

Searching for Unit Examples & Resources

I) Thematic Unit Review

- 1) Go to the Thematic Unit to briefly share the content.
- 2) Explain how they need sample Thematic Units

II) Searching Des Moines and Pella Curricula.

- 1) During the next couple of weeks, you will learn more about creating a thematic unit of instruction and how to write instructional goals & objectives. You will be asked to create an interdisciplinary thematic unit for a hypothetical class of your choice. Des Moines and Pella's online curricula will provide age appropriate outcomes that should serve as the basis for planning the content (topics of study) within your own thematic unit.
- 2) Follow the links to DM or Pella curriculum from the Thematic Unit assignment description page in eLearning (WebCT).
- 3) Think about a grade level and general subject area (math, science, language arts, etc.) that you would enjoy teaching.
- 4) Consult the DM and Pella curricula to determine what topics, activities, and learning outcomes are appropriate for the age level you selected.
- 5) List some possible themes that might serve as the basis for 3–4 lessons comprising these topics and outcomes.
- 6) Once you've identified a theme, explore the outcomes listed in other subject areas within the DM or Pella curriculum to search for related topics that will make your thematic unit interdisciplinary (relating to more than one subject area).

III) Searching

- 1) Open New Tab and then open Google
 - a) Enter your **topic** and the words, **thematic unit**. Search. Note # of hits.
- 2) Advanced Search
 - a) Open Advanced Search
 - ⇒ "with all of the words" = **topic** (Word Search)
 - ⇒ "with the exact phrase" = **thematic unit** (Phrase Search)
 - ⇒ Review rest of the categories
 - ⇒ Click "+ Date, usage rights . . ." "to show additional options"

Included in this outline...

- 1) Thematic Unit Review
- 2) Searching Curricula
- 3) Google – Advanced Search
- 4) Metasearch Engines
- 5) Additional Google tools
- 6) Searching for Video
- 7) UNISTAR
- 8) AEA 267
- 9) Curriculum connections
- 10) Unit example sites
- 11) Identifying Thematic Unit

- ⇒ Review options down to SafeSearch.
- ⇒ Search. Note # of hits. (Show diff of hits w/SafeSearch on and off)
- b) Tag this on **del.icio.us**
 - ⇒ Click the Tag icon
 - ⇒ Enter appropriate tags AND ETDF09 unietd
 - ⇒ Enter tags: **thematic_unit etsp09 your specific topic**
- c) Search for your Thematic Units *****STUDENT WORK TIME*****
 - ⇒ Provide students 5 minutes to search and save addresses to del.icio.us
 - ⇒ Discuss and debrief the strategies that they used.
- d) Del.icio.us Tag Search
 - ⇒ Use Search tool in upper right corner to search “my bookmarks” for **ETDF09**
 - ⇒ Use Search tool to search “Everybody’s bookmarks”.

IV) Metasearch Engines (Google, Yahoo, Msn search, Ask and more combined results)

- 1) Introduce Dogpile.com – This is a metasearch engine that accesses 4 major search engines.
- 2) Open www.findtarget.com (another metasearch engine)
 - a) Point out the different search engines in the pull down menu. (12 search engines)
 - b) Search for “thematic unit” weather
 - c) After Searching Notice *Narrow Your Search* and *Expand Your Search* options (right column)

V) Additional Google Tools

- 1) **Google for Educators** – Review offerings www.google.com/educators
- 2) **Tag it**

Notice *Classroom Activities* link; Follow: **Tools for your classroom** link; (Left Column)

 - a) **Geo Education** – click to find *Google Maps*.
 - b) **Google Maps** (notice “teacher speaks out” area at the bottom of the page.)
 - ⇒ Travel
 - (a) Click *Getting Started Guide*, then play the *Google Maps Tour* video (2:00) next page.
 - (i) Note other videos (i.e., *Create your own map*) for later viewing.
 - (b) Get Directions (e.g. *Cedar Falls, IA -> St. Louis, MO*)
 - (i) Click “1. Visit maps.google.com” to begin.
 - (ii) Click *Get Directions* and add cities. Click *Get Direction* button.
 - (iii) Note the distance and estimated travel time (*car vs. walking*)
 - (iv) Click and drag the route to go through Ottumwa.
 - (c) Geographic Landscape

- (i) Select “Satellite”
- (ii) Note the Geographic Landscape. (e.g. *Find the Mississippi*)
- (d) Click other options to show different views (Terrain, Street View, etc.)
- ⇒ Finding Locations (works also for international search)
 - (a) Enter desired location (e.g. *White House*) into “Search Maps” box.
 - (b) Magnify to the 4th notch on sliding magnifier (Cmd/Ctrl – or +)
 - (c) Select “Satellite” to see digital images of the chosen location
 - (d) Click *My Maps* – explore the featured content (YouTube/Picassa)
 - (e) Let’s go international (e.g., Eiffel Tower)
- c) **Google Book Search**
 - ⇒ Return to www.google.com/educators/tools.html
 - ⇒ Select *Tools for your classroom* and then *Book Search & Book Search* again.
 - ⇒ Enter topic into search box and search. (i.e., Martin Luther King, Jr.)
 - ⇒ Review the list. Note *Preview Avail* rating. Note *Add to my library*
 - ⇒ Select a book and browse. (Choose one labeled “Preview”)
 - ⇒ In left column, select *Find this book in a library*. (List of local libraries with this book will appear.) UNI zip code: 50614
- d) **Google Blog Search** <http://blogsearch.google.com/>
 - ⇒ Enter topic and search (Thematic unit topic (i.e., weather) AND “thematic unit”)
 - ⇒ Note the *Search Blogs* and *Search the Web* buttons
- e) **Google Scholar** <http://scholar.google.com/>
 - ⇒ Enter topic and search (Thematic unit topic (i.e., weather) AND “thematic unit”)
 - ⇒ Returns academic resources:
 - (a) Media format – book, pdf, html, citation,
 - (b) Cited by – indicates how many other resources cited this in their reference list.
 - (c) Related Articles – articles that relate to this specific resource.
 - (d) Web Search – will search the Web based upon this resource.
 - (e) Library Search – find a local library that owns this resource.
 - (f) Show “Advanced Scholar Search” option. (Note the Date option)

VI) Searching for Video

1) YouTube Video Searching

- a) YouTube www.youtube.com
 - ⇒ Type phrase or word in the search box (i.e., “weather” or “Google Search Tips”)

- ⇒ Review “Sort by:” option
- ⇒ Go to chosen video (i.e., Weather Storm)
 - (a) Click (*more info*) next to *Added* date. Review Tags, URL and Embed option
 - (b) Review Comments and Responses (video & text) area
- 2) **K12 Education group**
 - ⇒ www.youtube.com/group/K12 Group of educators who have uploaded videos
- 3) **Teacher Tube**
 - ⇒ www.teachertube.com/ Alternate to YouTube (probably not blocked)
- 4) **Yahoo Video**
 - ⇒ <http://video.yahoo.com/> > show “more options” > format, duration
- 5) **UNISTAR (www.library.uni.edu)**
 1. Panther Prowler

Panther Prowler is a UNI metasearch engine. It has 3 tabs that allow you to specify your search of *Articles, Books and More, or Course Reserves*.

 - a. Articles – searches many databases. Note that Google Scholar is an option too.
 - b. Books & More – Searches UNISTAR catalog. Note the other options below.
 - c. Course Reserves – Find the books reserved for your courses.
 2. Research Help (Left Column)
 - a. *Ask Us!* – Multiple ways to communicate with librarians.
 - b. *Course Web Pages* – Online resources collected by librarians for courses.
 - c. *Reference Sources* – Searches huge collection of reference materials.
 - d. *Subject Guides* – Lists of subject-specific references at UNI.
 3. Search Books & More (UNISTAR)
 - a. Enter your topic into the search box and select *Subject* and *Go*.
 - b. Return to the opening page and enter your topic. Select *Youth Subject* and *Go*.
 - c. Select a different collection using the collection dropdown menu. *Search*
- 6) **IRTS “UNI Instructional Resources and Technology Services”**
 - a) Change the collection to *UNI Instruct Resources and Tech Services*. *Search* again.
- 7) **Local Resources**
 - a) **AEA267 (<http://www.aea267.k12.ia.us>) (Area Education Agency)**
 - ⇒ Search for Media
 - (a) *Get Media > Search Full Catalog (blue background)*
 - (b) Enter “ocean”. Review hits (types and availability)

(c) Back Arrow to get to Search Screen. Examine Fields.

(d) Select Audience (*Primary or High School*)

(e) Select Format (*CD-ROM, Mac or IBM*)

⇒ Iowa AEA online (resources for all Iowa K-12 teachers and students)

User Name: _____ **Password:** _____

(a) Return to AEA267 opening page. Click on *Iowa AEA online* button (blue background)

(b) Review resources available to teachers and students.

(i) Atomic Learning – Software tutorials

(ii) iCLIPART for Schools – Clipart for you to use.

(iii) DE Streaming – Discovery streaming media

(iv) Learn 360 – Streaming media

8) **Searching for Sample Units – *****STUDENT WORK TIME*******

a) Login to WebCT

b) Follow links from WebCT Thematic Unit Assignment Description page

⇒ Visit *Des Moines Essential Curriculum* and *Pella Community Schools Curriculum* to find topics that are age-appropriate for planned thematic unit of instruction.

c) Visit the links to the various Thematic Unit and Lesson databases.

⇒ Save links to del.icio.us as you find sample thematic units.

⇒ Go to del.icio.us (delicious.com) front page and search for **UNIETD**.

VII) **Identifying a Thematic Unit of Instruction**

Thematic instruction is one of five roles of technology and media in learning. A theme can provide a common anchor for lessons and activities to focus learning. The following criteria can help you differentiate between a thematic unit of instruction and an individual lesson, game, activity, or resource list:

⇒ **Instructional goals and objectives** ***

⇒ **Interdisciplinary instruction (multiple subject areas)** ***

⇒ **Multiple lessons (and duration of more than just one class period)** ***

⇒ **Variety of media, methods, and materials**

⇒ **Alignment of instruction with standards or curriculum**

Note: You may not find all five of these criteria in the sample units you locate, but most of these should be represented. If not, then it is quite likely that what you've found is not really a thematic unit of instruction (even if its title indicates that it is). Highlight the indicators on your printed unit examples prior submitting to your instructor.