



# August Newsletter

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Semester 2 is now in full swing, with new assignment topics being researched all over the country. We trust that your students are finding Library Webs material a great asset in achieving excellent results.

### Teaching Tips

Library Webs is designed as much for teachers as it is for students. Take advantage of these tips for using Library Webs in your library or classroom.

#### 1. For Teachers

Most of our new topics include a *For Teachers* section at the end. These sections contain online lesson plans, web quests, worksheets and other wonderful aids for teaching in the classroom or school library. Why reinvent the wheel when other educators have made available their ideas and hard work? Adapt their ideas to suit your situation.

#### 2. Group Work

As you know Library Webs is more than just a database. It is a Library of selected Internet resources with the sections arranged so that students can see the context of their area of study, and can catch a glimpse of the big picture. Teachers can use the sections of the topics as a basis for organising group work within their classes. Each different section of a topic can be assigned to a small group to research and report back to the class on their findings. This method could be used with students looking at Ancient

Mesopotamia, or Prehistoric and Bronze Age China. The sections listed show how each civilization/dynasty followed from the last. Different groups of students could work on the different chronological periods and the class would gain a broad overview of the way each period built upon the achievements of its predecessors. In other topics dealing with the contributions of ancient civilizations, students can quickly grasp the architectural, scientific, literary and political legacies of these early societies. The same idea could apply to the materials in any of the subject areas – Science, Literature, Religions.

### Programme update

#### Deep linking

A new feature, deep linking to Categories, Topics or Sections is now available. This means that teacher-librarians can create pathfinders for their students with links which go directly to the specific topic, or section, which their students are studying. To use this feature just go to the bottom of the page of the topic/section and copy and paste the link displayed there into your pathfinder. This will save your students even more time.

#### UQ Cyberschool

Library Webs subscriptions are now available through UQ Cyberschool. Visit this link <http://www.library.uq.edu.au/schools/> for more information.

### New Resources

#### Religion

##### Founders of Religious Orders and Communities

This is a great resource for students researching the founders of familiar school, hospital and religious institutions within their community. After an introductory section dealing with monasticism and religious orders in general, the following saints' and religious leaders' contributions are covered in depth: St Antony the Abbot, St Benedict, St Scholastica, St Dominic, St Francis of Assisi, St Ignatius of Loyola, St Teresa of Avila, St Jane de Chantal, Mary Ward, Edmund Rice, Catherine McAuley, St John Bosco and Teresa of Calcutta. *Let us know if the founder/foundress of your school's order is missing and we will quickly address the issue!*

#### Social Issues

##### Australia and the Great Depression

An excellent resource for Modern History and Economics students, this library of sites presents the Great Depression as a global event. The initial section covers the Great Depression in a general way, followed by another entitled *The Causes and The Crash*. America and Europe have separate sections devoted to them, and Australia has two, one dealing generally with the social and economic aspects of the topic, and the other headed *Australian politics in the 1930s*. The latter sheds light on the bitter disputes and controversies surrounding the various

plans and personalities dealing with this turbulent time. The final section, *For Teachers*, holds a wealth of lesson plans, web quests and activities, giving teachers great innovative ideas for teaching this topic in class.

## Pure Sciences

### Light

This title contains a large collection of sites which cover the topic in breadth and depth. After a lengthy introductory section, the topic is divided up into the following sections: *Reflection, Refraction, Diffraction, Interference, Polarization, Total internal reflection, Lasers, Holographs, The speed of light, The visible spectrum and Optical instruments*. Teachers will find lots of online activities and bright ideas in the last section, *For Teachers*.

## Literature

### F. Scott Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby

This resource offers new ways to study an old favourite and teachers will find many activities and lesson plans in the final section, *For Teachers*. The other sections contain materials on the author himself and his fascinating wife, Zelda. There is a section on *America in the Roaring Twenties* which gives students the cultural background to the novel. The section on *The Great Gatsby* offers summaries, student guides and articles about the novel, and there is another section which briefly looks at Fitzgerald's other works.

## Ancient History

### Ancient Chinese Civilization

This topic concentrates on the cultural, scientific and social aspects of Ancient China. It contains fascinating material on the following aspects: Ancient Chinese architecture, The Great Wall, astronomy and astrology, ceramics, punishment in Ancient China, literature, medicine, sport and games, technology and inventions, the writing system of Ancient China, mathematics and the place of women in Ancient China.

Suitable for students of Chinese language, SOSE and Ancient history.

### Prehistoric and Bronze Age China

This topic is designed for Senior Ancient History students and their teachers. It gives a detailed chronological overview of Chinese civilization from Neolithic times until the Han Dynasty. The first section lists sites which deal comprehensively with Ancient China, and is followed by specific sections dealing with *Neolithic China, the Shang and Zhou Dynasties, the Period of the Warring States, Classical Chinese Philosophy*, and the *Ch'in and Han Dynasties*. The topic concludes with a section *For Teachers* which contains a wonderful array of online lessons and activities.

### Mesopotamian Civilizations

Designed for teachers and students of Senior Ancient History, this resource gives an overview of the major civilizations which populated the Mesopotamian region in ancient times. Listed in chronological order, each civilization is given detailed coverage. This topic provides excellent material for group work where students can report back to class on a particular dominant culture so that the class builds an overall picture of developments in the region over the centuries. After a general section on Mesopotamia, the other sections are *Archaeologists in Mesopotamia, Sumeria, Akkadia, Babylonia, Kassites and Hittites, Assyria, Chaldea/Neo-Babylonia* and *Persia*. There is a lengthy list of lesson plans and activities in the *For Teachers* section giving lots of other great ideas for teaching this topic.

### Mesopotamia: The Sumerians

This topic looks at the cultural and scientific contributions of the Sumerian culture to world civilization and knowledge. It includes the section on Sumeria from the *Mesopotamian Civilizations* topic as its introduction. This is followed by specific sections dealing in depth with Sumerian architecture, arts, funeral customs,

legends and literature, science and mathematics, religion, language and writing system. This resource is ideal for Middle School SOSE students as well as for Senior Ancient History students.

### Mesopotamia: The Babylonians

As with *The Sumerians*, this topic includes the section on Babylonia from the *Mesopotamian Civilization* topic as an introduction and then deals specifically with the social, scientific and cultural aspects of the Old and Neo-Babylonian cultures. Areas covered are Babylonian architecture, law, literature, science, mathematics and religion. Suitable for SOSE, RE and Ancient History.

## Update/Upgrade

We are nearing completion of another of our cyclical updates and upgrades, as we endeavour to keep dead links to a minimum and maintain the currency of our topics. Many sections have new links added and some topics even have whole new sections, particularly the *For Teachers* sections. Please make your teachers aware of these resources as we are sure that finding online teaching materials together with resources for their students will assist classroom teachers greatly.

## Thank you

Thank you for your continued support and positive feedback. We will continue to try to make your job easier. If you have a topic that is not in the current resources please let us know and we will endeavour to add it as soon as possible.

Best wishes from the  
Library Webs Team

