



## netTrekker Best Practices - High School



- › **9-12 Math (Manipulatives):** Keyword search “virtual manipulatives.” Save to your shared folder. Students can go to the NLVM: Interactive Mathematics link. They can click on Algebra I under 9-12. Then they can click on Algebra Balance Scales. This is an excellent interactive site. We did this as a class in the computer lab. Then the students can get on it from home and continue to practice. You can extend the lesson with Algebra Balance Scales-Negative. Many of my students finally understood how to balance equations with this website.
- › **9-12 Biology:** I like to do this exercise in the computer lab so all the students have access to a computer. Go to netTrekker Biology section. Show/tell them (I use PowerPoint) important vocabulary words and ask them to find the definition (I also require them to write the definition; therefore they end up with a study sheet) as quickly as they can without using the search bar at first. If they are having trouble finding the word I can then tell them the category in netTrekker where they can find the information, therefore helping them learn to search documents quickly, and if they still can’t find the word I will allow them to use the search bar. In the process the students learn skills that will help them succeed in college. I make it a game type of environment with suitable incentives.
- › **9-12 Biology:** I had a handout printed in black and white, and it pictured the aphotic zone in the ocean (with tube worms as part of the diagrams, but was simply labeled worms). A student was wondering if the diagram showed earth worms because she had never seen tube worms. I was able to go to netTrekker and do an image search and pull up several pictures of different types of ocean worms in mere seconds.
- › **9-12 Biology:** My anatomy students didn’t have texts for several weeks so trying to find visuals was hard—especially color. I looked with other search engines and all the top sites were pay for service sites, I did a quick search on netTrekker and immediately found free color plates of the whole body in various stages of dissection.
- › **9-12 Biology:** Using netTrekker searching for information on “Darwin,” we came up with information about evolution that no other science teacher had heard of before; the students were able to find out about evolution ideas developed before Darwin and how those ideas influenced him. The search for famous people pulled up many wonderful resources.
- › **9-12 Guidance & Counseling (Career Exploration):** Keyword search “careers.” Choose the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Career Information: What Interests You? Have students research at least two career choices in different areas, write down what it takes to get ready, how much the jobs pay, how many jobs there are projected to be, other jobs like those, and where you can find more information. If students are unsure of careers which interest them, you could have them explore other links to narrow down fields of interest, then complete the above project.



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- › **9-12 Guidance & Counseling (Scholarship Search):** Keyword search "scholarships." Choose Fastweb-Matching Students to Scholarships. Have students complete a profile on Fastweb, and write down at least 5 scholarships they qualify for based on the information they entered in their profile. Have students complete an application for at least 5 scholarships, and turn in copies of their applications to their counselor within two-three weeks. File in their guidance records.
- › **9-12 Art, 2006-2007 Academic Decathlon:** I am a librarian at Madison High School, and I also coach the Academic Decathlon team at our school. The focus of the art component in AD for this year is Asian art, and the majority of the pieces are found at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. I had my students visit the museum on-line and look at the selections by looking under visual art. That led them to a list of U.S. museums, and they selected Minnesota, especially the Minneapolis Institute of Art. From there they accessed the exhibits. Seeing the exhibits in a different environment helped visualize them more easily. In addition, there was additional information about each piece.
- › **Social Studies (Global Studies):** Use the Famous Person and Timeline features. Go to the Famous Person tab, select 20th century, entrepreneurs, and European (West), and students may choose to study Andrew Carnegie or John Maynard Keynes. Click on the Timeline button next to the famous person's name.
- › **Social Studies (Global Studies):** Reference Tool for Maps, Geography, and Almanacs. Students can find country information.
- › **Social Studies (Current Events):** Keyword search for "World News". Have students research current events using country newspapers.
- › **Social Studies (Government):** Reference Tool for US Government. AP Government students can research Supreme Court cases.
- › **Language Arts:** Famous Person search "Shakespeare." Look at the British Literature Timeline for Shakespeare. Have your students gather notes from selected websites on Shakespeare, and write a research paper on how the events during Shakespeare's time, as well as the events in his personal life, influenced his writing.



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- › **Language Arts:** Keyword search "Scarlet Letter". Students can use the Dictionary Key to aid them in reading the book. Have students keep a word document on the words they look up for future study.
- › **Science (Biology):** Keyword search "cell reproduction." Have the students formulate questions as they go through the various websites. These questions can be used for review, quizzes, or tests.
- › **Science (Chemistry):** Drill Down for Chemistry > Particle > Periodical Table of Elements. Have your students research individual elements. For fun, have your students keyword search for Hangman. Then click on Superkids: Hangman to play a learning game on the elements.
- › **Mathematics (Algebra and Geometry):** Keyword search "equations." Click on the Promethean tab. You can use the Promethean: Equations resource for bell work or supplemental material for standardized testing preparation.
- › **Mathematics (Geometry):** Famous Person search for a Mathematician. Students will write a five paragraph essay on the importance of their chosen mathematician.
- › **Health:** Drill Down for Health > Disease Conditions and Disorders or Health > Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs. Have your students research various types of drugs and the harmful effects.
- › **Foreign Language:** To supplement your own activities for teaching adjectives in Spanish class, drill down: Foreign Language > Spanish > Learning to Speak Spanish > Grammar > Adjectives. Find activities on adjectives in general, or drill farther to focus specifically on Formation and Placement, Comparatives and Superlatives, Numbers, or Possessive Adjectives.
- › **Art ELL:** Keyword search "Mexican art" and refine for Spanish. PBS: The Life and Times of Frida Kahlo site is a fabulous site, including excellent illustrations and wonderful content, on this well-known Mexican artist. After the site comes up, click the Spanish button to access the Spanish mirror site. The site is marked controversial because it talks about Kahlo's very stormy relationship with her husband Diego Rivera, but all is handled with great sensitivity.
- › **Science ELL:** Keyword search on "plants" and refine for Spanish. Click on the Chicago Field Museum: Tropical Plant Guides site.