

Tips for Using Search Engines

One of the things that will make you a better web searcher is understanding what you need to type in order to tell the search engine exactly what you are looking for.

There are two categories of search operators: Boolean and *non-Boolean* operators. An operator is a word or symbol that you type in that gives the search engine directions to help it know what to search for.

Using these operators can narrow or widen your search, helping you find web sites that may be useful to you.

You will have to check out the individual search engines to find out which operators work.

Boolean Searching:

AND means the search results must have both terms – often it is typed in UPPER CASE, but not always

AND decreases the number of web sites that will be found, narrowing in on specific topics.

Example: pollution AND water will look for web sites about both pollution and water

OR means the search results can have just one of the terms

OR increases the number of web sites that will be found, broadening your search

Example: pollution OR water will look for web sites that mention **either** pollution or water

NOT means any result containing the second term will be excluded

NOT decreases the number of web sites that will be found, narrowing your search.

Example: pollution NOT water will look for web sites about pollution that do not involve water

Warning: Be very careful about using **NOT**. If the web site mentions water even once, it may be left out. This could rule out some very useful web sites. Likewise, you must be careful when using **OR**. You can end up with a huge number of sites to sort through.

Non-Boolean Searching:

+ works like **AND**, making the term required in the search results
the + should be placed directly in front of the search term without any spaces

Example: pollution +water will look for web sites about pollution that also mention water.

- works like **NOT** and means to exclude the term
the - should be placed directly in front of the search term without any spaces

Example: pollution -water will also look for web sites about pollution that do not involve water.

" " placed around terms means the search engine will look for the exact phrase

Example: "water pollution" will look for that exact phrase. This can make your search very specific.

Warning: Just as with the Boolean terms, you must be careful when using - that you do not eliminate web sites that might mention the term you do not want, but are not really about that term. - water may eliminate web sites that are about air pollution but mention water pollution as well.

How to find out which search operators to use:

Different web sites and search engines use different systems, and you will need to learn which search terms work best with your particular search engine.

Many web sites and search engines will tell you which to use if you click on buttons such as HELP or ADVANCED SEARCH or POWER SEARCH or SEARCH TIPS. They may also offer other search limit options such as letting you pick dates or languages. Explore your favorite search engines to find out what they can do!

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Search Engine Practice

Search Engine Name/Web Address _____

Which search operators (Boolean and or non-Boolean) work with this search engine? _____

How did you find this out?

What search options are you offered?

(Go to advanced/power search options and list the different options you are given for your search details.)

Which did you pick? Why?

What term did you enter for your initial search? _____

How many results ("hits") did you receive? _____

What did you find that was not useful, or not related to your topic in your results? (Give several examples)

Try several different combinations using search operators to narrow your search. Describe the combinations you tried and the results you got.

Combo tried:

Combo tried:

Combo tried:

Reason:

Reason:

Reason:

Results:

Results:

Results:

How useful did you find the results of your final searches? Explain how they were useful.

Record the web page addresses of three useful sites you found on your topic.

Geography Online Scavenger Hunt

Questions:

1. The Aral Sea is shrinking rapidly and may someday disappear completely. The sea crosses the borders of two countries. One of them is:

- A. Ghana
- B. Venezuela
- C. Kazakhstan

2. Match the following countries with their capital cities:

Country	Capital City
_____ Norway	A. Dhaka (Dacca)
_____ Eritrea	B. Ottawa
_____ Bangladesh	C. Accra
_____ Canada	D. Asmera
_____ Ghana	E. Oslo

3. The colors of the Honduras flag are _____

.

4. The African city with the largest population is

_____ .

5. Rank the following countries in order of population numbers:

Brazil Indonesia India China United States

Most populated _____

2nd _____

3rd _____

4th _____

5th _____

6. What is the only Caribbean island with large oil reserves?

7. An archipelago is

A. a narrow strip of land joining two larger bodies of land

B. a chain of islands

C. a pipe or channel used to carry water from a distant source to dry areas

8. Which country has the most time zones?

9. What country was Pakistan a part of before it became independent?

10. What is the latitude of Madrid, Spain? _____ the longitude?

Geography Help

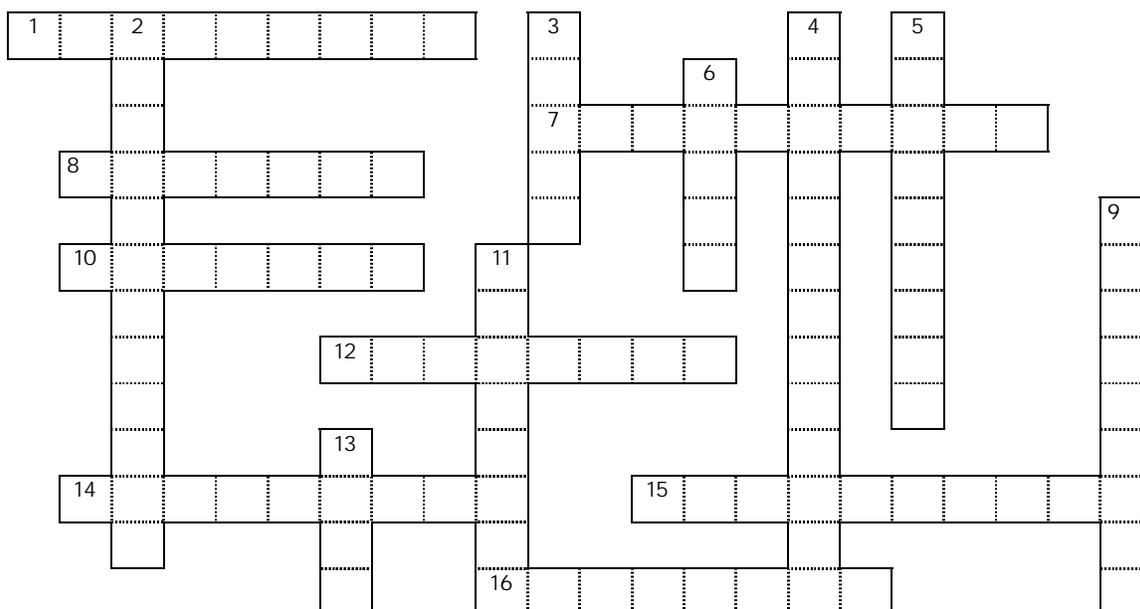
Web sites that can help:

The *CIA's World Fact* book at <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html> has profiles of all the countries of the world plus more.

Atlapedia Online at <http://www.atlapedia.com/> is an encyclopedia designed to provide geographic information.

Information Please at www.infoplease.com has atlases, almanacs, and a lot more to help you research.

REFERENCE CROSSWORD: FIND THE BEST ANSWER!



Across:

1. Best source to use to find 8 across.
7. Read your Webster's!
8. Words that mean the same.
10. Best source for quick facts on a wide variety of subjects.
12. When using a book, this table can help determine what information is in the book.
14. A book that tells about a person's life.
15. The meaning of a word, which can be found easily in 7 across.
16. The proper order of letters in a word, also found in 7 across.

Down:

2. In many volumes or in one, this tool holds the key to large quantities of information
3. Use this to find the correct page number in a book or set of books.
4. How to say a word: use 7 across to find the correct way!
5. Try the almanac to find lots of these factual numbers.
6. A collection of maps.
9. The section of the library where many of these tools are kept.
11. A word meaning opposite.
13. Found in an atlas.

Dictionary and Thesaurus:

One of the most helpful tools for answering questions about words or language is the dictionary.

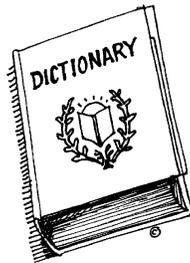
A dictionary lists words alphabetically. It gives the meaning, spelling, part of speech and pronunciation of words. It often lists multiple definitions and how many syllables a word has. Some dictionaries also give the word origin, antonyms, and may also use the word in a sentence.

The most famous dictionary is Webster's, but be careful. The name "Webster" is not copyrighted! Almost anyone can print a dictionary, and use the name Webster in the title.

A *thesaurus* is a special word dictionary. It gives synonyms and antonyms for words.

Visit Dictionary.com online! The site includes writing resources...and they even have a thesaurus!

[Dictionary](#)



Clipart compliments of Discoveryschool.com By the way—a great site for homework help!

Other Helpful Reference Tools:

Atlases:

An atlas is a collection of maps. There are atlases of the world, and atlases of specific regions. For online help, try *Infoplease*.



[Infoplease Atlas](#)

Encyclopedias:

An encyclopedia is a book or set of books with facts on many subjects. This tool is a good jumping off place for research, and often will direct to other helpful sources in their articles.

Almanacs:

An almanac is a book that offers a wide variety of information.

The World Almanac and Book of Facts gives up-to-date information on many different subjects. It offers statistical information and interesting facts about government, population, awards, and sports.

One of the most famous and longest running almanacs is the *Farmer's Almanac*. It offers advice on farming, weather predictions, and anecdotes. Another famous almanac is *Poor Richard's Almanac*, written by Benjamin Franklin from 1732-1738.

Books of Quotes:

When writing a paper, it is often a nice touch to add something extra. Quotes can be valuable to show what other people have said about your topic.

A famous book of quotations is *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*. This source lists quotations on a wide variety of subjects. Visit them online at [Bartleby.com!](#)

[Bartleby.com: Great Books Online](#)



This site (named after Herman Melville's famous character, Bartleby the Scrivener) indexes by author, subject and title. Among other reference sources, Bartleby offers access to the Columbia Encyclopedia, the World Factbook, Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, American Heritage Dictionary and Roget's II: The New Thesaurus.

***IF ALL YOUR ANSWERS ARE CORRECT, YOU
CAN SOLVE THE HIDDEN MESSAGE BY
FILLING IN THE BLANKS:***

-----!

~ Hermione (Harry Potter)

Literary Help

For more information about genres, and for some great links to other literature sites, visit: [Genre, Classics, and Resources](#).

If you like books, you'll also like these sites:

Genre and Themed Booklists from Los Angeles Public Library

http://www.lapl.org/kidsweb/booklist/rr_genre.html

Books to read if you love Harry Potter -- From the Ann Arbor District Library

<http://www.aadl.org/kidspg/bibs/afterharry.htm>

Newbery Medal Winners and Honor Books -- from the ALA web site

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/newbpast.html>

Dictionary and Thesaurus Questions

Answer these questions using a dictionary:

1. A bouquet can refer to a cluster of _____ or the _____ of wine.
2. The word coupon can be pronounced in how many ways? _____.
3. What is a windjammer? _____.
4. Spell mis-spelled correctly: _____.
5. What is mahjong? _____.

Match these words with their synonyms (use a thesaurus):

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 6. Conjecture | a. Stole |
| 7. Conundrum | b. Supposition |
| 8. Indelible | c. Puzzle |
| 9. Pinnacle | d. Monarch |
| 10. Purloined | e. Imperishable |
| 11. Reference | f. Immunize |
| 12. Sovereign | g. Disrepute |

Dictionary and Thesaurus Questions

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|----|-------------|
| 13. | Stigma | h. | Countenance |
| 14. | Vaccinate | i. | Citation |
| 15. | Visage | j. | Apex |

United States History Scavenger Hunt

Questions:

1. Match the following events with their dates:

Event	Date
_____ The battleship Maine explodes, leading to the Spanish-American War.	A. 1933
_____ The California Gold Rush begins.	B. 1868
_____ Prohibition ends, allowing alcohol sales in the U.S.	C. 1919
_____ The 19 th Amendment gives women the right to vote.	D. 1898
_____ Andrew Johnson is the first U.S. president to be impeached.	E. 1849

2. The second president of the United States was _____ .
3. In the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the United States bought the land between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains from the country of _____ .
4. The only American president to resign from office was _____ .
5. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended war between the United States and
 - a. Spain
 - b. Mexico
 - c. Brazil
6. The court case Marbury vs. Madison in 1803 was the first time a law by Congress was declared _____ by the Supreme Court.

7. The Compromise of 1850 made California a free state and abolished slavery in _____ .
8. Members of the labor union the Industrial Workers of the World were also called _____ .
9. A United States led multi-national military force attacked Iraq in occupied Kuwait in a short war code named _____ .
10. Match the famous U.S. author to their book:

Author	Book Title
_____ Benjamin Franklin	A. Uncle Tom's Cabin
_____ Thomas Paine	B. Poor Richard's Almanac
_____ Upton Sinclair	C. Walden
_____ Harriet Beecher Stowe	D. Common Sense
_____ Henry David Thoreau	E. The Jungle

U.S. History Help

Web sites that can help:

The **Awesome Library's** at <http://www.awesomelibrary.org/> has a social studies section with an "awesome" number of links to U.S. history information.

Britannica.com, an online encyclopedia at <http://www.britannica.com/> lets you enter search terms to find information on your topic at multiple sites.

The history section of **Information Please** at www.infoplease.com/history.html has almanac sections on U.S. and world history and government, including a section on the presidents.

Popular Entertainment Online Scavenger Hunt

QUESTIONS:

1. Which Grammy(s) has Eminem won two years in a row?
 - A. Best Rap Solo Performance
 - B. Best Rap Album
 - C. Best Rap Performance by Duo or Group
 - D. Both A & B
 - E. A, B and C

2. Who is no longer a member of Destiny's Child?
 - A. LeToya Lockett
 - B. Beyonce Knowles
 - C. Kelendria Rowland
 - D. Michelle Williams

3. The movies Silence of the Lambs and Hannibal were based on novels by what author?
 - A. Stephen King
 - B. Anne Rice
 - C. Thomas Harris
 - D. Thomas Clancy
 - E. John Grisham

4. What is the correct spelling of the following well-known shoe company?
 - A. Sketchers
 - B. Sketchurs
 - C. Skechers
 - D. Scechers
 - E. Skechers

5. Which artist/musical group won the Most Stylish Video award on the VH1 Vogue Fashion Awards in 2000?
 - A. Smashing Pumpkins
 - B. Macy Gray
 - C. Jennifery Lopez
 - D. Enrique Inglesias
 - E. No doubt

6. What was the top grossing movie of 1999?
 - A. Sixth Sense
 - B. Toy Story 2
 - C. Blair Witch Project
 - D. Star Wars Episode 1
 - E. Runaway Bride

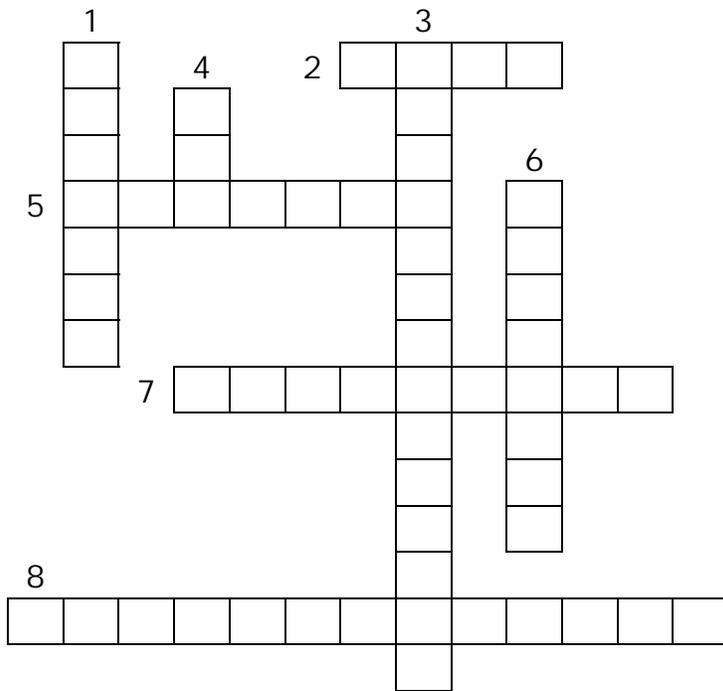
7. "Survivor" airs on which television network?
 - A. ABC
 - B. CBS
 - C. FOX
 - D. NBC
 - E. PBS

8. Who won the Oscar (Academy Award) in 1996 for Actor in a Leading Role in 1995?
 - A. Gary Sinise
 - B. Robin Williams
 - C. Tom Hanks
 - D. Nicholas Cage
 - E. William H. Macy

9. What is the definition of emoticon?
 - A. a group of emotions
 - B. a graphical picture of an emotion
 - C. an emotion used to con someone
 - D. a series of keyed characters to indicate an emotion

10. Crossword Puzzle Catch Phrases & Expressions

1. What they say in the valley. (2 words)
2. You are so clueless. (2 words)
3. Austin uses a cool expression. (2 words)
4. Homer's lament. (1 word)
5. Wayne and Garth see an attractive woman. (1 word)
6. The W sign. (1 word)
7. Bill and Ted think you did a Great Job on this hunt! (1 word)
8. Fred's Exclamation. (3 words)



Hints to Puzzle

1. Valley Girl
2. Clueless
3. Austin Powers
4. The Simpsons
5. Wayne's World
6. Clueless
7. Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure
8. The Flintstones

Helpful Sites:

The Internet Movie Database at www.imdb.com offers a full movie and television database, actor biographies, award organization summaries and links to many of the sites listed below.

MTV at www.mtv.com and **VH1** at www.vh1.com are the web site counterparts to the cable shows with searchable databases of all their programs.

The official web site of the **GRAMMY Awards** at www.grammy.com lists all past nominees and winners.

The **Academy Awards** at www.oscar.com has a database of all past nominees and winners.

Refdesk at www.refdesk.com is a clearing house of useful web sites organized by topics and in alphabetical order.

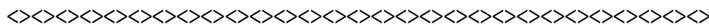
Yahoo! at www.yahoo.com allows searching on any keyword. It also gives similarly spelled matches.

Scavenger Hunt - Science

1. Hawaii sits on what tectonic plate?
2. What is the period of revolution of the moon?
 - A. 27.3 earth days
 - B. 28 earth days
 - C. 30 earth days
 - D. 25.5 earth days
3. Which 2 planets do NOT have any natural satellites?
4. Marble is a metamorphic rock that was originally:
 - A. pumice
 - B. quartzite
 - C. limestone
 - D. sandstone
5. What is the symbol for the element iron?
6. What is the name of the element with the atomic number 79?
7. True or False. A three-way light bulb has 3 filaments.
8. What type of camera has a sensor that converts light into electrical charges?
 - A. Video Camera
 - B. Polaroid Camera
 - C. Digital Camera
 - D. Standard Film Camera
9. What is the maximum wind speed (miles per hour) of a F4 tornado?
 - A. 157 MPH
 - B. 206 MPH
 - C. 260 MPH
 - D. 318 MPH
10. What category hurricane has a storm surge of 9-12 feet?

- A. Category 1
- B. Category 2
- C. Category 3
- D. Category 4
- E. Category 5

World History Hunt

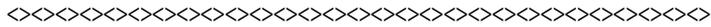


FILL-IN-THE-BLANK SECTION

Please fill in the blank with the correct answer:

1. In 1344 the _____ broke out in China and India. Also known as
as
The Black Death, it effected many parts of the world until 1400.
2. In 321B.C. young prince _____ founded the Mauryan
Empire in India.
3. In 1920, American women were granted _____, also known as
the right to vote.
4. The leader of the Fascist Party in Italy was _____.
5. An important figure in World War II, _____ was the Prime
Minister of England from 1940-1945.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 6. ____ First Soviet spacecraft launched in 1957 | F. Homer |
| 7. Developed the vaccine for polio that became widely used in 1955 | G. D-Day |
| 8. The allied troops invaded, Normandy, France (June 6, 1944) | H. Laos |
| 9. A city where an atomic bomb was dropped during World War II | I. Treaty |
| 10. Former name of St. Petersburg, Russia | J. Mao Zedong |



World History Help

Check out these websites for facts about world history.

<http://www.encyclopedia.com>

<http://www.factmonster.com>

<http://www.thehistorynet.com>

International Current Events Hunt Online

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the date and location of the most recent earthquake?
2. Which country has NOT had a case of "foot-and-mouth disease"?
 - A. France
 - B. Ireland
 - C. Netherlands
 - D. Argentina
 - E. New Zealand
3. What was the date and location of the most recent plane crash?
4. Who won the most recent election in the world?
5. What is one US dollar worth in Eurodollars?

Internet Resources

CNN on the web is at www.cnn.com.

The Washington Post lists exchange rates for all currencies at http://financial.washingtonpost.com/marketinc_currency.asp



Super Searcher

has completed the
Great Library
Scavenger Hunt.

Terrific job!