

Internet Resources

Valley Oaks Subscription Sites

California Streaming go to www.californiastreaming.org on the left-hand side of the screen, enter your username (first and last name of your resource teacher, lower case with no space) and password which is valleyoaks (lower case, no space). Note: both the user name and the password are lower case sensitive.

United Streaming go to www.unitedstreaming.com enter passcode: 99A9 3DEL then enter the required fields

Note: California Streaming is new this year (2006-07) and you must enroll using the above directions. If you used United Streaming last school year (2005-06) there is no need to reenroll, simply use your already created password and username.

Reading Lists

Caldecott Winners

<http://www.ala.org/ala/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/caldecottmedal/caldecottwinners/caldecottmedal.htm>

Newberry Winners

<http://ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/litterayawds/newberymedal/newberymedal.htm>

California Content Standards

California Department of Education www.cde.ca.gov

Textbook Support – most sites include lesson plans, teaching suggestions, and assessment ideas

Harcourt Social Studies <http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/hssc/index.html>

Houghton Mifflin Reading <http://www.weduplace.com>

Language of Literature Reading 6th, 7th, 8th (you will need to create a log on to access grammar and spelling)

<http://www.classzone.com/start/lol/index.html>

Math Steps www.eduplace.com/math/mathsteps/index.html

Scott Foresman Science www.scottforesman.com

Cross Curricular Hot Picks

www.schoolexpress.com – free math worksheets, thematic units

www.DiscoverySchool.com – published by Discovery channel

www.pbs.org – lesson plans, many go with televised programming: choose Teacher Sources, TV Schedule, or Programs A-Z

www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/matrix.html - lesson plans

<http://nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/> - maps for making projects

www.mapquest.com – directions to anywhere in the US

www.enchantedlearning.com

www.teachered.com

www.webquest.com

www.edhelper.com

www.kidzone.com

www.dictionary.com

www.thesaurus.com

Kern Learn go to www.kernlearn.net/ind/index.asp login username: 6 digit school ID# (found on current ID card) and password: 8 digit birth date

Book Adventure go to www.bookadventure.com enter username and password (check with your resource teacher if you are unsure of either)

World Book go to www.worldbookonline.com enter username: network, and password: libraries

Internet Resource Tips

Finding information on the Internet can be a daunting experience, however, there are a few simple tricks that can make finding useful information easy and rewarding.

1. **Finding what you want.** If you don't know the exact address you're looking for, use a search engine. Here are a few that are easy to use:
 - Google www.google.com – great for finding general to specific information
 - Yahoo www.yahoo.com – good maps for all those field trips
 - Hotbot www.hotbot.com – great for finding very specific information
 - Ask Jeeves www.askjeeves.com – user-friendly
2. **Using the search engine.** Once you're at the search engine, type in the word or phrase you're looking for. Try to "think like the database". If you give it too much to look for, you'll get very few returns; on the other hand, if you're too broad, you'll end up with a lot. So, looking for *Benjamin Franklin's First Printer* will pull a few web sites; looking for *Benjamin Franklin* will pull a lot of web sites; looking for *Benjamin* will pull as many web sites related to any kind of Benjamin out there, including stuff you're probably not interested in reading.
3. **Saving the results.** If you like the results of your search, consider adding it to your "favorites" or "bookmark" list. In this way, you can use your "favorite" or "bookmark" to return to this exact result as many times as you like.
4. **Searching through a list of resources.** A search engine "results" page is a long, long list of links related to your search criteria and here's an easy way to dig through them.
 - a. Skim through the results looking for web addresses. Look for addresses that end in: edu, gov, and org. Many of these are hosted by organizations that own the content. Be a little wary of the "edu" sites. They'll have lesson plans from professors and primary research by experts. They'll also be hosting sites for individual students who may or may not be experts. When reading the address, look for names of businesses, museums, and other reliable sources.*
 - b. To open a link that looks promising, use your mouse and open the address in a new browser window. In this way you can browse through a web site as much as you'd like without losing your search results. You can do this one of two ways: right-clicking and selecting the menu item "Open in a New Window", or with a single button mouse click and hold on the link until a menu appears, then select "Open in a New Window."
5. **Saving addresses.** There are a number of ways to do this. Using the "favorites" or "bookmarks" is a good way to start, but in a short time it can become cumbersome and hard to use. I recommend using a text editor like Microsoft Word. Open the program and type information that will help you remember the content of the site and then copy the address from the browser and paste it into the text file.

*A word about content. Unlike a book publisher or a newspaper, there is no "editor" of the Internet. Since the Internet is a relatively cheap and easy way to share information (compared to printing and distributing books and pamphlets), there's a lot of it out there, and it lacks a certain level of guaranteed reliability. Unlike a book publisher who wants to protect their reputation, anyone can publish anything they want on the Internet and claim it's accurate. So, use your common sense. Consider the company or person publishing the information, and consider whether or not there is an expert that supports that same point of view.