

HOW STUDENTS USE THE WEB

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Field Trip - experience online what would be seen if actually going on the tour

A class can take a virtual field trip online to a museum, art gallery, or outdoor site. The following are some sites that may be interesting to use with units you will be studying. Although some of these sites are searchable, the search covers the complete site and is generally not more productive in locating information for the elementary level than just browsing.

Evaluations and user tips for these sites are online at <http://www.merrybee.info/stuse.html>

Send comment or corrections to mberry@merrybee.info

- <http://www.indiana.edu/~primate/primates.html>
African Primates at Home.
Pictures and sounds of monkeys, chimpanzees, and gorillas in their native habitat, with information on each of the animals. grades 3-6
- <http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/butterflies/>
Butterfly Conservatory.
This American Museum of Natural History exhibit features a virtual tour, movie clips, live cam, facts, downloadable screensavers, and a report done by a 10th grade visitor. Some features require a plug-in but use is well explained. grades 4 and up
- <http://www.exploratorium.edu/>
Exploratorium.
This museum of science, art and human perception in San Francisco has designed online versions of exhibits and hundreds of offline activities. Scheduled live Webcasts offer additional virtual field trip possibilities. grades 4 and up for exhibits, although a few activities can be done as early as grade 1. Searchable.
- http://www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibits/online_exhib.htm
Field Museum of Natural History.
Current exhibits include an environmental science unit entitled Underground Adventure which is targeted at grade 5, lions of Tsavo, items from anthropology collections, butterflies, and Sue, the famous Tyrannosaurus Rex. Some pages require a plug-in. grades 4-8
- http://www.fmnh.org/exhibits/online_exhib.htm
Field Trip Factory.
Not a virtual trip, but online resources and arrangements for a real-world free field trip if available in your geographical area. Field trip themes include: animal welfare (Petco), literacy (Borders), auto safety (Saturn dealers), healthy lifestyle (Albertson's), nutrition & environment (Wild Oats), consumer choices (Wal-Mart), nutrition (A&P and others).
grades k-6
- <http://sln.fi.edu/>
Franklin Institute Science Museum of Philadelphia.
Click on "Learn" for virtual exhibits on the heart and Benjamin Franklin's accomplishments. Click on "Explore" for a collection of materials about the Wright Brothers and a collection of scientific instruments. Many online resources for teachers. grades 3 and up
- <http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/it/projects/Museums/>
Going to a Museum?
An online teacher's guide written by teachers in a "Museums and Education" course. Start with "Using the Site" to access lesson plans. Other resources are a generic timeline for planning a field trip and links to selected museum sites. grades k-8

- **<http://www.hfmvgv.org/>**
Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village.
To tour exhibits, click on Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, or Ford Rouge Factory Tour in the top banner. Click Explore and Learn for online exhibits and interactive modules useful in the classroom. Various games and activities are embedded in the exhibit information. grades 4 and up
- **http://www.marshmallowpeeps.com/about/factory_tour.html**
Marshmallow Peeps Factory Tour.
A quick slide show tour shows how these candy creatures are created. Site also includes fun facts, a company timeline, and recipes. Attractive, but almost crosses the line to advertising in the guise of information. Requires Macromedia Shockwave. grades 3-4
- **<http://4hgarden.msu.edu/main.html>**
Michigan 4-H Children's Garden.
Virtual reality garden tour with lots of online activities and games. An apple icon along the tour indicates information for the teacher. Some stories are no longer available, and having the book at hand would be a plus when using this section. Requires Quicktime &/or Flash. grades k-5
- **<http://www.msichicago.org/>**
Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.
Click "Exhibits" in the menu directly under the title. Some exhibits are interactive (The Great Train Story, NetWorld, The Farm), some are informative slide shows (All Aboard the Silver Streak), and some consist of a few pictures of the museum exhibit. Check the "Archives" at the bottom of the list for more exhibits. grades 4 and up
- **<http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/>**
National Museum of American History.
Many virtual exhibits, hands-on-history activities, and a clickable timeline with artifacts. The exhibit *The Price of Freedom: Americans at War* has interesting resources for students and for teachers. A few activities require Flash or Quicktime and have buttons to download if you don't have. Searchable. grades 3 and up
- **<http://carlos.emory.edu/ODYSSEY/>**
Odyssey Online.
Uses museum objects to describe culture of Near East, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Sub-Saharan Africa, or Ancient Americans. Information about people, mythology, daily life, rituals, communication, archeology is written for elementary and middle school students. Includes activities and links. Teacher section with tips for teaching with museum objects and the Internet. Some pages require a plug-in. grades 4-8
- **<http://www.questacon.edu.au/kids.html>**
Questacon Kids.
Provided by the National Science and Technology Centre in Australia. Experiments, activities, and illusions in the Fun Zone. Clicking on Exhibitions has a link for a virtual reality field trip through the museum. grades 3-6
- **<http://www.seaworld.org/>**
SeaWorld / Busch Gardens - Animals.
Animal facts, sounds, and you-are-there reports. Teacher guides for different age groups k-8. Students use the "Animal Info" section, as well as the Fun Zone for activities.
- **<http://www.eduscapes.com/sessions/virtual/index.html>**
Virtual Adventures.
The benefits and processes of using Internet field trips in your curriculum. Presented in four sections: Explore- finding sites, Use- using the technology in the classroom, Adapt- matching to the curriculum, and Create- making your own to share with others. For teachers of grades 2-8

Another type of field trip is provided by the live-cam sites. A camera is set up to continuously feed the image onto the Internet. These sites can be used in lessons not only to give the reality of a place, but also for comparison over time or a real time comparison with the place of the students own classroom. Live-cams come and go so expect a few dead links.

- **<http://www.abirdseyeviewof.com/WIE.html>**
A Birds Eye View Of Webcams in Education.
Sites selected for their pertinence to topics commonly included in school curriculum. Categories include nature, man-made structures, historical locations, and others.
- **<http://www.earthcamforkids.com/>**
EarthCam For Kids.
Nature, weather, and animals; but also classrooms, labs, and streets. Browse categories or search by keyword.
- **<http://www.faa.gov/asos/wxcams.htm>**
Weather Cams.
Compiled by the Federal Aviation Administration. Some dead links, but the “live” ones are good. You have to get used to closing the message, “You are leaving the FAA's Internet site.” that comes up in a separate window every time you select a cam view.

The following directories list a wide variety of live-cams. The teacher can explore to locate specific sites for students to use. Do not send students to these directory sites since they require higher level reading skills and may link to unacceptable sites.

- **<http://www.earthcam.com/>**
EarthCam - Webcam Network.
Teacher can explore by topic or do a keyword search.
- **<http://www.leonardsworlds.com/camera.html>**
Leonard's Worlds.
Focusing on travel and outdoor cams, includes an animals section. Leonard’s claims over 15,000 “Child Safe” webcams.
- **<http://www.webcamsearch.com/>**
WebcamSearch.
Browse directory or search thousands of webcam resources and access to video chatrooms. User rated and monitored for dead links. Use caution with this one!