



netTrekker Best Practices - Middle School



- › **5th-6th Language Arts (Myths):** This unit can be completed in 4 days using 1 hour for each day to complete the unit. It can be adapted for other grades. A keyword search for "myths" will yield many useful sites for myths.

Day 1:

Students read the definition of a myth from the Scholastic website:

- › http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/myths_mymyth.htm

Watch four online Flash videos of myths from a site called Winged Sandals (<http://www.wingedsandals.com>).

Day 2:

Read myths from various countries on the Scholastic website

- › <http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/myths.htm>

Read the myth of Pegasus on a website called "Windows to the Universe"

- › <http://www.artsmia.org/world-myths/index.html>

Discover information about 32 of the Greek gods and goddesses along with illustrations of these deities on the Winged Sandals website (<http://www.wingedsandals.com>).

Day 3:

Students view various cultural myths as depicted in art form from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts

- › <http://www.artsmia.org/world-myths/artbyculture/greek.html>

Students can catch chicken feathers to make wings and fly away while trying to avoid the sun like Icarus and Daedalus in a game they can play online from Winged Sandals (<http://www.wingedsandals.com>).

Day 4:

Use the myth brainstorming machine from Scholastic to help them begin writing their own myth.

- › <http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/mythmachine.htm>

Students can publish their own myths online at Scholastic.com at a later date.

- › http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mff/myths_publish.asp

Your students should definitely be able to identify myths at this time.



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- › **6th Grade Social Studies:** Image search for “Aztecs” or other ancient civilizations. Then you can have your students write illustrated fictional narratives.
- › **6th Grade Science:** Keyword search “ecosystems.” Then use Readability to help students find results based on scores of a 2, 3, or 4, depending on the student’s reading level. If you would like a Readability of 3, then try using MBGnet: Biomes & Ecosystems of the World.
- › **7th Grade Mathematics:** Keyword search “central tendency.” Select the Measures of Central Tendency - Quiz site. This quiz can be used as a review activity.
- › **7th Grade Social Studies:** State Standards searches can be useful for teachers who are changing their curriculum. If you are changing from US History to Ancient World History, then you can study the standards of your new curriculum.
- › **7th Grade Science (Cell Parts):** Click on Middle School Tab > Science > Cell Biology > Cell Part > Eucaryotic Cell Interactive Animation. Select Animal Cell.

Lesson 1

Draw a complete animal and plant cell picture on large white drawing paper. Label each part of the cell. Cell pictures are posted on the school hall walls.

Lesson 2

Complete a drawing booklet of the animal and plant cell. The Cover Sheet will have a Title, Student Name and Date on the front. Cover Sheet is designed with cell parts scattered around on the front of the booklet. Next page is a Table of Contents telling the names of the cell parts and what page the drawing is located. Next, each cell part is drawn on a page with the cell part name at the top of the page. Included with the drawing is a written statement of the function of the cell part for the cell. Each cell part is colored with colored pencils so as not to have the color bleed through to the next page. Identifying the cell part as belonging to the animal cell, plant, or both is done at the bottom of the drawing page.

Lesson 3

3-D models of the animal or plant cell. Students will use white colored paper, scissors, and glue sticks. Students will cut out a cell membrane for an animal cell, or a cell wall and cell membrane for a plant cell, and paste it down on a large white piece of poster paper. Students will then draw each cell part on a different piece of colored paper. Cut the drawing out and paste the cell part inside a cell membrane for the animal cell, or cell wall and cell membrane for the plant cell. After a complete animal or plant cell 3-D model is completed, student will label the cell parts of the model. Teacher will post the models on the school hall walls and have the art teacher and other science teachers judge the models. Ribbons are awarded for the top 10 models.



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- › **8th Grade Social Studies:** Each student is assigned a state. They have to make a slide-show presentation about their state and show it to the class. One slide has to include the biography of a person important to their state's history. The person search and timeline feature in netTrekker has made it easier to search for information for their biographies.
- › **8th Grade Language Arts:** As a tie-in between literature and art, I did a search for "artistic styles." I found Collage as a type that I felt like was a good fit for our students. (We do not have Art as a class in the school.) From there I looked up Collage and found a remarkable lesson plan on Romare Bearden, a true collage artist. The students learned the style from this lesson plan and what can be done with collage. Then they will use it to illustrate an Essential Literature book called "Slam."
- › **8th Grade Science:** My students receive a comprehensive view of heart transplants that ends with a virtual transplant I like to use the Shared Search feature to direct the students to the resources. Begin with keyword "transplants". I save results for Transplant Q&A, UNOS: Critical Data (can see stats on donors and recipients in your state), United Network of Organ Sharing to see nation's transplant waiting list, and Explorations in Medicine for historical view of heart transplants and Charles Bernard. The last site I add is Teachers' Domain: Operation Heart Transplant for a hands-on learning exercise. It contains Background Essay, Discussion Questions, and Science Standards to accompany the same hands-on exercise.
- › **8th Grade ESL:** In English Learners, keyword search "world cultures". After receiving your results, click on the Lesson Plan tab. Scholastic: Global Trek can be used for a lesson on exploring traditions and cultures of the world.
- › **Health (English or Spanish):** English Learners Keyword search for "body." Kidshealth: My Body can be used for English and Spanish speaking students.
- › **Health ELL:** Keyword search "food pyramid guide" and refine for Spanish. The U.S. Department of Agriculture: MiPirámide site is excellent. Once the site is launched, click "Tour de MiPirámide" to launch a nice Spanish-language animation.
- › **Language Arts ELL:** Drill-down search: English Language Learners > ELL Skill Development > Vocabulary > Word Games. Lots of choices here. Try Harcourt School: Wordworks.
- › **Language Arts ELL:** Keyword search "verbs." This is good to show readability levels, Spanish-language sites, and standards alignment.