

SAMS Library E-News

Literature-Information-Technology-Education

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May 2010

Technology Applications

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[Digital Storytelling in the Classroom](#)

http://www.microsoft.com/education/teachers/guides/digital_storytelling.aspx

The ancient tradition of storytelling meets the digital age when students create a movie or interactive slideshow to tell their story and learning becomes personal. With digital storytelling, students can: Improve their writing, Show creativity, Have a voice. Digital storytelling projects lend themselves well to portfolio assessment. You can create movies and slide shows from photos and videos—right in your classroom. You can use either Windows Live Movie Maker or Photo Story, which you can download from this site.

[Lulu](#)

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

Lulu.com is a free self publishing program that lets you publish and sell print-on-demand books and e-books, online music and images, and custom calendars. You can share your work or keep it personal. You can do photo books, calendars, CD's and DVD's, eBooks, cookbooks, poetry books and yearbooks. It is a very user friendly program and publishing fees are very reasonable.

[Use Art to Tell A Story](#) http://www.echospace.org/asset_files/0000/0071/echo07_int_art.swf

This interactive activity presents images of nine artifacts from the collection of the **Peabody Essex Museum** in Salem, Massachusetts. Each image relates to narratives in multiple ways. For instance, the image may portray an event, illustrate a theme or help people remember or pass on a tradition; it may illuminate a part of history through the story of who made it, how it was made and what happened to it; or it may be the starting point for something new, such as a story or research about the artwork or another artwork based on it.

Saving Our Futures: A Financial Responsibility Program for Young People

<http://www.americaspromise.org/Resources/Financial-Responsibility.aspx?>

Saving Our Futures: A Financial Responsibility Program for Young People is an online curriculum that teaches young people in middle school and high school about financial responsibility. Developed by the **Academy for Educational Development** for the **America's Promise Alliance**, the curriculum is designed to be a companion to the documentary film **I.O.U.S.A.** The six chapters and 26 modules can be used in whole or in part. Four core chapters—Budget, Savings, Trade and Leadership—align with the movie's introduction of these same topics. The remaining chapters include an Introduction that outlines the purpose and urgency of these lessons and an Action chapter that provides young people with a blueprint to design their own action and advocacy plans. The curriculum also includes an extensive "resources" section and provides opportunities for quality service-learning projects. With a simple registration, you can access the associated program resources and use the curriculum in your own classroom.

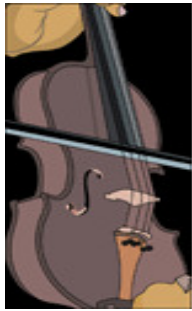
[Writing with Writers](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/) <http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/>

This poetry resource for grades 1-8 from Scholastic offers tips from authors of children's poetry, a teacher's guide as well as step-by-step workshops with U.S. Children's Poet Laureate Jack Prelutsky, well-known children's poet Karla Kuskin and others.



Music washes
away from the
soul the dust of
everyday life.

Berthold Auerbach



Word of the Month

Petulant

(*pech-un-lunt*) *adjective*

- impatient and irritable, esp. over a petty annoyance or something trivial; ill-tempered without reason; peevish.
- showing contempt in speech or conduct.

The recent cancellation of tens of thousands of flights in northern Europe, thanks to the doings of that Icelandic volcano, has led to a range of emotional responses from stranded passengers. While most people seem to have taken their resulting travel problems in stride and good humor, some have expressed deep frustration -- even with Iceland and volcanoes in general! -- **petulantly** shaking their heads and throwing up their hands during interviews with reporters.

Video Resources

Try these great free video resources.

WatchKnow <http://www.watchknow.org/>

WatchKnow has indexed over 15,000 online educational videos for children, putting them into a directory of over 3,000 categories. The videos are available without any registration or fees to teachers in the classroom and to students at home 24/7. You can dive into their innovative directory or search by subject and age level. Video titles, descriptions, age level information, and ratings are all edited for usefulness. The site invites broad participation in a new kind of wiki system, guided by teachers.

Refseek http://www.refseek.com/directory/educational_videos.html

RefSeek is an educational video guide to the 25 best online resources for finding free educational videos. With the exception of BrainPOP and Cosmeo, all listed sites offer their extensive video libraries for free and without registration.

Language Arts Classes: 6th. Grade

Library activities for the month of May will include:

- “Brain Buzz” game (Reference)
- “Big Board” game (Library Jeopardy)
- “Undercover” game (Solve the mystery Newbery Award Title)
- “Library Term game and quiz on Quia

Computer Lab

The library computer lab was in high gear during the entire month of April. Many projects have been completed for the following teachers:

- Miss Durisek (Locating information for their classroom debate)
- Mr. Foster (Crusades)
- Mrs. Gundersen (Mother’s Day Projects)
- Mr. Krieger (Science Projects)
- Mrs. Neal (Mother’s Day Projects)
- Mrs. Smath (Lewis & Clark Digital storytelling projects where students create their own video)
- Mrs. Sullivan (International Foods)

May

May is one of the most beautiful months of the year in Ohio. The snow and ice have melted, and summer's intense heat has not yet begun. The first garden crops begin to sprout in May. The trees and grass are green, and wild plants are in bloom. Wild flowers that blossom in different parts of the United States include the jack-in-the-pulpit, anemone, hepatica, forsythia, dogwood, and blue, yellow, and white violets. Many birds have built their nests, and mother birds are sitting on the eggs, which will soon hatch.

There are several stories about how the month of May was named. The most widely accepted explanation is that it was named for Maia, the Roman goddess of spring and growth. Her name seems to be related to a Latin word that means increase or growth. The ancient Romans held ceremonies in Maia's honor on May 1 and again on May 15.

May customs - Even in ancient times, May 1 was a day for outdoor festivals. In Rome, May 1 fell at a time that was sacred to Flora, the goddess of flowers. The Romans celebrated the day with flower-decked parades. The English also observed many beautiful May Day customs. Maypoles were erected in village parks. On the morning of May 1, the village youths went to the woods and gathered "mayflowers," or hawthorn blossoms, to decorate the Maypole. The girls wore their prettiest dresses, each hoping that she would be elected May queen. The queen danced around the Maypole with her "subjects."

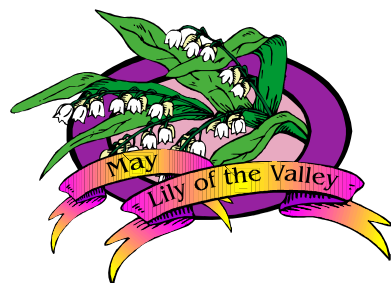
Special days - In most states of the United States, the last Monday in May is observed as Memorial Day, or Decoration Day. It is a legal holiday in memory of those who died while serving the United States in war. The graves of war heroes are decorated with flowers. Memorial Day was first observed in 1866.

Two special days in May have been designated by Presidential proclamations. Mother's Day, first observed in 1908, was recognized officially by Congress and the President in 1914. It is celebrated in honor of the nation's mothers on the second Sunday in May. The third Saturday of the month is Armed Forces Day, when the United States honors the men and women of the military services. In 1950, the Armed Forces Day celebration combined the Army, Navy, and Air Force tributes, which had been held at separate times.

The Kentucky Derby, the most famous horse race in the United States, takes place on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs, Louisville, Ky.

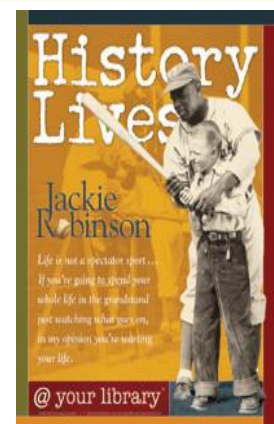
Many Mexican Americans celebrate May 5, which they call Cinco de Mayo. This day, a national holiday in Mexico, is the anniversary of the Mexican victory over the French at Puebla in 1862.

May symbols - The hawthorn and the lily of the valley are considered the flowers for May. The birthstone is the emerald, which signifies success in love. Yellow, red and green are the colors for May.



"Then came
fair May, the
fairest maid
on ground.
Deck'd all
with dainties
of the season's
pride, And
throwing
flowers out of
her lap
around.

~Edmund
Spenser~



Service Is Our Business



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The purpose of our Library News Letter is to further the goals of the Library Media Center which are to support the curriculum, teach successful research strategies, and foster lifetime literacy.

If you have any suggestions for the library staff please let us know. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We hope you have found this years issues to be helpful and we look forward to serving you again next year. Have a great summer.

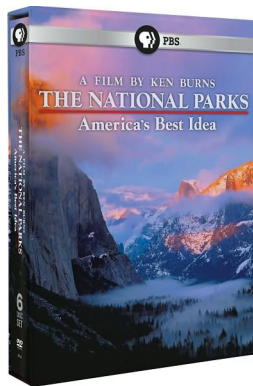
Cathy Ruple
District Librarian

Denise Leimbach
Library Tech

We are on the Web
<http://www.firelandsschools.org>



DVD Review



The National Parks: America's Best Idea

A film by Ken Burns

Synopsis

This sumptuously filmed documentary series from Ken Burns explores the origins of America's national parks, from their genesis in the mid-1800s to the present. It features archival photographs, personal memories, more than 40 interviews, and gorgeous cinematography of such locales as Acadia, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Yellowstone. ~ Jeff Gemmill, All Movie Guide

This is the educator DVD. Disc One features an introduction from Ken Burns. The contents include:

This is America

Images of the Parks

- The Scenic Beauty of Yosemite
- The Mystery of Yellowstone
- The Hayden Expedition
- Great Nature

Mapping the Parks

People Behind the Parks

- Chaco Culture National Historical Park

- Mesa Verde National Park
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Biscayne National Park
- Yellowstone National Park

Personal Stories of the National Parks

Disc Two Includes:

Untold Stories from America's National Parks

- City Kids in National Parks
- Manzanar: "Never Again"
- Mount Rushmore: Telling America's Stories
- San Antonio Missions: Keeping History Alive
- Yosemite's Buffalo Soldiers