

Exercise 3: Searching the Internet

The Internet is a communications network that offers a number of services, including e-mail and the World Wide Web. To help you become more familiar with the Internet, share a computer with a partner to find online resources for teachers.

Step 1

Start the web browser on your computer.

Step 2

Type the following Web site address in the **Address** bar: **[Note: The localization team needs to insert the address of an appropriate Web site that features tools and resources that teachers in your country may find useful. An example from the United States is: www.intel.com/education]**

Make sure that you type the Web site address correctly since a typing error may take you to a different Web site that does not work. Press the **Enter** key or click the **Go** button. Then, wait as the Web page loads on your computer. Read the Web page thoroughly. What is one interesting piece of information you learned from this page?

If a Web site is not working or if the content has changed, discuss the changing nature of the Internet.

Step 3

Click one of the hyperlinks. Where does this link take you?

Step 4

Go back to the first page by clicking the **Back** button on the toolbar. Click in the **Address** bar, and type in the following Web site address: **[Note: The localization team needs to insert the address of an appropriate Web site that contains lesson plan ideas or educational activities for teachers in your country. Examples from the United States include: <http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans> or www.lessonplanspage.com]**

Read the Web page thoroughly. What is the name of one lesson plan idea or educational activity that you might consider using in your classroom?

Step 5

Click the icon on the toolbar that looks like a house. Where does this take you?

With billions of published Web pages, finding the information you need on the Internet may seem like an overwhelming task. Fortunately, several Web sites offer tools that can help make your search easier. Deciding which tool to use depends on what you are looking for and what you want to know. To help you become more familiar with some Internet search tools, share a computer with a partner to complete the following steps.

Step 6

A search engine is one such tool that can help make your search easier. Select a search engine from the following list: **[Note: The localization team must identify and insert the Web site addresses for two or three appropriate search engines for teachers to use. Some examples from the United States include www.google.com, www.yahoo.com, and www.altavista.com. In addition to having basic search functionality, the Web sites must also allow users to search directories and images. For example, Google offers a basic search engine at www.google.com, a directory at www.google.com/dirhp, and an image search at www.google.com/imghp.]**

What is the name of the search engine you selected?

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Step 7

Type the Web site address for the search engine you selected in the **Address** bar. Make sure to check that you typed the address correctly since a typing mistake may take you to a different Web site or to a Web site that does not work. Press the **Enter** key or click the **Go** button. Then, wait as the Web page loads on your computer.

Step 8

For best search results, choose your keywords wisely. If you are not sure which keywords to use, a directory can help. Most search engines have a directory. Review the home page of your search engine to find the link to the directory.

Step 9

Click the link to go to the search engine's directory. Directory pages feature information that has been grouped or organized into categories. Searching within a category allows you to quickly find only the links to Web pages with the most relevant information. How many major categories appear in the directory? In which category or categories would you begin to look for information about one of the content areas you teach in your classroom?

Examples of content areas include *fractions*, *volcanoes*, and *leaders*.

Step 10

Often, we search the Internet to find an illustration, a photograph, or another type of image to use in an activity, project, or presentation. Most search engines allow you to conduct image searches. Review your current page to find the link that will take you to an images search. Click the link to go to the images. Enter the name of a content area that you teach in the search text box. Click the search button to see your results. How many results or matches are identified? Which image would you consider using for an activity, project, or presentation that you might have to do? Why?

Step 11

Although the image may be representative of a content area that you teach in your classroom, you also might want to find an image representative of your country. You can easily conduct an advanced search by using the addition symbol, +. In the search window, enter the name of the content area that you teach. Type the + symbol. You do not need to put any spaces before or after the symbol. Type the name of the country in which you live. Click the button to find and display your results. How many results or matches are identified? Which image would you consider using for an activity, project, or presentation that you might have to do? Why?

Step 12

Review your current page to find the link that will take you back to the Web search engine home page. Click the link to go to the Web search engine home page. Enter the name of the content area that you teach in the search text box. Click the search button to see your results. How many results or matches are identified?

Step 13

Many search engine sites also have advanced search features. Review your current page to find the link that will take you to the advanced search page. Click the link to go to the advanced search page. What are some of the advanced image search features?

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Step 14

Select one or more of the advanced search features and conduct a new search involving the content area that you teach. How many results or matches are identified? How might you use some of these advanced search features as you work on activities, projects, and presentations in the future?

Step 15

Exit your web browser.

Take-Home Exercise: Reflecting on Module 2

Reflect on the exercises, activities, skills, and approaches addressed in this module. Record your answers to the following questions and be prepared to share your answers at the beginning of the next module.

1. How might you use technology such as computers to communicate, solve problems, and collect, organize, and share information in your classroom?

2. What specific Internet resources might you use to enhance your productivity and professional practices? How do you intend to use such resources?
