

Thinkfinity.orgSM

supported by the Verizon Foundation

What is Thinkfinity?

Thinkfinity is the cornerstone of Verizon Foundation's Literacy, Education and Technology initiatives. This free, comprehensive digital learning platform is built upon the merger of two highly-acclaimed programs well-known to educators – the program formerly known as Verizon MarcoPolo and the Verizon Literacy Network. Thinkfinity, which means “endless possibilities for learning,” is designed to improve learning in traditional settings and beyond the classroom by providing high-caliber content and professional development needed to improve student achievement – anytime, anywhere, at no cost.

National Content Partners

Thinkfinity is a partnership of the Verizon Foundation and several of the nation's leading literacy and education organizations, including:

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

Professional Development

A comprehensive professional development program prepares educators to incorporate Thinkfinity's rich resources into their instructional settings for maximum impact. A rollout network of select state and national education and literacy organizations ensures the broadest possible reach for these valuable resources and services.

Educational Resources

Thinkfinity contains more than 55,000 authoritative educational and literacy resources for teachers, students and community programs including standards-based K-12 lesson plans, student materials, interactive tools and web sites. Thinkfinity also includes best-in-class evidence-based literacy resources such as the Life Span Literacy Matrix from the Verizon Literacy Network.

The Buzz

“There are hundreds and thousands of lessons and materials that are classroom-ready. They have all been approved by leading educational organizations so you don’t have to worry about whether they’re good for kids ... they are!”

Michael Russo, Technology Facilitator
Williamsville Central School District, NY

“Rather than training a few volunteers a year, we now can show many more how to log on to Thinkfinity Literacy Network and take courses at their own time and at their own pace.”

Serge Danielson-Francois, Director
Cy-Fair College

“We feel so fortunate to have access to the Thinkfinity Literacy Network (TLN). As a nonprofit literacy organization that relies heavily upon volunteers to accomplish our mission, the TLN courses have proven to be an invaluable asset,”

Heidi Fisher, Executive Director
Literacy Volunteers of Chippewa Valley

“Thinkfinity is the window to the outside world. It brings authentic task, project-based learning into the classroom. Thinkfinity is what every teacher needs.”

Dr. Stephanie Anne Baird, Instructor
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Thinkfinity Brings Classroom Lessons to Life

4th Grade in San Francisco, California

Teacher Michelle Irwin didn’t want students to only think of George Washington Carver as the name of their school, she wanted them to know the man who created everything from peanut butter to linoleum.

To help with her task, Irwin pulled information and pictures of Carver and other African-American inventors and doctors from Thinkfinity.org.

There, Michelle found photos of Carver, and medical pioneer, Dr. Charles Drew (who also has a namesake school in San Francisco). She printed out and hung the pictures on a bulletin board outside her classroom.

Then her classroom efforts moved to the computer lab, where she passed a link to the educational resources to every student, who then went online and did research to write a short paper.

“The lesson helped the students on many levels. Students learned how to do research online, paraphrase and cite information, while also getting a sense of pride about the man their school is named after,” Irwin said.

9th Grade in Grand Prairie, Texas

Teacher Chelsea Kostyniak of the Grand Prairie School District doesn’t just teach from a text book. She uses technology, imagination and song to bring lessons to life for her students.

Her primary tool to bring technology into her classroom is Thinkfinity.org. During one recent class she taught students about the Harlem Renaissance, using a lesson plan on Thinkfinity.

To engage her students she used a medium they know well – a website.

Chelsea created her own website of Harlem Renaissance information, a “virtual museum,” including links Thinkfinity.org educational resources.

Once students reviewed and studied the website, they created their own blogs on the topic. In the blog they answered questions like if IPODs existed at the time, which artists would be most downloaded? Students then had an opportunity to post their feedback on the blogs on a message board.

