



Thinkfinity.org FAQ

brought to you by the Verizon Foundation

What is Thinkfinity.org?

Thinkfinity.org is a Web site filled with free online resources and professional development designed to enhance teacher effectiveness and improve student achievement.

Thinkfinity.org helps teachers engage and inspire their students by providing:

- > Free, high-quality educational resources and professional development
- > Easy-to-navigate K-12 content that is grade specific and aligned with state standards
- > Content developed by the Thinkfinity.org Consortium Partners, the most respected organizations in each academic subject and literacy, and used by teachers across the country

Thinkfinity.org is the Verizon Foundation's nationally recognized signature initiative for education and literacy.

How do I access Thinkfinity.org?

Thinkfinity.org is available for free to anyone with any computer and an Internet connection. The Verizon Foundation makes all the resources on Thinkfinity.org available free of charge, and there is no membership fee.

What kinds of resources are available?

Thinkfinity.org has thousands of relevant, timely and engaging educational resources for teachers, students, parents and afterschool programs, ranging from lesson plans, activities, worksheets and reference materials, to interactives, podcasts, videos, audio clips and much more. Subjects include: reading and language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, history, economics, geography, family literacy, literature, arts integration and philosophy for grades K-12 and beyond.

How are Thinkfinity.org Consortium Partners chosen?

The Verizon Foundation has established relationships with the nation's leading organizations in the academic disciplines for K-12 education and literacy. These organizations are funded by the Verizon Foundation to produce content exclusively for Thinkfinity.org. These organizations also provide peer review for content authored by other organizations, which when approved, resides on Thinkfinity.org as "partner-reviewed content."

How many people use Thinkfinity.org?

Thinkfinity.org attracted nearly 25 million visitors last year, including 5 million repeat visitors who are frequent users of Thinkfinity.org. There are currently more than 29,000 Thinkfinity.org-trained educators working in over 2,600 schools across the country. There are Thinkfinity.org trained educators in nearly 1,100 Title 1 schools nationally.

Who provides content for Thinkfinity.org?

Content is created or approved by the Thinkfinity.org Consortium Partners:

American Association for the Advancement of Science
Council for Economic Education
International Reading Association
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
National Center for Family Literacy
National Council of Teachers of English
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Endowment for the Humanities
National Geographic Society
ProLiteracy
Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Does Thinkfinity.org have any ties to State Departments of Education?

Thinkfinity.org partners with state education departments and statewide education organizations to ensure that Thinkfinity.org resources and professional development opportunities reach as many educators as possible.

For the third year in a row, the readers of *Edutopia* magazine ranked Thinkfinity.org one of the two best sites to download free lesson plans.

How do teachers use Thinkfinity.org?

Student and teacher materials are embedded within Thinkfinity.org lesson plans, and these can also be accessed and used independently as learning activities that enrich existing lesson plans. Teachers report that they most often use Thinkfinity.org to:

- > Find lesson plans and supporting activities and interactives to use in their teaching
- > Identify activities and interactives that their students can do in class
- > Create comprehensive topic-based learning experiences integrating technology use as one component of classroom learning

How do teachers learn to use Thinkfinity.org?

Thinkfinity.org's free, comprehensive professional development program shows educators how to use Thinkfinity.org resources to enhance their effectiveness and improve student achievement. There are several ways teachers can learn more about the valuable resources available for free at Thinkfinity.org. First, they can take a tour right on the Web site. It only takes about 10 minutes and provides a wonderful foundation to get someone started. They can also sign up for an online webinar with a Thinkfinity.org instructor. Or, they can take part in face-to-face training. More information on training options can be found at http://www.thinkfinity.org/pd/request_training.aspx.

Thinkfinity.org's professional development program is an affiliate of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills and has earned the NETS-T Seal of Alignment from the International Society for Technology in Education.

Can students use Thinkfinity.org?

Students can use Thinkfinity.org at school or at home. Many teachers assign class work on Thinkfinity.org, and the site offers help with homework. For example, if a student has to write an essay on Pearl Harbor, he or she can enter "[Pearl Harbor](#)" in the Thinkfinity.org search engine and find a wealth of relevant material, including the original naval dispatch announcing the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt's address to the nation, photos and first-hand accounts of the attack, and historical facts and information. Search results are customized based on the student specifying his or her grade level and the types of resources needed.

What do students like best?

Learning is transparent; students report that activities on Thinkfinity.org are fun, interactive and engaging, and that they don't "seem like work."

How can parents use Thinkfinity.org?

Parents use Thinkfinity.org to help their children with homework. Thinkfinity.org is easy to use. Parents can search by topic and grade level, find the quality resources that teachers use in the classroom and related materials for homework help.

Who else can benefit from Thinkfinity.org?

Learning takes place 24/7, in and out of the traditional classroom. Teachers, librarians, media specialists, literacy program managers, afterschool professionals, parents and student of all ages can benefit from the free, high-quality resources on Thinkfinity.org.

The Verizon Foundation is proud to be affiliated with these leading education organizations:



ISTE 100 members are select, forward-thinking corporations who share the International Society for Technology in Education's (ISTE) commitment to improve teaching and learning by advancing the effective use of technology in education and who are committed to working with educators in pursuit of that goal.

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is the leading advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education. The organization brings together the business community, education leaders, and policy makers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education to ensure every child's success as citizens and workers in the 21st century by providing tools and resources to help facilitate and drive change.

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) is the principal association representing the state directors for educational technology.

The Verizon Foundation's strategic partners in education include:



The National Education Association (NEA), representing educators from pre-school through university graduate programs, is committed to advancing the cause of public education.

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy and technical assistance on major educational issues.

Who do I contact for media inquiries?

Lou Laste, Director of Communications and Marketing, 908-559-6370 or lou.laste@verizon.com

Brian Malina, Verizon Media Relations, 908-559-6434 or brian.c.malina@verizon.com

The Verizon Foundation
One Verizon Way
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
800-360-7955
Verizon.Foundation@verizon.com
www.verizonfoundation.org