

netTrekker d.i. Training Outline (For 3-hour hands-on class)

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Accessing netTrekker d.i.

<http://school.nettrekker.com>

Bookmark nT

Registration

- Individual Registration
 - Log out and log in to ensure logins are understood and correct
 - School access
 - Home access
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User Environment

My Tools

- Profile – to change password and all other items except username
 - Preferences – to customize Homepage, Customize Your Results, Your State Standards, Dictionary Hot Key, Read Aloud.
 - Saved Searches – to manage saved searches
 - Search History
 - Help>Browse netTrekker Help
 - Newsletter sign-up
 - Point out Implementation and Getting The Word Out sections
 - Contact Us
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Overview of netTrekker d.i.

- Search engine developed by teachers for teachers
- Why netTrekker over generic search engines?
- Put keyword in Google and netTrekker d.i. and compare search results
- netTrekker d.i. websites are academically relevant, educator reviewed and evaluated, aligned to state standards, rated by Readability level.
- Accessing netTrekker d.i. from school and home
- Individual login, shared login, IP authentication, or portal (cover only what's applicable)

Homepage Layout

- Elem K-5, Middle 6-8, High 9-12
- Features content are applicable to grade level
- My Tools are same regardless of grade level; items are applicable to individual login and can be customized
- Help Tips may change based on feature or displayed page

Basic Searching

(click Grade Level Homepage before each search to clear parameters from previous search type)

- Keyword Search (example: weather).
- Subject Search

Understanding Search Result

- website title
 - website description
 - evaluator
 - taxonomy string
 - Overall rating
 - More
 - website content & legend
 - Readability (will examine later)
 - Dictionary (will examine later)
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Advanced Searching

Refinement Tabs – expand

- Lesson Plans – launch & exit site
- Learning Games, Audio, Promethean, Teacher’s Domain
- All

Correlate to Standards

- Click State Standard pill button
- choose a standard then a Web Resource
- Save the results (will look at Save Search later)

Narrow Your Subject

- Keyword (example: presidents)
- Click on Narrow Your Subject bar to see cross-curricular breakdown of search results - Click on any subject area to narrow the search results to just that subject area – continue to click on subtopics to narrow the results
- To get back to all results click the Home icon in Narrow Your Subject bar
- From Elem Homepage, click ‘browse our list of themes’

Readability Level

- Keyword (example: animals)
- Note Readability Grid at top of search results and Level for each website. Define Readability score: measure of relative difficulty of reading written text. Usually calculated using a mathematical formula that considers features such as word length, incidence of multi-syllabic words, and sentence length.
- netTrekker d.i. Readability is a composite, an average of the scores generated by Lexile and four long-standing readability formulas. Readability Level 1 means lower readability, easier vocabulary, simple sentence structure, more graphics and pictures. Level 5 means more difficult vocabulary, complex sentence structure, perhaps less graphics.
- More button shows Website Readability info. Note netTrekker d.i. Readability Score and how it relates to Lexile and 8 other popular

readability measures. Click Back to return to Search Results. Click any icon in the lower left of a search result or click the Readability Number to the right of the search result. This produces the Legend and Grade-Level Readability Equivalent. Exit Legend window.

- Sort by clicking Readability 2 (4-6 grade level equivalency), then Readability 4 (9-10 grade level equivalency).
- Keyword (example: states).
- Refine Search: Readability>Lexile>800-1000>Search. Note websites are Levels 2 & 3.

Search in Context

- Keyword (example: keyboarding). Note # of search results and show taxonomy string for Technology and Arts.
- Click Middle Homepage>Technology>keyword keyboarding & click Search in Context before clicking Search. Note taxonomy string is just for Technology and less websites.
- Click Learning Exercises & launch a website. (example: Centerville Jr High). Note website is Readability N/A which means not enough text to evaluate Readability, not complete sentences, or text is contained in graphics.

Current Events

- Current Events>U.S. News>point out types of news>News by State
- Click any state, city, and launch website.
- Click High Homepage>Current Events>World News>click any country/area, and launch website.
- Note Current Events in Elem is located in Social Studies>Current Events.

Assistive Searching

Dictionary Hot Key

- Keyword (example: bald eagle). Launch website w/Dictionary by click Dictionary key.
- Click unfamiliar word. Note pronunciation and definition in English.
- Show how to see translation in other language with pull-down menu in Spanish.
- My Tools>Preferences>Dictionary Hot Key Preferences>change to another language.

Read Aloud

- Keyword (example: frogs)
- Click Open Read Aloud.
- Open Search results and toolbar.

Standards Searching

Keyword (examples: aesthetic perception, graphic organizers, industrial revolution, right triangle, civil rights, figurative language, art history, Abraham Lincoln, atmosphere—these vary by state)

FROM STATE STANDARDS HOMEPAGE

- State Standards>keyword (examples above)>click last item in a Standard (bolded text)>click Web Resource or enter User Defined Keyword>Save Search (delete 2nd item on list to show how Delete feature works).
 - From State Standards Homepage, drill down into state standards a few layers to show other search method.
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English Learners Channel

FROM HIGH HOMEPAGE>English Learners

- Point out subject areas same as All Learners. Reference Tools in lower right are ELL Reference Tools. Click Grammar Guide to display all subtopics and scroll down.
 - Click Back to return to Homepage>ELL Skill Development>keyword (example: listening comprehension)>scroll through websites to see how they relate to English Language Learners. (Another keyword example: Haitian Creole)
 - Note Refinement Tabs are different for ELL Channel.
 - Pictures = websites containing pictures
 - Multilingual = websites are available in English and at least one other language. Click a Language Indicator (globe with 2 letters) to show available languages.
 - Spanish = websites are available in Spanish
 - Speaking/Listening = websites contain audio and/or video resources. Point out audio & video icons in legend area.
 - Expand Refinement Tabs several times to show website resources.
 - From High Homepage>English Learners>keyword (example: plants)>Spanish refinement tab. Launch 1st website & convert to Spanish if necessary.
 - From High Homepage>English Learners>Multicultural Pavilion. Note this area provides geographic and cultural information on continents, countries, and regions. Resources on ethnic identity, acculturation, cultural sensitivities, diversity, cultural heritage, and social justice issues are also included here.
 - From High Homepage>English Learners>keyword (example: atom). Click Readability Level 2 to refine websites for Readability 2. Launch "Fear of Physics: What is an Atom?" website to show how high school ELL student can find resources with high school level content and lower readability level for easier comprehension.
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21st Century Skills Channel

FROM HIGH HOMEPAGE>21st Century Skills

- Point out Description of 21st Century Skills and general resources.
 - Show 21C topic areas>Life Skills>note description>click on Topics. Click on subtopic of Ethics (note that you can then use all of the ntdi refinement tabs and tools). Click the 21st Century Skills button again to go back to the channel home screen.
 - Note the other 21C topics of ICT Literacy and Learning & Innovation
 - Expand other topic areas several times to show website resources.
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Features

Timeline

- Timeline>US History>scroll down to display all areas. Click on any topic to display search results. Click Back to return to timeline. Click on any Timeline icon to show timeline within a timeline. Click Back and Save timeline.
- Timeline>Social Studies>World History>Industrialization timeline icon. Can add up to 5 layers (examples: Physics, Music, American Literature)

Famous Person

- By person's name: (example: Isaac Newton)
- Create list of famous people based on criteria (example: Female, 20 & 21 Centuries, Authors/Writers, African American)

Image Search

- From HIGH HOMEPAGE>Image Search>(example: Medieval Europe)>grade leap to Middle School>grade leap to Elementary School.

Search View

- From ELEM HOMEPAGE>make sure Web is displayed. Keyword (example: Abraham Lincoln)>click Person>click Image>click Standards to show quick & easy way to conduct several types of searches with same keyword.

References

- From HIGH HOMEPAGE>References. Note Landmarks Citation Machine, maps, math assistance, WebMD.com, Copy-Right Free and Friendly Clip Art.

Teacher Tools

- Note availability of resources for integrating technology in the classroom, grant writing, special education, planning lesson plans.
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Saved Searches

- Saved Searches – note 2 searches and 1 timeline saved
- Save new search FROM HIGH HOMEPAGE>keyword (example: ethical decision making)>click Save Search>Add a Website (Back)>Email to a Friend>enter user's own email address in To and From fields>Send>change Title of search>Save.
- Create New Folder
- Move a search and timeline to new folder
- Share Folder
- Click Shared Search Folders to display shared folders within user community
- Click Shared Searches in My Tools>unshared Shared Folder