

Online Cultural Resources

CULTURAL PROFILES PROJECT (<http://www.cp-pc.ca/english/index.html>)



Each cultural profile provides an overview of life and customs in the profiled country. Over 100 countries included. Although surface culture is addressed, this site goes beyond music, food, and holidays and explores the often ignored deep culture areas of values and beliefs. Easy way to compare and contrast various countries in areas such as education, health care, sports, work, spirituality, family life, etc. A very self-contained site that you can easily connect with established curriculum areas of study. You can go back to this site again and again and discover new ways to integrate this resource.

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.

GLOBAL NOMADS GROUP (http://www.gng.org/about_gng/overview.html)



GNG is dedicated to increasing children's understanding and appreciation for the world and its people. The "Media Library" link on right side of page has great authentic videos depicting life in other countries. Eye-opening look at the normal everyday lives of people from other parts of the world. Not all of this site will be relevant for your programs, but the videos alone are remarkable enough to make this a useful resource for integrating international education into the curriculum and piquing curiosity.

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



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.

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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 in discovering the unlimited possibilities for implementing this site in your classroom.

DISCOVERY: "What the Ancients Knew"

(<http://science.discovery.com/search/results.html?query=what+the+ancients+knew&search.x=26&search.y=9>)



Short video 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 a page featuring a "Global Guide to Culture, Customs and Etiquette" for over 80 countries. Topics include religion, customs, society, social etiquette, and useful phrases.

Another link on Kwintessential's site takes you to a section called "Doing Businesses in . . . Etiquette and Protocol Guides" (<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/etiquette/doing-business-in.html>). Each guide offers advice on the etiquette associated with areas such as meeting and greeting, appointments, gift giving, dining, dress, building relationships, and negotiations. Very interesting resource that provides great insight into understanding cultural differences and recognizing why misunderstanding might often occur between different cultures.

The "Interesting Facts and Information" link (<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/articles/interesting-facts-information-cultures.php>) takes you to a huge collection of a wide assortment of interesting topics not often found elsewhere. Topics are listed by country.

PEACE CORPS: WORLDWIDE SCHOOLS (<http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/educators>)



Worldwide Schools 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. The "Multimedia" section includes a sharing of first-hand cultural experiences through podcasts, slide shows, and videos that become your students' window to the world. The "Stories" section, most of which include lesson plans, are also searchable to match your specific needs. "Enrichment Projects" enhance lessons with resources that promote awareness of critical global issues and cross-cultural intelligence, while "Language Lessons" present an opportunity to actually listen to people from other countries speaking in their native languages with the words also spoken in English. Also included are videos and slide shows with host country nationals speaking in their languages with English subtitles added. A lot of variety on this very "real life" site.

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.



Welcome to the companion Web site to "Secrets of Lost Empires," a special five-part NOVA series originally aired in February of 2000. In the series, NOVA crews attempt to ferret out long-forgotten secrets of early architects and engineers. How did they design and erect the medieval war machines known as trebuchets? Egyptian obelisks? The Easter Island stone monoliths called moais? Roman baths? The rainbow bridges of ancient China? Here's what you'll find online:

- **Medieval Siege**

In the Middle Ages, those who attacked castles used trebuchets, military engines capable of firing missiles with frightening force. In this section, view an actual trebuchet NOVA built, and construct and fire one of your own online. Also, find out what other weapons were used and what daily life was like in a medieval castle.

- **Pharaoh's Obelisk**

The soaring stone monuments known as obelisks were the Egyptian pharaohs' way of capturing a ray of revered sunlight in stone. Follow NOVA's ultimately successful attempts to raise an obelisk of its own. Also, learn where ancient Egypt's obelisks have ended up today, explore other Egyptian monuments using QuickTime VR, and more.

- **Easter Island**

This remote Pacific island's so-called moai statues are among the world's most enigmatic sculptures. In this section, explore an interactive map of Easter Island to find out where ancient residents quarried and moved the famous monoliths. Also, follow recent attempts by NOVA and others to transport moai overland.

- **Roman Bath**

The plumbing that brought hot water to the communal baths the Romans enjoyed was highly sophisticated. In this section, watch as NOVA builds its own Roman bath, then try your hand at constructing a working aqueduct online. Also, learn about the Romans' water system from a noted scholar, and get a taste of Roman-era recipes.

- **China Bridge**

The ancient Chinese relied on bamboo, one of nature's most versatile building materials, to lash together their famous rainbow bridges. Learn more about this amazing plant and about China's most noteworthy inventions, including paper money, gunpowder, and the compass. Also, play an interactive game that challenges you to use the right bridge type to span a span.



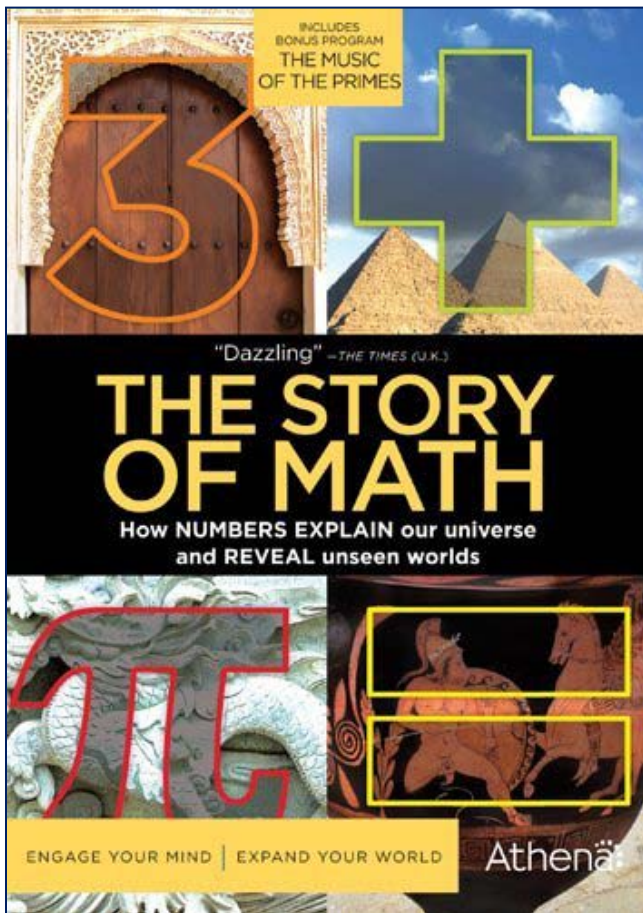
Complete documentary film in four 55-minute segments at <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/secrets-lost-empire>

BBC

The Story of Maths

An outstanding four part BBC series in which Oxford professor Marcus du Sautoy crisscrosses the globe, bringing the colorful history of numbers to life.

(Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00dxjls>)



The Language of the Universe: Explore the mathematics of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece. In Egypt, we uncover a decimal system based on ten fingers of the hand, while in former Mesopotamia we discover that the way we tell the time today is based on the Babylonian Base 60 number system. In Greece, we look at the contributions of some of the giants of mathematics including Plato, Euclid, Archimedes, and Pythagoras.

The Genius of the East: When ancient Greece fell into decline, mathematical progress stagnated as Europe entered the Dark Ages, but in the East mathematics reached new heights. We visit China and explore how math helped build imperial China and such amazing feats of engineering as the Great Wall. In India, we discover how the symbol for the number zero was invented and the new concepts of infinity and negative numbers. In the Middle East, we look at the invention of the new language of algebra and the spread of Eastern knowledge to the West.

The Frontiers of Space: By the 17th century, Europe had taken over as the world's powerhouse of mathematical ideas. Great strides had been made in understanding the geometry of objects fixed in time and space. The race was now on to discover the mathematics to describe objects in motion. Explore the work of René Descartes and Pierre Fermat, as well as Isaac Newton's development of the calculus, Carl Friedrich Gauss' modular arithmetic, and Leonard Euler's topology or 'bendy geometry.'

To Infinity and Beyond: After exploring Georg Cantor's work on infinity and Henri Poincaré's work on chaos theory, we look at how math was thrown into chaos by the discoveries of Kurt Gödel, who showed that the unknowable is an integral part of math, and Paul Cohen, who established that there were several different sorts of mathematics in which conflicting answers to the same question were possible. We conclude the journey by considering the great unsolved problems of mathematics today, including the Riemann Hypothesis, a conjecture about the distribution of prime numbers



Complete documentary film broken into short segments available at <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-story-of-maths>

