



Google search

in the classroom



Get the tool: <http://www.google.com>

What is it?

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. Google Search is recognized as the world's most widely used search engine, an easy-to-use free service that quickly returns relevant and comprehensive results with a great user experience. Using Google, students and teachers are able to access a variety of information in many different languages: web content, maps, news, videos, images, books, and so much more.

Why use it?

Students can use Google Search to:

- Find what they are looking for on the web. <http://www.google.com/instant>
- Quickly locate timely information on any topic.
- Refine searches and use some of Google's latest tools to visualize and zero in on details (see Timeline, Sites with Images). Latest news on Search Features: <http://www.google.com/insidesearch/>
- Find "copyright friendly" images for multimedia projects. <http://images.google.com>
- Search the web right from their mobile phones. <http://m.google.com>

Teachers can use Google Search to:

- Find instructional materials in specific file formats including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and PDF using advanced search.
- Find out the reading level of search results or limit results to one reading level using advanced search.

- Teach students how to search with the ready-to-use Google Search Curriculum.
 - Main Site: <https://sites.google.com/site/gwebsearcheducation/>
 - Lesson plans Page of the Site above:
http://www.google.com/educators/p_websearch.html
 - Use your phone's camera to find where to buy a book.
<http://www.google.com/mobile/goggles>
 - Perform a search from your mobile phone by texting 466453
 - Create a custom search engine to focus students' search efforts on safe and relevant sites. <http://www.google.com/cse>
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Expert Tip



Want a way to keep track of what people are saying about you or your school? Set up a Google Alert for the name of your school, your name, or the link to your blog. When Google finds new results on your query, they will send you an email with the links. <http://www.google.com/alerts>

Instructional Ideas

Elementary/Primary. Teachers can use the Q & A function to model inquiry driven learning during class discussions. When students ask a question, instead of giving them the answer, say, "Let's find out together!"

Middle/Early Secondary School. Students can use the "define" function to complete vocabulary assignments in every subject or look up challenging words as they read. The multiple definitions given in the results can quickly demonstrate words in different contexts.

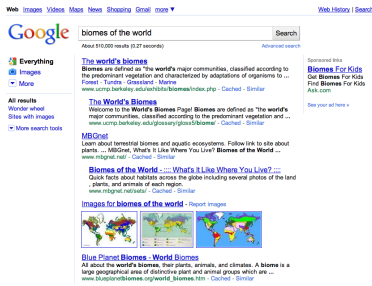
High/Secondary School. Students can make calculations right from the search box. It even performs square roots, logarithms, and trigonometric functions such as sin and cos. Google also performs unit conversions, including currencies.

Google Search in Action

Project: Biomes Around the World

Grade/Subject: Fourth grade/Year 5 science

Student teams are assigned a biome to research. The project begins with the students developing an essential question with



the teacher's assistance. Students then decide among themselves who will locate relevant copyright-friendly photos (image search), text articles (web search), multimedia (video search), news stories (news search), area maps (map search). Teams use this information to answer the essential question, and to develop a profile of their assigned biome, identifying significant characteristics that enable it to support the growth of different plants and animals. Students post their findings on a class blog (Blogger.com) and invite a partner class from another part of the world (close in terms of geography to the studied biome) and ask for feedback on their work via comments. Responses to each other's comments yield perspectives otherwise not available to the student researcher. The result is a vibrant, authentic learning environment. Student teams summarize their findings either in a formal report (word processor/presentation) or an original video which is then posted on the class blog.

Additional Resources

Specialized Search

- Google Scholar - Search scholarly sources <http://scholar.google.com>
- Google Books - Search full text books <http://books.google.com>
- Google News - Search worldwide news sources <http://news.google.com>
- Google Blog Search - Search the latest scoop <http://blogsearch.google.com>
- Google Insights- Search a topic to compare volume patterns <http://www.google.com/insights/search/>
- Even More - Explore other specialized searches www.google.com/options/

Even More Google Search

- Google Trends - See global search trends! <http://www.google.com/trends/>
- Google Sets - Create lists from a few examples! <http://labs.google.com/sets>
- Experimental Search - Check out Google's latest! <http://www.google.com/experimental/>

<http://www.google.com/edu>