



National Behaviour Support Service (NBSS)  
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Useful Web Resources and Sites 2009. Revised 2010.

The National Behaviour Support Service (NBSS) was established by the Department of Education & Science in 2006 in response to the recommendation in *School Matters: The Report of the Task Force on Student Behaviour in Second Level Schools* (2006).

The NBSS is funded by the Department of Education and Skills under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013

Please note that this is not an "approved" list of websites or web-based resources, nor does this list constitute an endorsement of these sites over others that might be considered.

NBSS 2009





## BigHugeLabs

<http://bighugelabs.com/>

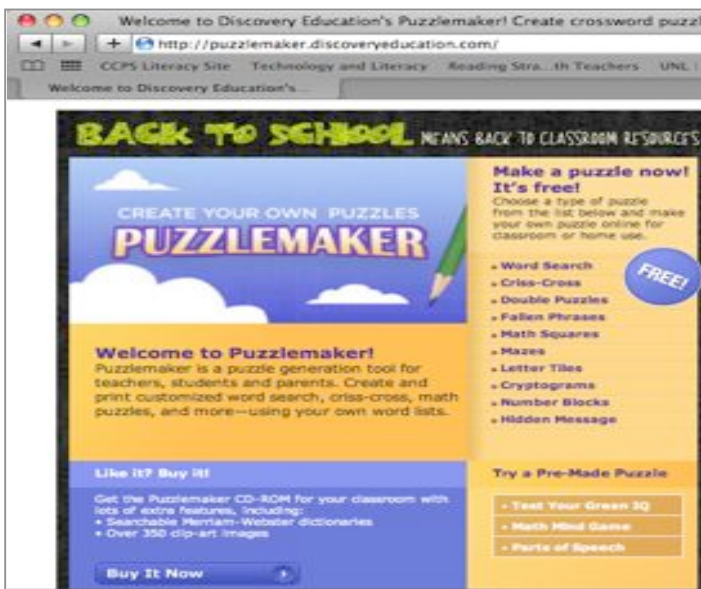
On this site you can create a range of materials such as movie posters, cards, magazine covers etc. These can be used for a variety of classroom activities such as: using the movie poster maker to introduce a new topic by pasting an image and writing key topic vocabulary as the actors and production team for the 'movie', as in the 'cell' example here.



## Word Central

<http://www.wordcentral.com>

Word Central contains 4 word-spelling games. The games involve elements such as audio, drag, drop and click that students can play and have fun with.



## Puzzlemaker

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com>

This website is a free puzzlemaker tool where you can create and print customised word search, criss-cross, maths puzzles — using your own word lists.

## Mind Mapping Tools

- <http://www.mindomo.com>
- [www.mind42.com](http://www.mind42.com)
- [www.bubbl.us](http://www.bubbl.us)
- <http://www.mindmeister.com/>

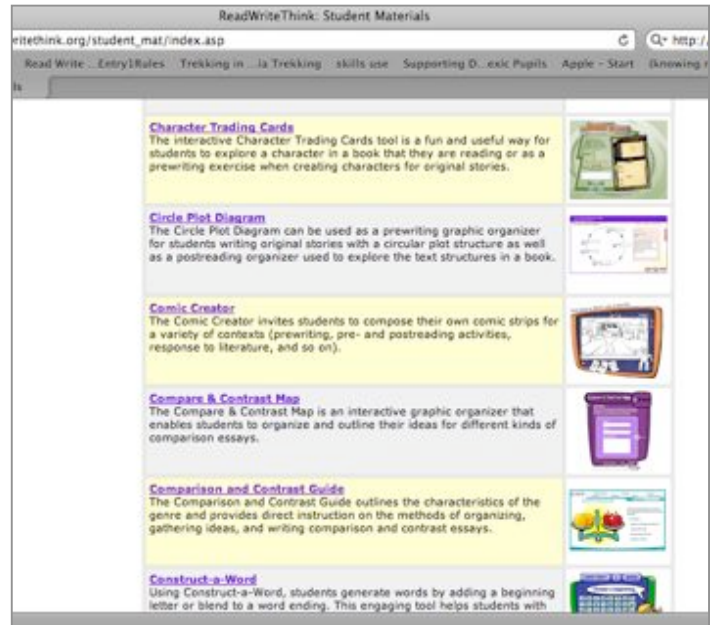
On these sites you can access free mind mapping and brainstorming tools that can help students organise their ideas and plan their work around a particular topic or subject.



## ReadWriteThink

<http://www.readwritethink.org/>

ReadWriteThink offers an excellent collection of online student materials to support literacy learning in the classroom. These interactive tools can be used to supplement a variety of lessons and provide an opportunity for students to use technology, while developing their literacy skills. You click on the name of each interactive learning tool (there are over 40), for a brief description and a list of the ReadWriteThink lessons to use with the tool. Each tool is accompanied by a selection of detailed lesson plans aimed at different age groups, outlining the learning objectives and procedures to use in class with students.



## Go Animate

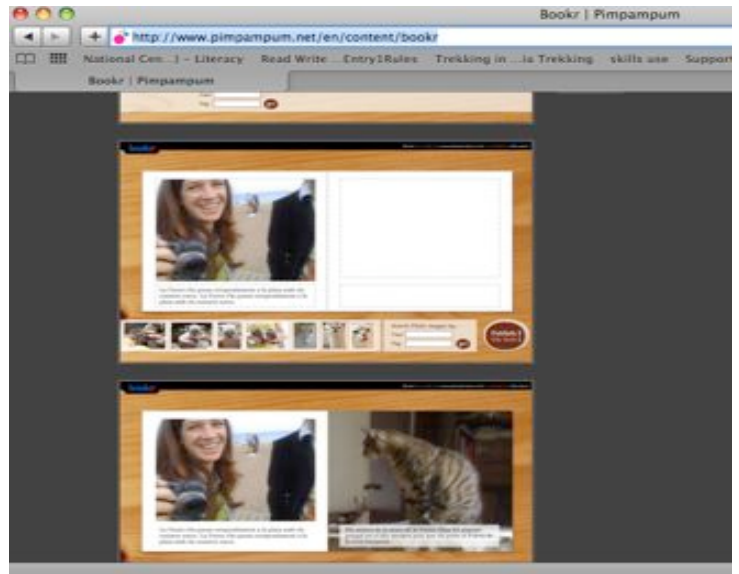
<http://goanimate.com/>

This website is a free online animation tool where students can create their own animated stories. The site provides a library of interesting characters, backgrounds, props, sound effects and music for use in creating an animation. Students could plan and draft their stories and then use the site to create an animated version of what they have written.

## Bookr

<http://www.pimpampum.net/en/content/bookr>

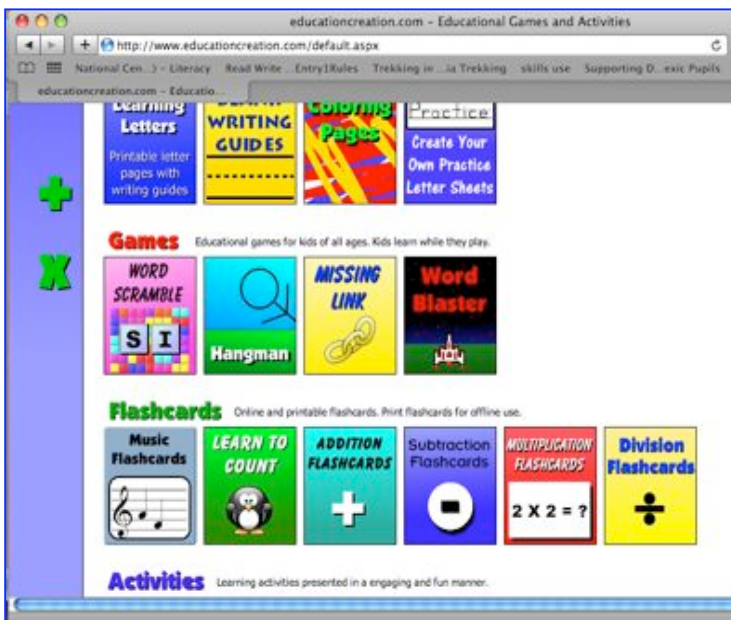
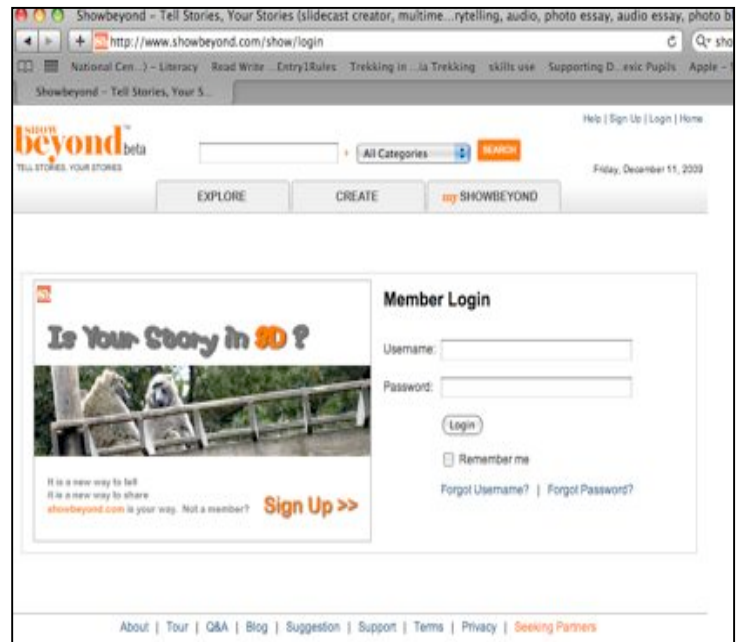
Bookr is a tool to create a photo book using Flickr images. You search through the library of Flickr images, choose those that match your story, add your text to the photo book and then create it. This could be used after students have planned, used a storyboard and produced a text draft of their fiction or non-fiction story or topic.



## ShowBeyond

<http://www.showbeyond.com/>

Showbeyond is a free multimedia slidecast creator, where you can use your own images, add your own sound (including recording your own voiceover) and add text to create multimedia stories. Showbeyond allows you to upload your images from your computer or other on-line sources. On each slide you can put a text description or a narrative. If you need more room, you can add text slides. On the bottom of the homepage click on 'Tour' and from here you can see how easily it is to create a book slideshow. Also browse the archives to see the variety of stories and ways this tool can be used.



## Educationcreation

<http://www.educationcreation.com/>

This website provides a variety of language and maths games that can be played online. The games have various levels of difficulty. There is also a section where worksheets and flashcards can be printed.

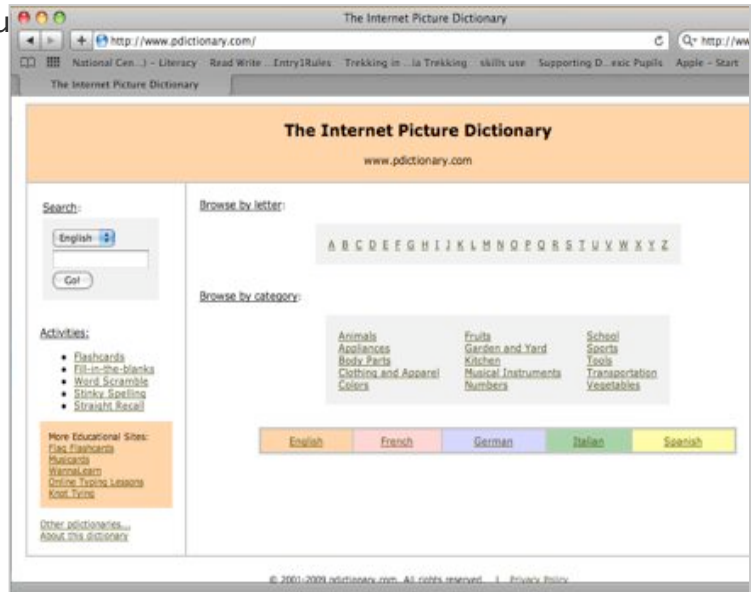
arning

# Pdictionary

<http://www.pdictionary.com/>

This site is an online dictionary that provides words and pictures in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish for a variety of topic areas such as: clothing, colours, animals, sports, school etc. There is also a section where games such as word scrabble and fill-in-the-blanks can be played in each language.

Useful



# Rollercoasters

<http://www.oup.co.uk/oxed/secondary/english/rollercoasters/>



This site has an excellent set of **free** downloadable teacher and student resources to accompany a range of teenage novels e.g. *The Boy in the Stripped Pajamas*, *The Kite Rider*, *Storm Catchers*. Each of the 27 novels is accompanied by teaching materials specifically designed to help students access the texts and to support learning. The resources focus on the explicit teaching of reading and thinking skills. A very useful resource for teaching reading, comprehension and thinking skills using the class novel.

# Script-o-rama

<http://www.script-orama.com/table.shtml>

On this site you can link to free film scripts for 100s of movies. The scripts are organised alphabetically and can be downloaded to your computer. Scripts for films such as *Twilight*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Batman*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Troy* and the *Harry Potter* films are just some of the free scripts you can find here.

movie scripts: drew's meat and potatoes

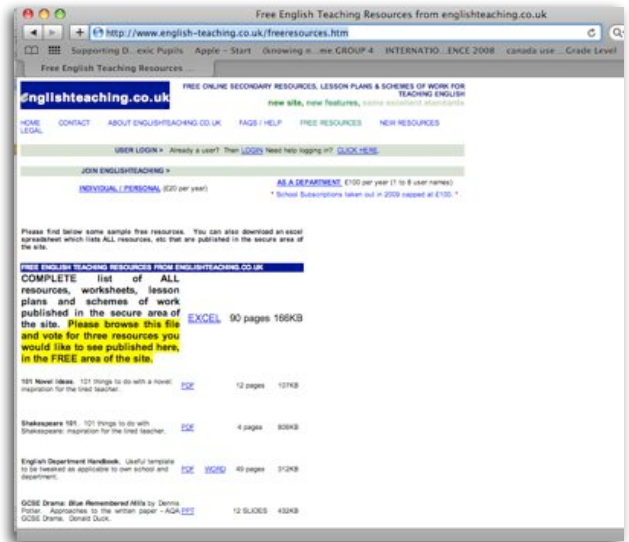
www.script-o-rama.com/table.shtml

Batman	First Draft	250K
Batman	Revised First Draft	173K
Batman	5th Draft	87K
Batman And Robin	Screenplay	123K
Batman Forever	Production Draft	225K
Batman Returns	Early Draft	267K
Batman Returns	Shooting Draft	200K
Batman Vs. Superman	Revised Draft	200K
Batman: Year One	Script	200K
Battle Of Algiers	Script	116K
Battle Of Shaker Heights	Script	116K
Battleship Galactica	Unspecified	200K
The Beach	Unspecified	256K
Bean (Word Doc)	First Draft	356K
Beauty And The Beast	Unspecified	210K
Beauty Shop	Revised Final Draft	202K

# English Teaching

<http://www.english-teaching.co.uk/freeresources.htm>

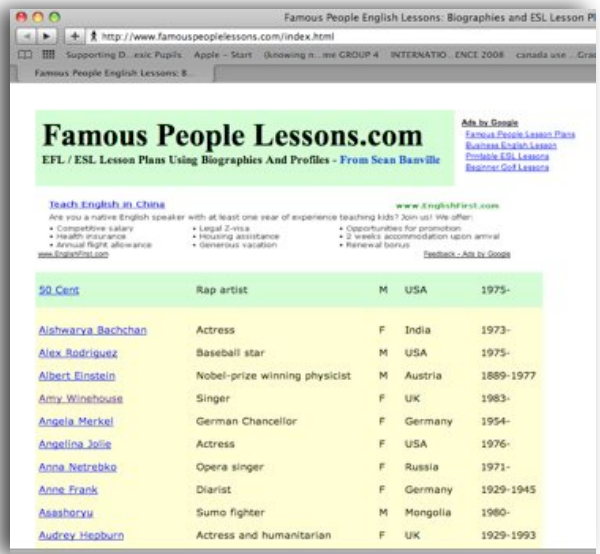
This UK site provides and publishes editable and printable teaching resources, worksheets, lesson plans and schemes of work covering reading, (poetry, prose, drama, media, non-fiction) writing and speaking / listening. All materials are developed and produced by subject specialists. To access all the resources a yearly subscription of £20 is payable, however there are also numerous free resources to download.



# Famous People Lessons

<http://www.famouspeoplelessons.com/index.html>

This site has over 100 short texts about different famous people, from 50 cent to Mozart. Each piece of text also has a readability score. All transcripts can be printed in word, read on screen or downloaded as an MP3 file. This allows students to read and listen to the text. For each transcript there is a series of reading related activities such as prediction exercises, cloze exercises, word development and sentence reconstruction exercises (approx. 13 pages of activities). These can be done online or printed out. This is a great site that could be used as part of a reading skills programme. based around 'Famous People' or 'My Heroes'.



# Breaking News

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/>

This site has 1000s of news articles however, you would need to select those that are appropriate to use with students. Each article can be printed in word, read on screen and downloaded as an MP3 file, so students can listen and read the text. Each article is also accompanied by a downloadable (approx. 13 pages), handout containing reading related activities such as: prediction exercises, cloze exercises, word development and sentence reconstruction exercises, based on the news article. A good site for resources focused on developing reading and comprehension skills.



<http://www.readmeresources.co.uk/>

This site provides a set of resources (powerpoints with accompanying student and teacher notes) designed to encourage students to read. The resources are linked to a particular themes e.g comics, love, sport, film. There is also a reading skills sheet that helps to focus students on the different strategies they need to use when reading a text.

Also check out an excellent linked site:  
<http://www.nationalschoolpartnership.com/resources.html>



## Dolch and Fry Word Lists

<http://www.theschoolbell.com/Links/Dolch/Contents.html>  
<http://www.hisd.k12.mi.us/literacy/FlashCards.html>

The **Dolch list** of high frequency words comprises the 220 words, excluding nouns, that were common to the word lists used in beginning reading programs in the 1940's. The Dolch is still a reliable high frequency word list, though some words are out of date e.g. the word "shall," found on list 11. Some students need extra practice with the Dolch words and if you type 'Dolch' into a search engine many sites that have the Dolch list and/or the list with activities are accessible. However, the learning of the Dolch words or any words in isolation, does not make a 'reader'. Sometimes a student can read the words from a list but not recognise the same word/s in a textbook or novel. Sites like the one pictured above also contain ideas for games and activities that students can use in order to help them use and learn the words in different contexts.

The **Fry list** of 600 words (the most frequently used words and phrases for reading and writing) was compiled in 1996 by Dr Edward Fry. Again by typing 'Fry' in a search engine, many sites with the word lists and related activities will be accessible. Repeated reading and related word activities of a few phrases and words per week will give students practice reading high-frequency words and developing fluency and general proficiency.

# A Maths Dictionary

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jeather/maths/dictionary.html>

This site contains maths related vocabulary. When you click on a letter of the alphabet on the left hand side of the screen, a list of maths related vocabulary for that letter appears. So for example when you click on 'Aa' and then click 'algebra' a written and visual explanation of the word appears. Some of the definitions ask students to carry out an activity also.



# Count On

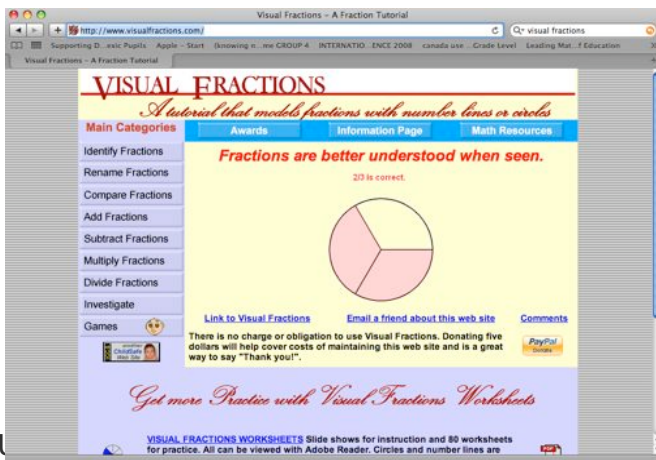
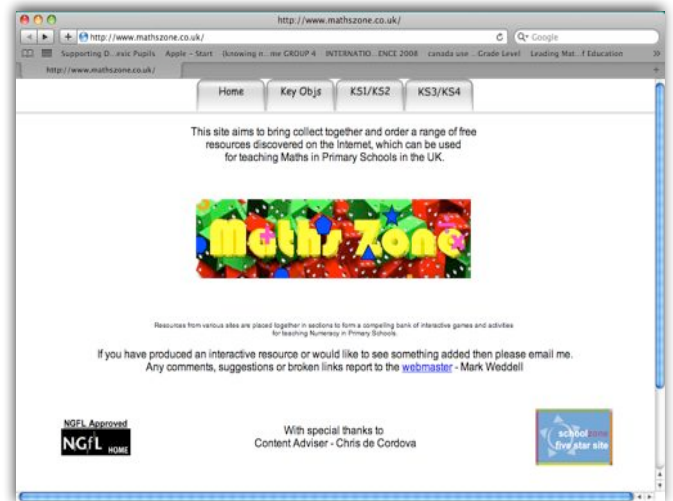
<http://www.counton.org/>

This site contains a range of maths related games on a whole range of topic areas. Some of the games require Shockwave. Also check out the links page on the site, as there are many other maths sites for students and resource sites for teachers listed.

# Maths Zone

<http://www.mathszone.co.uk/>

This site aims to bring together and order a range of free maths resources that are available on the Internet and which can be used for teaching Maths in primary (KS1/2) and secondary (KS3/4) schools in the UK. Links are provided for sites that have resources related to symbols and formulas, problem solving, handling data, fractions, algebra etc and much



# Visual fractions

<http://www.visualfractions.com/>

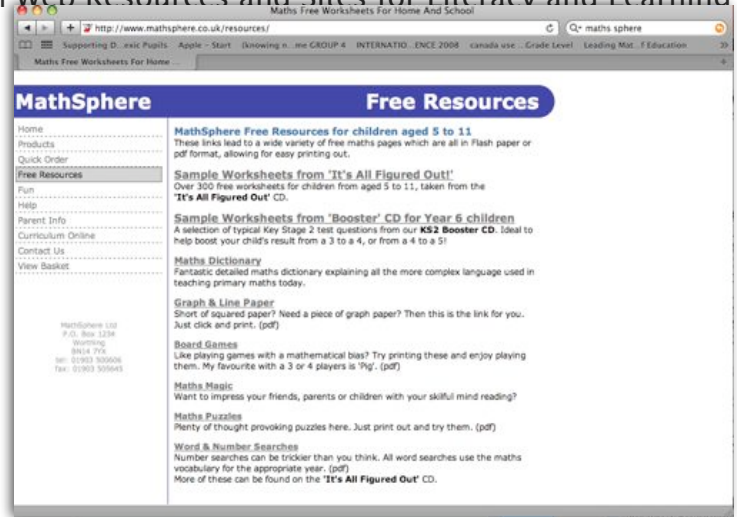
This site contains a range of activities related to fractions as well as downloadable student worksheets.

# MathSphere

<http://www.mathsphere.co.uk/>

When you click on "free resources" on this site you can print out several useful maths activities and materials. For example a maths dictionary with maths games for individual, pair or group work or maths number word searches.

\* Contact the NBSS for other maths website listings.



# BBC Bitesize

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize/>

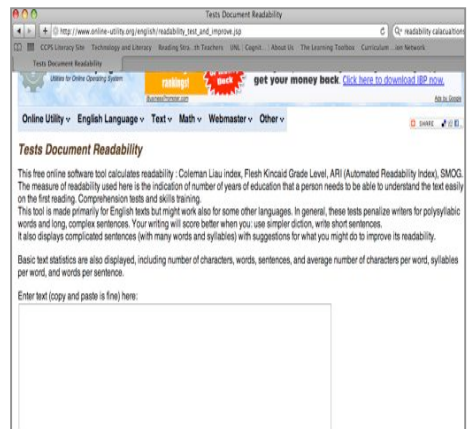
The website is geared for revision of GCSE exam subjects as well as revision of particular elements of the primary curriculum in the UK. All subjects are covered including Irish in the GCSE section of the site. Each subject topic has a 'revise' section where the main information relating to a particular area can be read. An 'activity' section contains excellent video presentations with audio and subtitles. Finally there are quizzes to test what has been learned. Games, links to other sites and audio recordings on revision topics related to English, French and Science that students can listen to is also a feature. In the primary sections there are activities for reading, maths and science with short films, reading sections and games related to specific topics available. Worth checking out.

# Skool

<http://www.skool.ie/default.asp>

Skool provides online, interactive, multimedia lessons for junior and senior cycle subjects. You can download, store and run the interactive lessons on a PC, so you don't have to be online to use the lessons with students. There is also a range of information and subject resources available for teachers and parents on the site.





## Readability Calculation Online

<http://www.readabilityformulas.com/free-readability-formula-assessment.php>

[http://www.online-utility.org/english/readability\\_test\\_and\\_improve.jsp](http://www.online-utility.org/english/readability_test_and_improve.jsp)

<http://www.harrymclaughlin.com/SMOG.htm>

There are many free online tools that will calculate the readability of a piece of text e.g. Coleman Liau index, Flesh Kincaid Grade, Fog Scale, SMOG. These formulas provide a means for estimating the difficulty a reader may have reading and understanding a paragraph, section or entire document. These can be useful when creating handouts, test and other written material for use with students. The readability assessment takes a sample of your writing and attempts to match the reading level of written material to the 'reading with understanding' of the average reader e.g. a text that has reading level of 12 years, means an average 12 year old should be able to read that book independently. However, there are numerous factors that affect how easy or how hard, a given text is to read and understand, including sentence length, word choice, layout and formatting, overall organisation of the content, use of illustrations, use of colour, etc. Most readability formulas consider only two factors: (a) the number of syllables (or letters) in a word, and (b) the number of words in a sentence. The above websites are just some of the many sites that will calculate the readability of any text you copy and paste. If you google 'readability formulas' you will find other sites and some that calculate using several formulas, so you can see the average readability score.

## Graphic Organisers

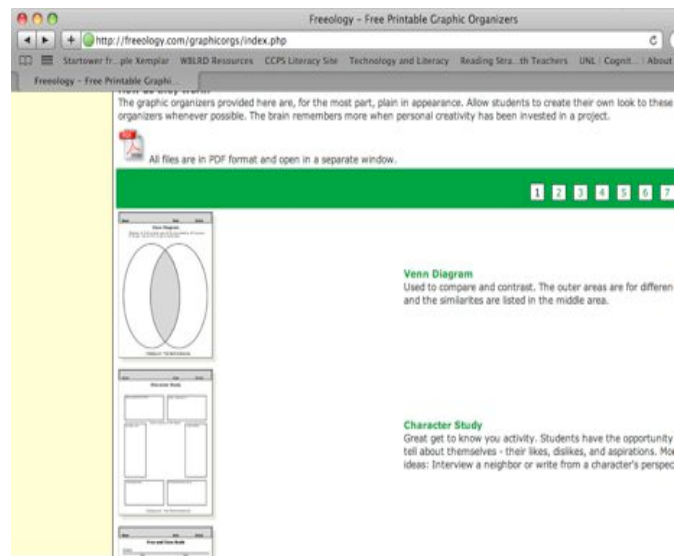
<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>

<http://www.graphic.org/>

<http://freeology.com/graphicorgs/index.php>

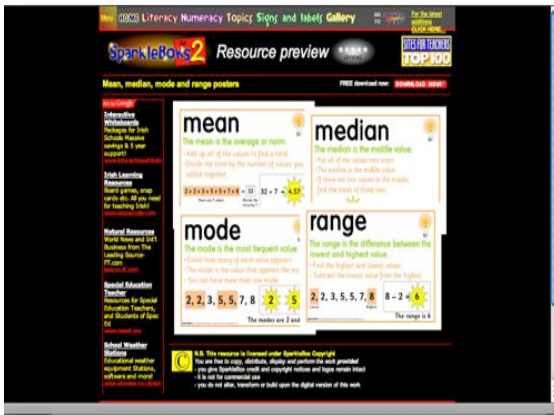
[http://www.slss.ie/resource\\_category/view/1138](http://www.slss.ie/resource_category/view/1138)

Graphic organisers help students classify ideas and learn more effectively. Use graphic organisers to structure writing, to help in problem solving, decision making, studying, planning research and brainstorming. There are numerous sites where you can download various organisers - just Google 'Graphic Organizers' with a 'z'!

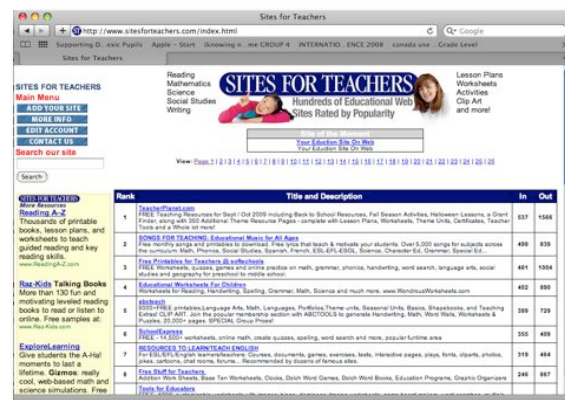


# Sparklebox

<http://www.sparklebox2.co.uk/>



The site offers a bank of colourful resources that are divided into different areas of learning including literacy and numeracy as well as history, geography and science. Student certificates, target sheets and keyword lists are also available to download free. Although the resources are aimed at primary school students many topics are also relevant to secondary. You are able to click on the resources to get a preview before downloading for free. But a word of warning the materials are of a high quality so you can use a lot of ink when printing!



## Teachers @ Work

<http://teachers.work.co.nz/index.htm>

On this site you can search and link to 3000 teacher reviewed web sites. The links are divided into categories e.g. art, english, health and well-being, maths, science etc. There is also a link to an online image database that provides links to photographs which are royalty free for use in student projects and worksheets.

## Sites for Teachers

<http://www.sitesforteachers.com/index.html>

This site contains hundreds of websites ranked in popularity by teachers. They link to sites that range from subject specific material, worksheets and lesson plans to sites for clipart and useful class forms.

The following sites also provide links to a range of teacher and student resource sites.

<http://eduscapes.com/tap/tap2.htm>

<http://teachers.teach-nology.com/>

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/>

[http://www.xmarks.com/topic/teacher\\_resources](http://www.xmarks.com/topic/teacher_resources)

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com>

On this site pay \$20 for access to a wealth of graphic organisers, diagrams, charts across subject areas.

## NBSS 'Learning to Learn' Resources available to Support Academic Literacy & Learning:

1. ***Comprehension and Learning Strategies for all Subject Areas*** (NBSS 2008). This resource outlines research-based comprehension, learning and thinking strategies that can be integrated into all subject areas.
2. ***Comprehension and Learning Strategies Classroom Posters*** (NBSS 2008). These posters are designed to supplement the teaching of the strategies outlined in the above resource. They are intended as a visual reference for students of the key comprehension and learning strategies all learners need. Comprehension strategy bookmarks or thinkmarks are also available to print and use with students.
3. ***Language and Literacy Games*** (NBSS 2008). This resource contains numerous ideas on how to develop vocabulary and oral language skills in a fun way.
4. ***Read: Engage Students with High Interest and Low Readability Books*** (NBSS 2008). This teacher resource provides information on high interest/low readability fiction and non-fiction texts, as well as titles related to specific subject topic areas. High Interest and Low Readability books can encourage reading and support the development of fluency and vocabulary skills.
5. ***Literacy and Learning: Programmes and Resources*** (NBSS 2008). This teacher resource gives an overview of commercially available programmes and resources that teachers in NBSS partner schools have used successfully to support the development of reading, learning and literacy skills.
6. ***Activating Prior Knowledge - Lesson Starters Ideas: Previewing & Reviewing*** (NBSS 2009). This resource outlines over 30 activities that can be used to activate students' prior knowledge. Activating prior knowledge increases student comprehension. These activities can also be used at the beginning of a lesson to review learning from a previous class.
7. ***Listening, Discussion and Teamwork Lesson Ideas*** (NBSS 2009). This resource suggests activities that can be used to develop students' listening, speaking and group work skills.
8. ***Useful Web Resources and Sites for Literacy & Learning*** (NBSS 2009). This teacher resource gives an overview of websites that can be use with students to support learning across a variety of curriculum areas, as well as numerous sites where teachers can access and download resources to use in their subject area.
9. ***Writing with 'WOW' Words and Vocabulary Building:*** (NBSS 2009). This resource describes ways to expand students' use of vibrant or 'wow' words as well as activities for developing creative writing skills. Also available is a powerpoint presentation on proofreading and editing that can be used with students in conjunction with this resource.
10. ***Strategies for Vocabulary Teaching*** (NBSS 2009). This resource outlines research-based strategies for vocabulary teaching as well as games and activities that can be used to develop subject specific vocabulary.
11. ***Adolescent Literacy and Learning Information Sheets*** (NBSS 2009). This resource gives a brief overview of the 5 key areas in relation to Adolescent Literacy (i.e. comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, phonics and phonemic awareness) and effective practices for addressing the literacy needs of adolescent learners.
12. ***Teacher as Researcher: Resource Pack for Literacy and Learning Research Projects*** (NBSS 2009). This teacher resource provides several research instruments that can be used as part of the *NBSS Teacher as Researcher Projects* that focus on the development of literacy and learning skills with students.
13. ***Learning and Study Skills Toolkit*** (NBSS 2010). This resource provides over 30 strategies and templates that can be used to develop students' learning and study skills. The resource is used in conjunction with a NBSS student study skills questionnaire that can help identify those strategies students may need to be taught to improve learning and study skills. Also available to use with these resource are powerpoint presentations or workshops on study and learning skills.
14. ***Learning from Textbook Reading at Second Level: Strategies fro Success*** (NBSS 2010). This resource contains a variety of exercises on text features, questioning and summarising strategies that can help students read and learn from their textbooks. The exercises and skills outlined in this resource can be introduced to 1st year students as part of a transition and transfer induction programme.





## Useful Web Resources and Sites for Literacy and Learning

Readability	
Passive Sentences	25%
Flesch Reading Ease	55.9
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	10.2

### Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level is 11.2

(6<sup>th</sup> grade = 11-12yrs; 7<sup>th</sup> grade = 12-13yrs; 8<sup>th</sup> grade = 12-14yrs; 9<sup>th</sup> grade = 14-15yrs; 10<sup>th</sup> grade = 15-16yrs; 11<sup>th</sup> grade = 17-18 yrs)

**Flesch Reading Ease** based on school text covering US grade 3 to 12: 90-100 = easy for 11yr old; 60-70 = easy for 13-15 yr old; 0-30 = best understood by university graduate.

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