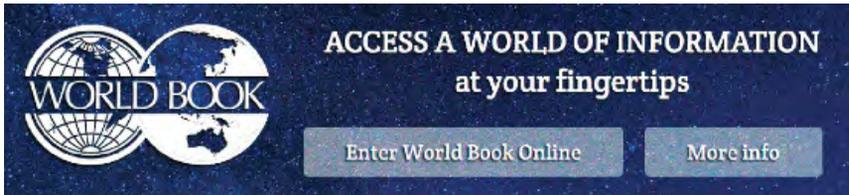


Teaching matters

Articles and opinions on primary teaching, with tips and ideas for the classroom

Providing digital resources for the classroom and home

World Book Online is now free to use anywhere in the Republic of Ireland



All schools, teachers, parents and students in Ireland have free access to *World Book Online* through Scoilnet. The online version of the encyclopaedia provides the content of the 22 traditional volumes, so often seen on the shelves in libraries and schools, along with additional multimedia elements and online tools aimed specifically at learning and teaching. World Book content is clear, easy to understand and age related to help learners master the basic concepts of many subjects.

Users accessing the service through Scoilnet will see differentiated learning platforms aimed at various age ranges.

Early World of Learning

Ages three to six

- ◆ Features interactive image-based navigation.
- ◆ Provides Lexile levels for reading.
- ◆ Contains hundreds of games, videos, printable activities, classic stories and nursery rhymes.

World Book Kids

Ages 7-11

- ◆ Includes image-based navigation along with intuitive iconography.
- ◆ Contains thousands of easy-to-read articles with a text to speech function and embedded multimedia.
- ◆ Features biographies, maps, games, explorations to introduce STEM topics and compare / contrast capabilities.

World Book Student

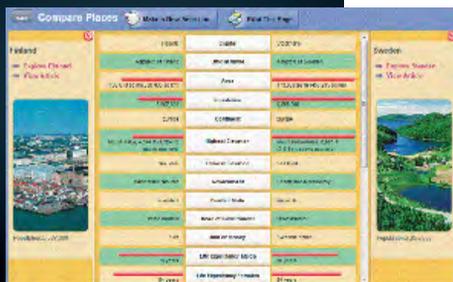
Ages 12-15

- ◆ Enhances articles with multimedia and related resources.
- ◆ Includes research tools, citation builders and how-to guides.
- ◆ Features real time current events and geographical resources.

Comparing and contrasting

One of the most popular tools within *World Book Online* is the 'Compare Places' feature which allows the pupil to compare countries, continents, US states, and dependencies. The information is presented in a clear visual manner with the differences in size, population and climate easy to distinguish and contrast.

The comparison tool is also available in the 'World of Animals' section within *World Book Kids* where it is possible to compare from a range of options, including birds, bugs, mammals, fish and even prehistoric animals. Aside from the visual display, readers also have the option of reading the main *World Book* article on the elements they are comparing.



Great for science



World Book is also fantastic for introducing pupils to the world of science. One of the main objectives of the SESE science curriculum is to develop among pupils an interest in and curiosity about the world through the study of living and non-living things. The 'Science

Projects' area within the 'Kids' section is an ideal place to start a class on their journey of scientific exploration with its mini experiments on aspects of plants, animals, the human body, matter and energy, the planet and microscopic life. Take the 'Plants' section as an example – it contains 10 experiments on topics like roots and shoots; what makes the grass green? Do plants like salt? What happens to seedlings in the dark? The experiments are laid out in a clear and child-friendly way with a simple introduction and a step-by-step guide and, most importantly, the materials needed to do them are everyday items making it really easy to set up from a teacher's perspective.

This article has only scratched the surface of how a teacher might engage with *World Book Online*. The entire service, which is updated in real time and curated for each learning level, contains almost 100,000

articles, 1,600 audio clips, 25,000 images, 7,000 maps, and 3,500 animations/videos. There is a lot there for everyone and it is completely free through Scoilnet. See www.scoilnet.ie.

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PDST TECHNOLOGY
IN EDUCATION

Promoting and supporting the integration of ICT in education