

# Think's Links!

## Selected highlights from Verizon Thinkfinity!

April

### News From Our Office



The Illinois Office of Educational Services is proud to have our very own Verizon Thinkfinity Certified Trainer! We are now able to offer Train the Trainer sessions! The next session is May 7, 8am-5pm, and May 8, 8am-12pm. 12 CPDUs are being offered! This session only seats 20 participants, and is first come first served.

### News from Thinkfinity Headquarters

#### Thinkfinity Featured Resources newsletter

The new Thinkfinity Featured Resources newsletter was sent electronically on March 26<sup>th</sup>. If you did not received this, please let us know so that we can get you included.

#### Three Thinkfinity Partners are engaged in site redesigns

- o September-early October – ReadWriteThink
- o October – ARTSEEDGE
- o November -- Xpeditions

As these partners and others look at the resources offered they are moving more to the development and delivery of activities and other learning resources. Some new lessons will be added but the emphasis is no longer on full lesson plans.

#### Coming soon – Calculation Nation

This will feature online math games which allow students to challenge other students from all over the world.

#### EconEdLink Celebrates Financial Literacy Month

New lessons and learning resources are highlighted with a different objective each week during the month of April. Go to the EconEdLink website and click on the green box on the right side of the home page.

### Kayti's Picks

<http://www.fords.org/virtual-tour.html>

An Interactive Virtual Tour of the Historic Ford's Theatre, the site of the April 14, 1865, assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

<http://dellington.org/>

This mini-site (pre-K–12), a collaboration between ARTSEEDGE, the National Museum of American History and the Music Educators National Conference, contains lesson plans, biographical information, images and numerous other resources related to Duke Ellington. Duke Ellington (originally Edward Kennedy Ellington) was born on April 29, 1899.

[http://edsitement.neh.gov/view\\_lesson\\_plan.asp?id=266](http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=266)

Students (grades 3-5) learn about the life and work of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr, who was shot as he stood on the balcony of his motel in Memphis, TN on April 4, 1968. Riots broke out across the country following King's death. Two months later, escaped criminal James Earl Ray, whose fingerprints had been found on the murder weapon, was arrested in London. He pled guilty to King's murder. Later, he claimed to have been used as a patsy in a government conspiracy to eliminate King. Although members of King's family publicly supported Ray's claims, no evidence was ever found to indicate that anyone other than Ray was involved.

<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/Lessons.cfm?DocID=76>

Students (grades 9-12) analyze and interpret data related to the crew and passengers of the *Titanic*. The *Titanic* was considered unsinkable because of its unique compartmentalized hull construction. However, when the luxury liner struck an iceberg just before midnight, four days into its maiden voyage across the Atlantic, the "unsinkable" marvel of engineering achievement went down. Since there were no safety regulations for passenger vessels at that time, emergency procedures, including sufficient lifeboats and a viable evacuation plan, were not in place. The *Titanic* was torn asunder on April 14, 1912.

Verizon Thinkfinity is an online portal with over 55,000 free resources available to educators.

For more information on Verizon Thinkfinity  
Contact Debbie Potts, Illinois Thinkfinity State Education Partner  
dpotts@ioes.org or 1.800.252.4822 ext. 233

Or

Kayti Holley-Goleman, Thinkfinity Project Assistant  
khgoleman@ioes.org or 1.800.252.4822 ext. 230



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