Google This!

You may not be aware of all of the features Google has to offer. It is more than a simple search engine. Using Google, you can not only find websites, but you can also track packages, find airline flights and do math! You can also find directions, explore the surface or Mars and lots more!

Simple Searches

Most people use Google to do simple searches for information. If they are looking for information about volcanoes, for example, they type volcanoes into the Google search box and then get close to 8 million sites! The first trick to effectively using Google is to know exactly what information you are looking for. For example, if you are looking for resources about volcanoes for a fourth grade class, type in volcanoes and "kids", if there are any websites on the Internet specifically designed for children, this will bring those sites to the top of your search results!

Paired Search Terms

The key to getting good results with websites that you can use in the classroom is using paired search terms! Take the topic you are looking for and then add the type of resource you want or the audience for which you want it. For example, try a search for "simple machines" and "lesson plans." The results you get will be much more refined than if you had just typed in "simple machines." There are a number of content and audience words and phrases that you can pair your topic with that will get you websites that can be used in the classroom.

Sample Content Words and Phrases

lesson plan
unit
activity
game
puzzle
coloring sheet (page or book)
worksheet
printables
crossword
wordsearch
vocabulary
interactive
hands-on
experiment
quiz
teaching materials
classroom resources
webquest
cyberguide
field trip
scavenger hunt
movie
video
song
music
poem (poetry)

Sample Audience Words and Phrases

teachers
students
kids
children
parents
preschool
elementary
middle school
high school
classroom
education
k-12 (or any grade span)

Restricting Searches

Google allows you to create searches that restrict certain results from showing up. These restricted search options can help you refine your search results and help you get exactly what you are looking for.

Less is More: The - Feature

When you are searching for terms that have more that one meaning, you can use the – symbol to eliminate unwanted pages. For example, if you are searching for dolphins, you will get pages about the mammal, but you will also get pages about the Miami Dolphins! Using the – symbol you can eliminate most of these pages from your search results. Type dolphins into the search box then hit the space key and enter –football. Any page that has the word dolphins and football will not show up on your search! **Note**: You must enter a space after your topic word and the – and your restricted word should have no spaces between them. You can have more that one – word in a search **Example**: dolphins –football –miami.

All Together Now: The "" Feature

If you place words in quotation marks, Google will search for that **exact** phrase. Be careful using this feature, it is only helpful if you specifically want the exact phrase with no variation. **Example**: "active Hawaiian volcanoes"

Who Do You Trust?

When you are searching, you can limit the source of your search results to certain domains. For example, if you only want results from University sites, you can ask for returns from .edu sites. **Example:** site:.edu volcanoes You can also use the advanced search feature to use this feature. In addition to restricting a search to a particular domain, you can also restrict your search to a particular website. **Example:** site:nhptv.org volcanoes

Domain Extensions

Traditional
.com Commercial
.edu Educational
.gov US Government
.mil US Dept of Defense
.net Networks
.org Organizations

Newer
.aero Aviation
.biz Business Organizations
.cat Catalan language and culture
.coop Co-Operative Organizations
.info Open TLD
.int International Organizations
.jobs Jobs
.mobi Mobile devices
.museum Museums
.name Personal
.travel Traveling

Selected Countries

.af Afghanistan	.iq Iraq
.aq Antarctica	.ir Iran
.ar Argentina	.jp Japan
.au Australia	.mx Mexico
.br Brazil	.pr Puerto Rico
.ca Canada	.ru Russia
.cu Cuba	.sg Singapore
.de Germany	.tv Tuvalu
.es Spain	.tw Taiwan
.eu European Union	.uk United Kingdom
.fr France	.us United States
.hk Hong Kong	.va Vatican
.hu Hungary	.zw Zimbabwe
.in India	

More Information on Web Domains

IANA - iana.org
Learn more about Web domains at this site from the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA).

Whois - whois.net
Find out who owns a web address.

NH NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC TELEVISION

File This

You can restrict you search to return only certain types of files. For example, you can ask for only PowerPoint files or only PDF files when you are searching for pages. You can use either the advanced search feature to do this or you can type in the file extension in the main search box. Google currently searches for the following file types:

- Adobe PostScript (ps)
- Portable Document Format (pdf)
- Lotus 1-2-3 (wk1, wk2, wk3, wk4, wk5, wki, wks, wku)
- Lotus WordPro (lwp)
- MacWrite (mw)
- Microsoft Excel (xls)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (ppt)
- Microsoft Word (doc)
- Microsoft Works (wks, wps, wdb)
- Microsoft Write (wri)
- Rich Text Format (rtf)
- Shockwave Flash (swf)
- Text (ans, txt)

Restricting your search to certain file types can be very useful when you are looking for educational materials! **Example**: volcano filetype:ppt

Portable Document Format (pdf)

You will find that many websites use the PDF format for formal print materials like teacher's guides, brochures, coloring sheets, fact sheets, units, manuals, and flyers.

Microsoft PowerPoint (ppt)

Most of the major topics covered in the classroom can be found in an online PowerPoint presentation! When you locate a PowerPoint presentation, you can download it to your computer and then make it you own and edit it ! This can be a timesaver for the busy teacher! If you do take a PowerPoint from the web, be sure to follow copyright guidelines.

Microsoft Excel (xls)

Like PowerPoint files, Excel files can also be downloaded to your computer and are editable.

Shockwave Flash (swf)

If you are looking for animated demonstrations, use this extension! You can find animations of the water cycle, volcanic activity and lots more!

Special Features

Google has a number of specialty search features that lets you search for a variety of things from local movie times to weather!

Show Times

If you want to know what movies are playing in your local theater, type movie: and your zip code. If you want to know where a particular movie is playing, type movie: name of movie and zip code! **Example**: movie:03801 or movie:gone baby gone 03801

Music

Looking for the latest information about a musician or group? Type in music: and the name of the artist of group. **Example**: music:elvis

Weather Forecast

Looking for a local weather update? Type weather: and your zipcode for a local forecast or weather: and a city name for the weather for locations around the country or world! **Example:** weather:03801 or weather:paris

Phone Numbers

Looking for a phone number? Type in phonebook: and the name and state of the person or business you are looking for. You can also do a reverse look up by simply typing a phone number into Google. Google will also locate area code for you. Just type in the area code, and you will get a link with a map. **Example**: phonebook:susan adams, nh

Stocks
You can get a stock update by typing in stocks: and the name or acronym for the company.
Example: stocks:ibm

More Than Meets the Eye
You can search for images, video, news, maps, and lots more with Google!

Video
You can search for video offered by Google or you can search the web for video hosted by other services. Some video can be downloaded other video can only be viewed. If you plan to use any online video in the classroom, preview it first to make sure it is appropriate. If you use images from Google, make sure you follow educational fair use copyright guidelines.

Images
When you search for images using Google, you may get some unusual results! Google looks at images with the file name for the search term you entered along with other factors. If you do a search for robin, you may get images of the bird, but you may also get images of people named Robin! Be careful with image searches in the classroom, you can get pornographic images if you don't have **safesearch** activated.

News
Google classifies newspapers, magazines, blogs, newsletters and more as news sites. Make sure you check the source of news results! You can use the advanced feature to limit your search to a particular news source like CNN or you can limit your search to a particular location. **Example**: volcano source:cnn

Maps
You can use Google Maps to locate an address or to get driving directions. When you are viewing maps, you can view a map, satellite or hybrid view.

Blog Search and Blogger
Blog search lets you search blog entries. Blogger is a free service that lets you set up your own blog.

Books
You can search books here. In some cases, you can view an entire book online, in other cases you will only be able see limited pages. You can also see previews of books in a variety of categories or you can use the advanced feature and search for books by author, publisher, subject, title, or publication year.

Calendar
This is an interactive calendar feature that lets you keep and share an online calendar. You need to register with Google to use this feature.

Finance
Here's where you will find the latest business news and stock prices.

Groups
This is a place where you can gather with people who share a common interest or start your own group. Groups can a useful for finding information about very specific topics from individuals. For example, cheat codes for video games, or lesson ideas for the classroom.

Labs
This is where Google puts things it is testing! Make sure to check it out every few months to stay up-to-date with the latest from Google!

Orkut
This is a social networking site. You must be a registered user to access it.

Patents
You can search for US patents here. You can search by individual or invention.

Photos
You can load and view photos here. You must be registered to use.

Products
You can search for items for sale here.

Reader
Gives you updates for news and blog sites.
Must be registered.

Scholar
Scholar lets you search scholarly literature
across many disciplines and sources, including
theses, books, abstracts and articles.

Alerts
Sends you email updates for topics of your
choice. Must be registered.

Catalogues
Lets you search mail order catalogues.

Checkout
Lets you can buy from stores across the web
and track all your orders and shipping in one
place. Must be registered.

Desktop
This downloadable feature lets you search and
personalize your computer.

Directory
You can browse the web by topic here.

Earth
This downloadable feature lets you explore the
earth using satellite imagery, maps, terrain
and 3D buildings models. Easter Egg: hit the
CTRL+Alt+A in Windows or
Command+Option+A on the Mac for a flight
simulator!

Calculator
Enter the calculation you'd like done into the
search box and hit the Enter key or click on the
Google Search button. The calculator can solve
math problems involving basic arithmetic,
more complicated math, units of measure and
conversions, and physical constants.

Math Functions:
+ addition
- subtraction
* multiplication
/ division
% of percentage
^ raise to power
 sqrt(number) square root
Calculate Root: nth root of [number]
trig function(number in radians) sin, cos etc:
nth root of [number] calculate root

Just for fun!
Type in: what is the answer to life the universe
and everything If you are a fan of Douglas
Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy,*
you'll get it!

Mathematical/Scientific Constants
Google know a variety of mathematical and
scientific constants, such as pi, Avogadro's
Number, and Planck's Constant. It also knows the
radius of the Earth, the mass of the sun, the speed
of light, the gravitational constant, and a lot more.

Measurement Conversions
You can get measurement conversions by
putting in the two items separated by **in**.
Example: 20 feet in inches or seconds in a
decade

Currency Converter
Enter the conversion you'd like done into the
Google search box. **Example**: 3.5 USD in GBP
or us money in canadian money

Definitions
If you type in define: and then the word you
want defined, you will get a listing of
definitions. **Example**: define:defenestration

Travel Information
To check on delays and weather conditions at
airports, type the airport's three letter code
followed by the word "airport." **Example**: mht
airport

Airport Codes
www.world-airport-codes.com/

Flight Status
To check the status of a U.S. flight, type the name of the airline followed by the flight number.
Example: United 432
Package Tracking
Type in the package number for a U.S. Postal Service, FedEx, or UPS package and Google will give you the status of the package.

Fact Finder
Google will display answers for certain factual questions like: population germany, birthplace jane austen, birthdate george w. bush, president mexico, and die bob hope at the top of the page when you do a search and find out the population of Germany, the birthplace of Jane Austen, the birthdate of George W. Bush, the president of Mexico or the date Bob Hope died.

Hidden Google

Moon
Explore the surface of the moon.
www.google.com/moon/

Mars
Explore Mars!
www.google.com/mars/

Hot Trends
Find out what people are searching for!
www.google.com/trends/hottrends

Holiday Logos
www.google.com/holidaylogos.html

Britney Mispellings
www.google.com/jobs/britney.html

Librarian Central
librariancentral.blogspot.com/

Google for Educators
www.google.com/educators/index.html