

Online Global Resources

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ONE WORLD NATIONS ONLINE (<http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld>)



Lots on this site, including items not often found elsewhere. Comparison tables by country for economics/trade, natural resources, gross national income, population density maps, etc., plus country groupings by language, developed/undeveloped, human development, and corruption index. This site is ideal for all ages since the spectrum ranges from general information for younger students to very specific detailed information for older students. The information seems endless because every link you click takes you to additional links with even more information.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS (<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find>)



"People and Places" section links to over 40 countries with related photos, video, map, and interesting facts feature which includes brief descriptions of geography, nature, history, people, government, economy, and more. Great site for easily supplementing subject area curriculum. A companion site at this same location (<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature>) features wildlife from around the world. This is an interesting and easy lead-in for kids to make connections with other cultures.

ONEWORLD CLASSROOMS (<http://www.oneworldclassrooms.org/travel/index1.html>)



Some items on this site require registration fees, but this specific URL takes you to a completely free portion of OneWorld Classrooms. Under the "Classroom Travel Resources" section, a unique perspective is gained when taking video or PowerPoint tours of classrooms, homes, and cultures that are entirely guided by the students themselves. The "Electronic Cultural Exchange Library" gives students an opportunity to view artwork, music, videos, audio files and PowerPoint presentations created by classrooms from around the world. Your students are encouraged to share their culture by contributing content to this site. Lots to like here!

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE: "Melting Pot Math" (<http://sln.fi.edu/school/math3/index.html>)



This site effectively integrates culture and math to produce "Multicultural Problems for the 21st Century." Solve different types of mathematics problems inspired by cultures from around the world. This collection offers challenging problems while providing students with a glimpse into other cultures of the world. Expand on this theme by constructing your own math/culture connection problems that are specific to your area of mathematics and grade level – or have your students come up with ideas of their own.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC: "Travel & Cultures" (<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com>)



NG's reputation for exceptional quality does not disappoint. Outstanding visuals supplement a huge collection of global resources. The "Destinations A-Z" tab lets you choose from a long list of countries, cities, or world-famous sites complete with background info, photos, and quizzes. The "Video" tab includes countries, cities, and continents, while also offering over 100 culture videos. The stunning photos and authentic video clips are unmatched and will definitely catch and hold the interest of young minds far longer than stand-alone text. A picture is worth a thousand words certainly holds true for this awesome site!

TEACHERS' DOMAIN: NOVA (<http://www.teachersdomain.org/resource/phy03.sci.phys.energy.moai>)

teachers'domain



There is a great "Search" feature at the top of the Teachers' Domain page, so you can find tons of additional resources right on this site, but this particular link focuses on "Raising the Moai on Easter Island." The entire series of "NOVA: Secrets of Lost Empires" can be found at www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempire and features Medieval Siege, Pharaoh's Obelisk, Easter Island, Roman Bath, and China Bridge (includes teachers guides, resources, online interactive educational games, history about topic, and attempts at reconstruction). Series is very well done and has extensive collection of resources connecting modern-day math and science to ancient world civilizations. Definitely worth your time to check this out, as there are all kinds of possibilities for integrating international education into your daily planning.

CIA: "The World Factbook" (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>)



Very extensive site with lots of information on 266 world entities. The great thing about this site is that it can be easily used for all grade levels because it ranges from such simple topics such as pictures and detailed descriptions of a country's flag to complex topics such as transnational issues. Select a continent and an interactive graphic showing all of the countries appears with links to each country's profile. Profiles include the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, and military. A country comparison feature allows you to view rankings in 58 fields such as GDP, transportation modes, oil production, unemployment rate, and imports/exports. Use the "References" tab dropdown for quick access to any main features. You are limited only by your imagination!

DISCOVERY: "What the Ancients Knew" (<http://science.discovery.com/search/results.html?focus=video&query=what+the+ancients+knew&search.x=21&search.y=8>)



Short videos clips of ancient civilizations and how they were able to use mathematical and scientific principles to produce great achievements. Features include the golden ratio, buoyancy, battering ram, levers and pulleys, catapult, Coliseum elevators, aqueducts, crane, ship building, and arch-vault design. Great connections leading to opportunities for continued exploration of Roman, Greek, Egyptian, Indian, Chinese, and Japanese cultures within the framework of your specific subject area.

KWINTESSENTIAL (<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/country-profiles.html>)



Kwintessential was established to support the process of globalization and internationalization. This link is to the most popular section of the site – a "Global Guide to Culture, Customs and Etiquette" for over 80 countries. Topics include religion, customs, society, social etiquette, and useful phrases.

Another interesting link is to section called "Doing Businesses in . . . Etiquette and Protocol Guides" (<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/etiquette/doing-business-in.html>). Provides advice on etiquette associated with meeting and greeting, appointments, gift giving, dining, dress, building relationships, and negotiations. Great insight into understanding cultural differences and recognizing why misunderstanding might often occur between different cultures.

The "Cultural Quizzes" link (<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/culture-tests.html>) has numerous online quizzes listed by country and world capitals that are related to the areas of cultural awareness, cultural differences, etiquette, customs, language and business.

PEACE CORPS: WORLDWISE SCHOOLS (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/search>)



A very "real life" site that supports a host of classroom resources based on Peace Corps volunteer experiences in countries throughout the world. "Lesson Plans" are searchable by grade level, world region, country, and subject area. In the "Videos" section, volunteers share first-hand cultural experiences that become your students' window to the world. Other sections such as photos, stories, and activities provide resources to further enhance classroom lessons through cultural understanding and awareness of critical global issues.

ePALS and iEARN (<http://www.epals.com>) (<http://media.iearn.org>)



If you are interested in connecting with other classrooms, collaborating on projects, or participating in teacher or student forums, these two sites are both excellent. Thousands of classrooms in over 200 countries are available to become global partners, and you can search by country, topic, and grade level for a perfect match with your classroom. On ePals, automatic translation is provided so emails can easily be exchanged with students in any part of the world.

Additional Resources:



- The International Digital Children's Library (<http://en.childrenslibrary.org>)
- My Wonderful World (<http://www.mywonderfulworld.org/index.html>)
- Dean Jacobs (<http://www.deanjacobs.org>)
- SEDL Afterschool Training Toolkit: Arts Section, Practice – Making Connections to History and Culture (http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/arts/pr_making_connections.html)
- Asia Society: Afterschool Section - Build a (Better) Global Afterschool Program (<http://asiasociety.org/education-learning/afterschool/build-better-global-afterschool-program>)