

Searching Online

Searching online is a part of life for students today. This lesson will provide scaffolding to support students in effectively finding information on the Internet. It is beneficial for students to use kid-friendly search engines.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: ● access to an electronic device that is connected to the Internet

Grouping: whole class and small groups

Procedure:

Teaching Tip: There are many safe search engines that can be used with students such as Google's safe search. You can also use QR (quick response) codes that when scanned, take students to a specific site.

1. Introduce the inquiry question you will be researching. Have students work with a partner to discuss how to search for information online. Once students have had an opportunity to talk, invite partners to share with the class.

Today we are going to be searching online to find information. The question we will be researching is, "How can the landscape affect people's lives?" I am going to enter this question in my search engine and see what comes up. Do I have to enter my whole question or can I use keywords to conduct my search?

2. Allow a few students to share their thinking about the process and review how key words can lead to a more effective Internet search.
3. Use a predetermined site that will provide some insight into the inquiry question. Think aloud as you choose the site, identifying why you think this site will be helpful in finding the information you are seeking.
4. Once you are at the site, have students quickly skim the information (or model skimming for information if students are unfamiliar with this strategy) to determine whether this site will be helpful in their inquiry.
5. Once students have had time to reflect on this process, organize into small groups and have them apply the search strategies presented to research a topic.
6. The lesson can be concluded by having students reflect on what strategies were most effective when searching online.

Teaching Tip: Before students begin searching online, it is important to review how to be safe when on the Internet and what the rules are when students are on the Internet. For example:

- The teacher must always know when you are going online
- Never give your name or any personal information
- Always use the Kid Safe Search Engines listed on the wall
- Do not download or install anything without permission