 math games. Check out: Turtle Pond; Angle Sums; Circle Tool; Five Frame; Geometric Solids; Volt Meter; Fraction Models; Product Game
This site is the interactive component of <http://illuminations.nctm.org>

Science Resources:

<http://sciencenetlinks.com/lessons.cfm?DocID=487>

Wonderful K-12 lessons and links to sites that aid in understanding concepts. For example, "An Egg is Quiet" offers excellent ideas, and if you scroll down to Extensions you can link to the PBS site that reads the story.

http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/tool_index.php

Explore this website for lots of science learning adventures. Some of the more astonishing tools are: Powers of Ten; You and Your Skin; Cell Size and Scale; Creature Feature Archives (great for kids working on animal reports); Monster Bugs; Lunar Cycle 2: The Challenge; Nowhere to Hide;

Note: Once you click on the subject you will come to a resource page with a URL under the title. This usually brings you to the interactive.

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/education/conservationcentral/>

Design a Panda Habitat Next page click on Broadband version

Habitat Adventure: Panda Challenge Next page, click on Narrated

A Walk in the Woods Next page click on Broadband version

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/games/interactiveadventures>

A variety of interactive games for learning science and social studies. Try "On the Trail of Captain John Smith" and "The Tomb of the Unknown Mummy."

Social Studies Resources:

See above site. Also:

<http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/outline-map/>

Printer Friendly Maps

<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/interactives/arabworld/>

Insights into the Arab world

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/celiacruz/main.asp?lang=OOL333304564UWqWV>

Celia Cruz

Reading/Writing Resources:

<http://thinkfinity.org/word-transformer-silent-e-game>

Electric Company Silent E

<http://thinkfinity.org/chain-game-sh>

Electric Company Sh sound

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/word_matrix/

Excellent vocabulary enrichment for the more advanced student

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/crossword/>

Create a crossword

Learn how to plan and then write a biography.

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/bio_cube/bio-cube_planning.pdf

(planning)

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/bio_cube

Learn the elements of mystery writing.

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/mystery_cube/mystery-cube_plan.pdf

(planning)

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/mystery_cube/

Create a cartoon. Could be used as a response to a story.

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson195/comic-strip-planning.pdf (planning)

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/>

Create a postcard.

<http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/postcard/>

Essay Map:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/essaymap/>

Historical Fiction:

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson404/HistoricalFictionDefn.pdf

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson404/HistoricalFictionQuestions.pdf

Compound Interest Calculator:

<http://www.econedlink.org/interactives/index.php?iid=2>

Geared more toward Grades 6-12, www.econedlink.org has many valuable offerings, including excellent podcasts.

<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/families/at-home/now-playing/five-arty-activities.aspx>

This is just one example from Artsedge. Check the site especially for ideas for parents.

General Information

After entering <http://thinkfinity.org> type in the subject you wish to explore. You may refine your search in many ways by checking a box or boxes under the Resource Types, Grades Levels (may, at times, seem arbitrary), Subjects or Partners.

A list of resources will appear. For example, when "food chain" is the subject, you will be offered about 24 resources. However, if you click on "Include Partner Reviewed Resources" found on the blue bar, 100 resources will now be available. The first offering will be a National Geographic Quick Flicks that is a terrific visual for ELLs. Also, the Thinkfinity Community Content at the top of the blue bar contains related links other teachers have deemed valuable. The yellow star found on some of the resources is a guide to the related standards of specific states.

In order to explore the myriad offerings in addition to classroom lessons and tools, you could tap into the gold bar headings. For example, look into:

In the Classroom for lesson plans, interactive, calendar, standards alignment, 21st century skills; Professional Development to find webinars, NJ Thinkfinity activities, professional development; At Home and Afterschool for parent and kids activities, family literacy;

About Us to see the Content Partners, Supporting Contributors, Media Centers

Join the Community by going to the top right and clicking on Visit Our Community

Also at <http://community.thinkfinity.org/>

Click on My Stuff on the Community bar to install the "Add to Thinkfinity" button. You will be able to access your favorite, bookmarked sites from any computer.

Join the Group: Reaching English Language Learners at the URL:

<http://community.thinkfinity.org/groups/reaching-english-language-learners><http://thinkfinity.org>

You may join a group, set up your own group, make your group private for your organization or make it accessible to all. The same is true when you bookmark a site you find valuable and want to add it to your "Add to Thinkfinity" list. Each time you have the option (by checking a box) to make that particular site private or to allow other Community members to have access.

Register with TIMS at:

http://community.thinkfinity.org/community/_professionaldevelopment?view=iframe

You will have an ongoing record of all your PD activities from participating in webinars and of the printable PD certificates you have earned over the years.

Content Partners are:

- ARTSEdge -- The Kennedy Center
- EconEdLink - Council for Economic Education
- EDSITEment -National Endowment for the Humanities
- Illuminations --NCTM
- Literacy Network -- NCFL
- National Geographic Education
- ReadWriteThink -- NCTE
- ScienceNetLinks -- AAAS
- Smithsonian's History Explorer
- Wonderopolis -- NCFL
- Xpeditions Archive -National Geographic