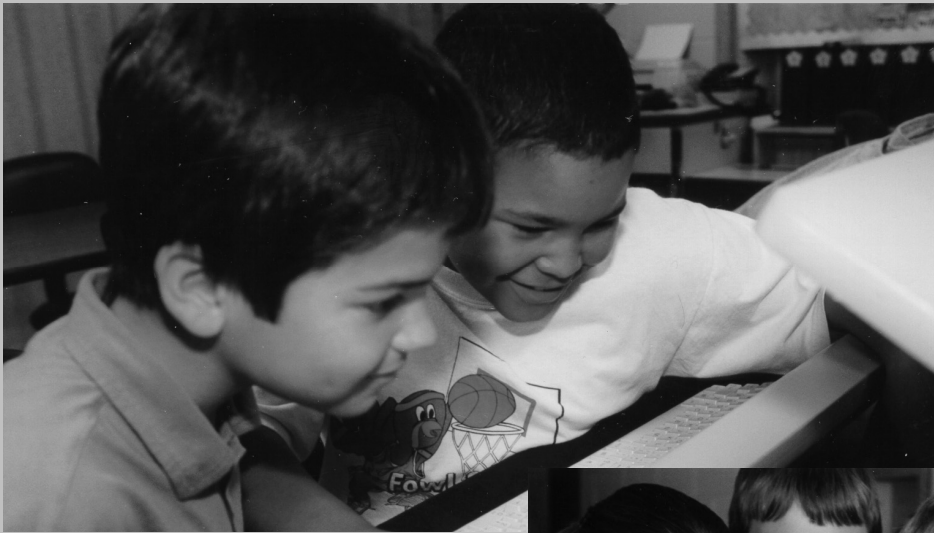


# Using eThemes:

## Internet Resources for Teaching and Learning



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**eMINTS**   
NATIONAL CENTER

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## Internet Resources for Teaching and Learning

eMINTS National Center  
3212 LeMone Industrial Boulevard  
Columbia, Mo. 65201  
Voice: (573) 884-7202      Fax: (573) 884-7614  
<http://www.emints.org>

**Cover Photos:**

Brian Kratzer

**Contributors:**

Laura Diggs  
Monica Beglau

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Please note that the World Wide Web is volatile and constantly changing. The URLs provided in the following references were accurate as of the date of publication.

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# Purpose of the Module

Many teachers find locating good Internet resources time consuming and frustrating. To solve this problem, the eMINTS National Center has created an online resource called eThemes. eThemes catalogs websites according to topical requests from eMINTS teachers and organizes them around the Missouri Show-Me Standards and the Utah Education Standards.

eThemes resource scouts receive requests and search for appropriate websites based on the criteria set by the requesting teacher. Resource scouts look at each site for age appropriateness, reading level, safety of external links and accuracy of information. After filling the request, the resource scout sends the teacher an e-mail notification that the resource has been posted on the eThemes site:

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/>

# Module Objectives

- Learners will gain knowledge about using the eThemes site resources for classroom use.
- Learners will learn how to effectively search the eThemes resources.
- Learners will learn how to submit requests or new eThemes topics

# What is eThemes?

eThemes is an extensive database of content-rich, age-appropriate resources organized around specific themes. These resources are created for educators to use in their classrooms. Many educators use eThemes resources in WebQuests, in student resource lists for research, on classroom websites, and in interactive learning activities that use the Internet.

eThemes is a service of the eMINTS National Center. eThemes resources are created and maintained by University of Missouri-Columbia College of Education staff and graduate students from the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies.

## Who can use eThemes?

eThemes is one of the greatest advantages of being an official eMINTS teacher, pre-service teacher enrolled in eMINTS courses, or an eMINTS-approved induction year teacher. eThemes resource scouts do the work of researching and evaluating websites. Official eMINTS teachers and teachers approved by the eMINTS office may make requests to the scouts, but any teacher can search the database of existing resources. Library Media Specialists (LMS) working in schools where the eMINTS instructional model is being implemented are also eligible to make eThemes requests.

Although only educators approved by the eMINTS program may make resource requests, all educators are encouraged to search our extensive database of existing eThemes. Currently, more than 900 eThemes are available — on topics ranging from Africa to Yellowstone National Park.

## How does eThemes work?

Educators approved by the eMINTS program may fill out an online request to create new eThemes resources. Resource Scouts, who are graduate students trained in navigating the Internet, search the Web for child-safe sites. The Scouts write a short description about each site and assign appropriate grade levels and educational standards to the eThemes resource. The resource then is entered into the online database for all educators to access.

Any educator may simply choose among methods to access the database of existing resources:

- [eThemes listed alphabetically](#)
- [eThemes listed by grade level](#)
- [Search eThemes](#)

# Navigating eThemes

When accessing the [eThemes](#) web site, there are several options for navigating the web site.

## Current information

### New and Updated eThemes

Once a new eThemes request has been filled or an eThemes resource has been updated, they are put in a weekly update listing. As new resources are continually added to the eThemes database and as existing resources are updated, they may be viewed these by clicking on the [New and Updated eThemes](#) link. The link takes users directly to these new and updated eThemes resources.

### eThemes Calendar

This [Monthly Calendar](#) highlights a few of the more than 900 resources available in the eThemes database. These links are selected as educational student-centered sites. View past eThemes monthly calendar archives here by scrolling down the page.

## Finding Existing eThemes

There are three ways to find existing eThemes. By clicking on the option that best meets search criteria, users can find eThemes listed alphabetically, by grade level, or by eThemes topic.

### eThemes listed alphabetically

Each eThemes resource has a descriptive title. Clicking on this option, generates an alphabetical listing of all eTheme resources by title. For example, to locate existing eThemes on the Civil War, click on [eThemes listed alphabetically](#) and then click on the letter "C". This will bring up all eTheme resources listed alphabetically by title beginning with the letter C.

### eThemes listed by grade level

As eThemes resources are developed, they are given a grade level by the requesting teacher. Resource scouts check websites included in the eThemes resource using the [Flesch Score \(Flesch Reading Ease and Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level\)](#) to determine the readability of the websites selected. This assures the readability level of the material to be appropriate for the age level of the student.

Clicking on the grade level option, lists eTheme resources by grade level. To locate all the existing eTheme resources for a particular grade level, simply click on [eThemes listed by grade level](#).

## Searching eThemes

To search the eThemes database for available topics, use the [eThemes Search](#) tool. This search option allows users to search by key word and/or by grade level. To refine a search, select one or more Grade(s) to limit the search. Be careful when selecting grades and the **All values selected/entered (AND)** Match option. If one or more grades are selected and the **All values selected/entered (AND)** Match option is also selected, the search will only display resources that match **every** grade selected. The Match list defines the type of search to perform. Options include:

- **All values selected/entered (AND):** Type multiple words (separated by spaces) in the Search for box and the search will attempt to find resources that contain all of the words.
- **Any values selected/entered (OR):** Type multiple words (separated by spaces) in the Search for box and the search will attempt to find resources that contain one or more of the words.

For example, to search for available topics on endangered species for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, simply type endangered species in the "Search for" box and then check the box "4" next to "Grade(s)". Next, click on "Search Resources" and this will give all the available eThemes on the topic.

## Requesting a New eThemes Resource

If a search of the eThemes database does not locate an existing resource, go to the [Online Request Form](#) to make a request. Before submitting a request, please be sure to complete a [Search](#) to make sure a unique request is being made. Although only [educators approved by the eMINTS Program](#) are allowed to make resources requests, all educators are encouraged to use the [existing eThemes resources](#). eThemes Staff need a minimum of **TWO WEEKS** to fill requests.

The online request form will ask eligible users to complete the information needed to develop an eThemes resource. To complete a request, users **MUST** use the e-mail address from official eMINTS contact information. If users are unsure what address to use, please contact [ethemes@emints.org](mailto:ethemes@emints.org).

## For More Information

### Links

On the eThemes web site, there is a [link](#) to several valuable suggested search engines. These are the search engines the eThemes Staff frequently use to fill requests for new eThemes resources. Users are invited to share additional search engine favorites by sending e-mail to [ethemes@emints.org](mailto:ethemes@emints.org).

**Contact Us**

For any questions about eThemes or concerns about a site, please contact eThemes by email at: [eThemes@emints.org](mailto:eThemes@emints.org) or telephone: (573) 884-6753 during normal business hours.

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