

## *Best Sites for 2009*

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While not quite an Internet “aficionado,” I do have a passion to get out there prescreening sites from a myriad of lists – offering individuals a yearly resource of new places that I’ve discovered in cyberspace. Yes, there is too much out there! Many great sites are interactive, others mind activators! Either way, the fun for me is unwittingly discovering unexpected associations when “tapping in.” For instance, I decided to revisit a site not previously shared – **www.whyfiles.com**. The Why Files is an exciting online science magazine with a not too exciting home page. Actually, while surfing there, I multi-tracked. Simultaneous to checking it out, I was seeking a way to make this year’s Passover Seder a bit different - and voila! It’s there! A connection! Passover - “The Man Who Played Moses,” Charlton Heston, has recently passed over – and the plagues are recalled. And it’s March 28, 2009 and:



Life of the locust: Biblical plague explained



That’s how it works for me.

**This abbreviated digital version** of my *Best Sites for 2009*, is a simulated “Zagart rated” potpourri for general consumption. Consider them appetizers.

Start out with the “menu” that is **the search engine of search engines**:

**<http://www.allmyfaves.com/>**

then perhaps

**www.dmoz.org**

If you are in the connoisseur category, the equivalent of a “wine taster,” this **directory** is **extensive**, **time consuming**, **at times frustrating**, but worth visiting. In the kids’ section there are links to

*Create Your Own Web Page*

*Children's Storybooks*

or under forensic science



An animated primer on the basics of DNA, genes, and heredity.

Etc.



## Main “Courses”



[www.earth.google.com](http://www.earth.google.com)

At this site, you can visit locations everywhere on our planet or more incredible switch to **SKY**. In **SKY** (about a year old), it will take time to learn how to navigate and to use the slider to zoom in or out. To go beyond browsing, there are informative data dialog boxes upon clicking areas of interest.

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[www.loc.gov/poetry/180/p180-list.html](http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/p180-list.html)

This list of 180 poems – one for each of the 180 Days of school – contains poems not of the usual fare.

i.e.:

### “Cartoon Physics, part 1

*Nick Flynn*

**Children under, say, *ten*, shouldn't know  
that the universe is ever-expanding,  
inexorably pushing into the vacuum, galaxies**

**swallowed by galaxies, whole**

**solar systems collapsing, all of it  
acted out in silence. At ten we are still learning**

**the rules of cartoon animation,**

**that if a man draws a door on a rock  
only he can pass through it.  
Anyone else who tries**

**will crash into the rock.**

**. . . . .”**

**Or**

## "Numbers

Mary Cornish

I like the generosity of numbers.  
The way, for example,  
they are willing to count  
anything or anyone:  
two pickles, one door to the room,  
eight dancers dressed as swans.

I like the domesticity of addition--  
*add two cups of milk and stir--*  
the sense of plenty: six plums  
on the ground, three more  
falling from the tree. . . . "

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Or try out this **Science link**:

[www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/archive.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/archive.html)



Find intriguing questions and answers. For example:

**Why do fingers and toes wrinkle in the bathtub?**

**Why don't I fall out when a roller coaster goes upside down?**





Do you know what a gull-catcher is? A truepenny?

William Shakespeare was **born** on **April 23**, 1564, in Stratford-upon-Avon. He **died** on **April 23**, 1616

Want to know about name calling: Kids' SHAKESPEAREAN  
INSULTS

Or about Shakespeare's creativity with words (expressions we use today) ?

**Explore:** [www.folger.edu/template.cfm?cid=588](http://www.folger.edu/template.cfm?cid=588)

And click on the links from there

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Peter's Online Typing Course



**Turn yourself into a typing hero!**

Welcome to this humble course. Here you'll find a set of free online typing lessons and typing exercises for beginning typists, and frustrated hunt-and-peckers who want to move from four-finger typing to full-blown touch typing.

[www.typing-lessons.org](http://www.typing-lessons.org)

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## IN THE NEWS: MONEY / THE STOCK MARKET

<https://www.ecu.com/resources>

<http://www.younginvestor.com/kids/>

<http://www.themint.org/kids/decoding-your-paycheck.html>

<http://www.themint.org/kids/starting-salaries.html>

<http://senseanddollars.thinkport.org/>

[http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/games/mad\\_money\\_flash.html](http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/games/mad_money_flash.html)

<http://stocksquest.coe.uga.edu/C001759/stocksquest/mystocks.htm>

The Global Stock Game (GSG) has been used by over 15,000 schools worldwide. Teachers often use the GSG to introduce students to the basics of how the stock market works. These lesson plans are designed to help teachers integrate the GSG into the school curriculum involving economics, business, language arts, social studies, and mathematics.

The MyStocks page is the one-stop place where you can trade stocks with virtual money. The Global Stock Game (GSG) is the world's most realistic stock market simulation, where you can have fun and learn the stock market at no cost. Yes, it is **100% FREE.**



<http://eduscapes.com/sessions/virtual/explore.html>

## “Explore Virtual Adventures

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having new eyes.

- Marcel Proust, French Writer

Trace our RV at [Datastorm](#). Visit [The Yacatan or Culture National Historic Park](#), explore the bottom of the ocean, or tour [historic Philadelphia](#), these are only a few of the many virtual field trips available on the Internet. For example, you can explore [National Register of Historic](#) sites.

Although it would be great to take students to exotic locations around the world, it's not always possible. Virtual field trips are a great alternative when you can't go to the real location because of cost, time, disability, danger, or an impossibility such as a different time period or remote location.

Go to [My Brighton & Hove Tours](#) for examples of the many different types of virtual tours that could be created on a single area.

Your journey begins with exploring the possibilities and making the choice to choose this adventure.

## Explore Virtual Field Trips

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.

- Lao Tzu, Chinese philosopher

A wide variety of virtual adventures can be found on the Internet. ”

or just

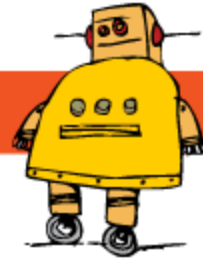
<http://eduscapes.com>

Welcome teachers, parents, students, and life-long learners of all ages! This website is for you.

## For the Educator's Tasting

**instructables.com**

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST SHOW & TELL



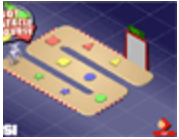
OREGON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

[http://www.instructables.com/id/Flashlight\\_Business\\_Card/](http://www.instructables.com/id/Flashlight_Business_Card/)

[http://www.instructables.com/id/Dot\\_Matrix\\_Business\\_Card/](http://www.instructables.com/id/Dot_Matrix_Business_Card/)

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Invisible-Printer-Ink/>

### online activities



Program your robot to navigate the perils of the [Robot Obstacle Course](#)...and watch out for those trap doors!



Your mission: choose an ultra-secure password and gain high-level security clearance as you enter the [Password Security Agency](#)



Computers use binary math to calculate. Now you can too, with our [Binary Balance activity](#).

tc.





Search  
Internet4Classrooms.com

## On-Line Practice Modules

[Links for K-12 Teachers](#) || [Assessment Assistance](#) || [Daily Dose of the Web](#) || [Gateway Skills](#) || [Grade Level Skills](#)

[module sets to be used for self-paced learning](#)

**PowerPoint**

**Word**

**Excel**

**Inspiration**

**Internet Explorer**

**Dreamweaver**

**HyperStudio**

*also  
Kidspiration*

**Macintosh**

**Windows/PC**

**WebQuest**

**Claris HomeP**

**Works**

**Netscape**



**www.edheads.org**

**Featured Activities:**



**and so much more!**

For complete listings of Best Search Engines, Best Websites, Best Software from 2005 – 2009, Email [evalkaplan@cs.com](mailto:evalkaplan@cs.com). Be certain to include your home address for postal service delivery.