

Collaborative Internet Projects

Web Evaluation Rubric:

Authority.....Score 1-4

An author is listed with appropriate credentials, and is the creator of the material.

Affiliation..... Score 1-4

The site is supported by a reputable institution without bias in the information.

Purpose..... Score 1-4

The purpose of the website is clear and meets my objectives.

Objectivity..... Score 1-4

The website contains little advertising and is free of bias.

Content..... Score 1-4

The information relates to my objectives, the links work, and the site is well-organized.

Learning Process..... Score 1-4

The information will challenge learners to use high-order thinking skills, effectively engage the learner, and meet my learning objectives.

Audience..... Score 1-4

The web pages are written at an appropriate level and the information is suitable for my classroom.

Currency..... Score 1-4

Information has been updated in the last three months.

Design..... Score 1-4

The web site loads well, is easy to navigate, visually pleasing, and easy to read.

Total Score---> 9-36

Project Rating

Excellent - Total Score 28 - 36

Good/Average – Total Score 19 - 27

Needs work – Total Score 9 - 18

Title:

What does My First Name Mean?

Project URL:

<http://kidspace.kidlink.org/start.php?HoldNode=11173&HoldNav=614>

Project Summary:

In this project students research the meaning of their own first names and consider whether the meaning actually fits their character. After answering the questions participants write, type or draw their names in a way that illustrates its meaning. This is an ongoing project. Participants may join the project at any time throughout the year.

Learning Objectives supported:

- to give students an opportunity to investigate the meaning of their own first names and consider how that meaning fits their character
- to participate in a multi-cultural and global collaborative environment
- to be aware of cultural and language differences and similarities
- to share interesting facts about their first names with other students
- to access online information while researching their first names meanings
- to interact with other students online
- to use English in an authentic way
- to engage in simple research, writing, reading and creating through involvement in an interesting activity

Project Rating:

Authority - Score 2

Affiliation - Score 4

Purpose - Score 3

Objectivity - Score 4

Content - Score 4

Learning Process - Score 3

Audience - Score 4

Currency - Score 2

Design - Score 3

Total Score - 29

Project Evaluation:

Excellent

Great activity for younger students. The site's objectives were clearly laid out for students and teachers. However, the only draw back were that the author's credentials were not listed and the site did not list a last updated date.

Title:

Building Bridges

Project URL:

<http://www.kidlink.org/KIDPROJ/Bridges/>

Project Summary:

The "Building Bridges" project is designed to help bridge language barriers that keep us from understanding each other. Art, photographs and sound are used as special ways to communicate about everyday life. Within each topic of the project teachers are encouraged to incorporate desired learner outcomes that stem from their curriculum guides.

Learning Objectives supported by this site:

-
- To support greater communication for students across languages using Art, images and sounds
 - To celebrate our cultural diversity
 - To enhance learner outcomes for participating students according to their school's curriculum guide

Project Rating:

Authority - Score 4

Affiliation - Score 4

Purpose - Score 3

Objectivity - Score 4

Content - Score 3

Learning Process - Score 2

Audience - Score 3

Currency - Score 2

Design - Score 3

Total Score - 28

Project Evaluation:

Excellent

Another great activity but, this one seems more appropriate for intermediate students. The learning goals for this activity seemed a little basic. And, again the site did not list a last updated date. Also, the overall design of the site was a little unorganized.

Title:

WordWeavers

Project URL:

<http://kidspace.kidlink.org/start.php?HoldNode=4415>

Project Summary:

Students write on a wide variety of topics and explore many different writing styles. In this project students are asked to: Write on a wide variety of topics and explore many different writing styles, comment on the writing of other participant, write about the writing process itself, telling about what type of writing they enjoy most, how they get their ideas, what they do when they are having trouble, etc.

Learning Objectives supported by this site:

-
- Communicate with other kids through collaborative writing.
 - Write on a wide range of topics for various audiences and purposes.
 - Gain exposure to different writing styles
 - Enjoy new friends all over the world.

Project Rating:

Affiliation - Score 2

Purpose - Score 4

Objectivity - Score 3

Content - Score 3

Learning Process - Score 2

Audience - Score 3

Currency - Score 2

Design - Score 2

Total Score - 20

Project Evaluation:

Good/Average

This ongoing project was listed for elementary and secondary. This topic seems to basic for secondary students. The Project Moderators were listed but without any affiliation. The overall design of the site was truly unappealing and not geared toward an elementary student.

Title:

The Wild Weather Project

Project URL:

<http://itd.usd259.org/trc/wildweatherproject/WildWeatherProject.htm>

Project Summary:

The purpose of The Wild Weather Project is to allow the teacher to use this project to reinforce the concepts and standards that you have already taught or will be teaching in your classroom. The activities will help enrich your lessons and engage your students. During the project, classrooms will observe the weather and collect data for their region. Classes then share results with other classrooms all over the world using this site so they can investigate the different climates in different regions.

Learning Objectives supported by this site:

-
- To use technology to record and predict the weather
 - To graph and compare daily, weekly, and monthly, and seasonal weather observations

Project Rating:

Authority – Score 3

Affiliation – Score 4

Purpose – Score 3

Objectivity – Score 4

Content - Score 4

Learning Process - Score 4

Audience – Score 3

Currency – Score 2

Design - Score 4

Total Score - 31

Project Evaluation:

Excellent

Great site! The Wild Weather project is a topic that students can relate to. And although some pages on the site are still under construction, the site is well-organized and easy to follow. The lesson objectives were stated clearly and were well laid out for the students.

Title:

The Monster Motel

Project URL:

<http://www.kidsonthenet.org.uk/motel/motel/welcome.html>

Project Summary:

An exciting online collaborative writing project for kids everywhere. Visit a spooky motel, sign the guestbook and write about YOUR monster. Designed by writer and illustrator Mark Burgess for completion by kids everywhere.

Learning Objectives supported by this site:

-
- To encourage kids to write and read using Internet technology.
 - To encourage kids round the world to share ideas and writing.
 - To amuse and entertain as well as educate!
 - To be simple to use at all levels of ability

Project Rating:

Authority - Score 2

Affiliation - Score 2

Purpose - Score 2

Objectivity - Score 4

Content - Score 4

Learning Process - Score 3

Audience - Score 3

Currency - Score 2

Design - Score 2

Total Score - 24

Project Evaluation:

Good/Average

Although this site received a score of good/average, the idea behind this Collaborative Internet Project is excellent. It is a great way for students to share writing samples and it a great way to motivate students. The rating for this project was caused a lack of organization on the site itself. It may be slightly hard to follow for the target audience.

Title:

Animal Diaries

Project URL:

<http://www.tesan.vuurwerk.nl/diaries/>

Project Summary:

The purpose of this project is to give students all over the world a safe place on the web to publish stories about animals and their interaction with other living things. The site hopes to inspire and encourage authorship among students of all ages as well as a love of reading.

Learning Objectives supported by this site:

-
- To encourage creativity, diversity, and above all creative expression.
 - To inspire and encourage authorship among students of all ages as well as a love of reading.
 - To foster the students appreciation for reading and writing

Project Rating:

Affiliation - Score 1

Purpose - Score 3

Objectivity - Score 2

Content - Score 1

Learning Process - Score 2

Audience - Score 3

Currency - Score 4

Design - Score 3

Total Score - 19

Project Evaluation:

Good/Average

Out of all the projects that were reviewed, this was one of the only projects seems to be updated on a regular basis. The project is also available in multiple languages. However, the sites' author is not listed and the lesson objectives were completely hard to follow.

Title:

Fairy Tale / Folk Tale CyberDictionary

Project URL:

<http://www.op97.org/ftcyber/>

Project Summary:

The teacher reads a tale to the students. Students brainstorm words & compose a class "Cyber dictionary" using each letter of the alphabet & relating it to a story object. Important: Story must be 'retelling'; not retyped from a book. Pictures relate to the story, not the word in isolation.

Learning Objectives supported by this site:

- Read with understanding and fluency.
- Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.
- Apply word analysis skills (e.g. phonics, word patterns) to recognize new words.
- Comprehend unfamiliar words using context clues and prior knowledge; verify meanings with resource materials.

Project Rating:

Affiliation - Score 4

Purpose - Score 4

Objectivity - Score 4

Content - Score 2

Learning Process - Score 3

Audience - Score 3

Currency - Score 2

Design - Score 3

Total Score - 25

Project Evaluation:

Good/Average

This CyberDictionary is an excellent resource for students studying folk and fairy tales. However, its purpose as a Collaborative Internet Project was very clear. Its design and content seemed age appropriate for intermediate students. It was also unclear as to the last updated date.

The following two sites were used to research the 7 Collaborative Internet Projects:

KidLink

<http://www.kidlink.org/english/general/intro.html>

According to its site, Kidlink is a non-commercial, user-owned organization that **helps children**

- **understand themselves**, their interests, dreams, and **goals for life**
- develop **life-skills**, mature, and get better control over their lives
- develop creativity, and build social networks across cultures and borders.

Its free educational programs **motivate learning** by helping teachers relate local curriculum guidelines to students' personal interests and goals. **Kidlink** is open for all children and youth in any country through the age of 15, and students at school through secondary school. Most users are between 10 - 15 years of age. Since the start in **1990**, used by children from 173 countries. The **Kidlink** knowledge network is run by 500 volunteers in over 50 countries. Hundreds of public and private virtual "rooms" are used for discussion and collaboration. Information is available in over 30 languages.

Global Schoolhouse

<http://www.globalschoolnet.org/GSH/pr/index.cfm>

According to its site, Global Schoolhouse is the original clearinghouse for collaborative projects from across the globe - hosted by the Global SchoolNet, other reputable organizations, and outstanding partner projects conducted by teachers worldwide! Whether you choose to join an existing project or announce one of your own, GSN's Projects Registry promises to save you time!

With respect to both sites, I particularly enjoyed the overall organization of the Global Schoolhouse site. Not only was the site visually appealing but it was also easy to navigate. The search features allows users to easily sort through projects. Although, **Kidlink** has many interesting topics the site was not as easy to navigate.