



[The Annenberg Teachers' Lab](http://www.learner.org/teacherslab/)

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Experiment with new teaching and learning ideas in math and science -- and identify activities you can use in the classroom. This site features labs based on the professional development series and workshops broadcast on the Annenberg/CPB Math and Science Project Channel. Each Lab combines online activities with background information and interactive polls or worksheets participants can use in their classrooms, plus links to related Web sites. And be sure to visit the Annenberg/CPB [homesite](#) to find resources in every content area.

[ALPS - Harvard's Teacher Lab](http://learnweb.harvard.edu/alps/home/index.cfm)

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The site includes model lesson plans and activities; curriculum design tools; online educational publications; interactive forums, workshops and conferences; and [teacher journals](#) reflecting on practice. The site is built around three themes: [Teaching for Understanding](#); [The Thinking Classroom](#); and [Education with New Technologies](#). Important for everyone interested in improving teacher practice. Of special interest to middle grades educators: [A Year of Teaching 7th Grade English](#); [A Year of Teaching 8th Grade Science](#); [The Colonial Biography Unit for 7th Grade History](#).

[The ENC Inquiry and Problem-Solving Site](http://www.enc.org/focus/topics/inquiry/index.htm)

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"Inquiry and Problem Solving are central to standards-based teaching of mathematics and science,"

begins this page at the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse site. Articles show how classroom teachers all over the country encourage their students to become inquirers and problem solvers. The page also links to resources from the ENC Collection that can help teachers use inquiry and problem solving techniques in the classroom.

[Best Teaching Practice in the Middle Grades](http://www.mdk12.org/practices/good_instruction/projectbetter/middlely/index.html)

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The Maryland State Department of Education has developed a series of webpages where teachers can link to resources about best teaching practice. This section focuses on the "middle learning years" and includes brief materials on homework, abstract concepts, praise and rewards, student accountability, organizing and presenting instruction, goals and purposes, monitoring student success, meaningful school and community participation, rules and routines, managing disruptive behavior, learning skills, student team learning, setting high expectations, and more.

[Education World](http://www.education-world.com/help/guide.shtml)

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Supported by advertising and corporate contributions, the Education World site just gets better and better -- both broad and deep, offering original material on important education topics, lesson plans and teaching ideas, a massive index to internet sites, and -- most important -- an energetic and innovative staff that continues to search for ways to best serve educators. This link leads to a site guide that will ease exploration of this large site. Also see EW's "[Great Sites for Teaching.](#)" And sign up for one or more of their [mailing lists](#) (including "Teacher Lesson Plans") -- they add great new stuff all the time.

[PBS Teacher Source](http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/)

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Includes more than 1,000 free lesson plans (matched to standards), teacher guides and online activities-- and you can [explore these resources](#) by subject or grade level or with keywords. The site includes [information about how teachers and media specialists can legally tape](#) PBS shows for classroom use. The site also includes [advance schedules](#) and info about [ordering PBS videos](#).

[Understanding by Design Exchange](http://www.ubdexchange.org/ubd.html)

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The Understanding by Design Exchange is a cooperative Web site devoted to the development and peer review of curriculum units. Understanding by Design is a research-based approach to curriculum development created by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe. Members develop, store and retrieve curricular units, assessment tasks, and rubrics in a searchable database which can be browsed and printed. Rooted

in the Wiggins/McTighe book "[Understanding by Design.](#)" Try out the "Demo," peruse the Resources and consider joining the Exchange. Also see this Wiggins/McTighe article, "[Are the Best Curriculum Designs Backward?](#)"

[The George Lucas Educational Foundation](#) **NEW**

<http://gledf.org/>

This may be the best site on the Web about cutting-edge teaching and learning. Of course, there's an emphasis on technology, but the resources here go far beyond that. You'll find stories about innovative middle schools, videos that show ideas in action, interviews with experts, and whole sets of information on topics like "[Project-Based Learning.](#)" Explore this site -- it's worth a couple of hours!

[Apple Learning Interchange](#)

<http://ali.apple.com/>

[Microsoft Classroom Teacher Network](#)

<http://www.microsoft.com/education/mctn/?ID=MCTN>

We're even-handed here at MiddleWeb (although we're Mac-based), so here are the teacher pages offered by both Apple Computer and Microsoft. Both sites include lesson plans and other resources, often technology-oriented or web-based. We found the Microsoft materials to be more product-oriented, but they often included more details (including handouts, etc.). Both [Apple](#) and [Microsoft](#) include lesson plan search engines. Apple has been at it longer and has more original material to offer. Microsoft pulls from other sites across the Web. Try them both!

[DiscoverySchool.com for Teachers](#) **NEW**

<http://school.discovery.com/teachers/>

Lesson plans, teaching tools, chat listservs, classroom customizers, a clip art gallery, a puzzle generator, and access to [Kathy Shrock's famous collection](#) of education weblinks. Then there's the brainbuster feature (great for daily startups), the Science Fair Central, etc. etc. Impressive!

*** * * BONUS SITES! * * ***

[The Coalition of Essential Schools "Fieldbook"](#)

Shared strategies, resources, and tools for improving schools, drawn from the work of Coalition of Essential Schools members and CES publications like "Horace." From this Fieldbook "homepage," visitors can explore resources about classroom and school practice. As the page notes, "We are collecting

the powerful wisdom and learnings occurring across the CES network and sharing them via the Web." CES also plans to provide a forum for online interaction around the effectiveness of these various strategies.

[GEM: The Gateway to Educational Materials](http://www.thegateway.org/)

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With its Gateway to Educational Materials, the US Department of Education aims to make the Web "a more friendly place for teachers." GEM evaluates resources from federal, state, university, nonprofit, and commercial sites and compiles a database of lesson plans accessible through a simple search. There are currently over 140 organizations supplying over 7,000 documents to the database. This site can serve as a source of good ideas for supplementary activities in a well-designed and implemented curriculum. Searchable by subjects, keywords, grade levels, etc.

[Filamentality](http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/)

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Filamentality is a fill-in-the-blank interactive Web site that guides teachers through picking a topic, searching the Web, gathering good Internet sites, and turning Web resources into activities appropriate for learners. The site developers have created a friendly, funny, easy-to-use system that's teacher-savvy and requires little or no web experience to use. "You'll end up with a Web-based activity that lives right on the Web so that you can immediately share it.... And this is all done without you ever having to know anything about HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Web servers, or those 'www-dot. things. 'Oh my, how nice,' we'll bet you're saying right now!"

[Looking at Student Work](http://www.lasw.org/)

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A comprehensive site developed by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. "This web site represents an association of individuals and educational organizations that focus on looking at student work to strengthen connections between instruction, curriculum, and other aspects of school life to students' learning." A great place to start if your school is interested in the LASW process.

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