

Web Connections

Reading Rockets: Launching Young Readers

www.ReadingRockets.org

This new Public Television (WETA) website provides free expert advice, recommended books, and tips for parents and teachers who are teaching children to read. Also, catch “A Tale of Two Schools” on PBS-TV this fall, which goes inside two elementary schools (in Fort Worth, Texas, and in the rural Mississippi Delta) to find out what it takes to turn struggling programs around so that elementary students learn to read.

Windows on Literacy

www.nationalgeographic.com/education/windows/programguide/index.html

While focusing on the key concepts in science and social studies (as outlined in national standards for grades pre-K through 3), Windows on Literacy taps into children’s natural curiosity about themselves, the world around them, and their place in that world. Over 320 science and social studies titles are available for sale, organized by grade, along with teacher’s guides, assessment books, oral reading records, graphic organizers, and strategies for retelling. Thirty-six titles are available in Spanish. Also, check out www.nationalgeographic.com/education/teacher_community/index.html.

This is a one-click sign-up for the free “National Geographic Teacher E-Newsletter,” which offers the latest lesson plans, ideas for using geography content in the classroom, and more.

The Mint: It Makes Cents

www.themint.org/young/index.php

Ideas for teaching young children about money are available from “The Mint: It Makes Cents.” The Northwestern Mutual Foundation partnered with the National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) to redesign this website recently to emphasize personal financial literacy. It provides tools to help parents and educators teach children about sound money management, featuring: The Four-bank System, How Saving Works, Be a Smart Spender, Giving to Help Others, and How Investing is Different than Saving.

Upcoming themes slated for volume 16 of

Social Studies & the Young Learner

November/December, 2003: *No Child Left Behind in Social Studies*

January/February, 2004: *Social Studies Through Multiple Lenses: Reading, Thinking, Writing*

March/April, 2004: *Enhancing Social Studies Learning with Technology.*
Guest editor, Phillip Van Fossen, Purdue University

In addition to articles represented by each theme, the editors seek articles on the topics of Children’s Literature, Technology Connections, Teacher’s Perspective, and Curriculum Concerns, as well as articles about interesting social studies units of instruction, projects, collaborations, assessment strategies, and outcomes. Please see NCSS Editorial Guidelines at www.socialstudies.org/publications/editorial.shtml.

Books Received

State Studies

Heinemann has published new titles in the state studies series, including book sets featuring New York, Ohio, and Virginia. For grades 3-5, each book includes topics of interest to children and is highlighted by a creative mixture of narratives, charts, graphs, maps, and biographical sketches. Each book has useful glossaries, indices, and bibliographies. The series describes each state’s climate, history, industry, native inhabitants, ethnic groups, and native and endangered plants and animals. For example, titles in the New York series are *All Around New York: Regions and Resources*; *New York History*; *New York Native Peoples*; *New York Plants and Animals*; *People of New York*; and *Uniquely New York*. For more information, contact Heinemann Library, 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602, Fax: 312-845-1030, Phone: 888-475-7038, Website: www.heinemannlibrary.com

Transportation

The term “strap-hanger” was coined in 1905, meaning a passenger—standing in the aisle of a subway, streetcar, bus, etc.—who clings for support to a strap. *Straphanging in the USA: Trolleys and Subways in American Life* by Martin W. Sandler “lets the ingenuity and industry at the core of U.S. history shine through stories about the continual search to find better ways to move people and products quickly and dependably.” Of special interest is the descriptive quality of the narrative; the diversity of illustrations (which include photographs, paintings, and ephemera such as tickets and timetables); and the scientific developments that, over time, led to vast improvements in mass transit in the United States. (New York: Oxford University Press) Phone: 212-726-6000, Website: www.oup-usa.org.