

Think's Links!

Selected highlights from Verizon Thinkfinity!



News From Our Office



Field Trainer Training -- Illinois is proud of the 100+ Thinkfinity Field Trainers who have been instrumental in training end users throughout Illinois. Join the ranks by completing the Thinkfinity Field Trainer Training which will be offered on August 6th and 7th in the IOES Computer Lab in Springfield. Training will be from 8am-5pm on the 6th and 8am-12pm on the 7th. 12 CPDUs are being offered! Go to <http://www.ioes.org/thinkfinity/thinkfinity.html> and click on Thinkfinity Registration Form to register. This session only seats 20 participants, and is first come first served.

WOW – Statistics collected by Thinkfinity show that from January 1, 2009, to March 30, 2009, IL ranked 9th out of 50 states and DC, with 2.40% (22,406 visits) to the Thinkfinity Website and 7th out of 50 states and DC with 4.68% (361,123 visits) to the Thinkfinity Partner Sites. Kudos to Illinois Field Trainers and End Users for making this happen.

News from Thinkfinity Headquarters

Coming Soon – Expert Hubs

Starting in June we should start to see Expert Hubs which have been developed by subject matter experts. These hubs will feature topics which are covered in many classrooms throughout the school year and have value to many teachers and students in several curricular areas. One of the hubs being considered is the Civil War. A volunteer expert will be sought who will “comb” the partner sites for resources that will aid teachers and students in the study of the Civil War. If you have any ideas for an Expert Hub or would like to volunteer as an expert let us know.

Thinkfinity Goal – One Thousand Educators from One Thousand Schools

Ever heard the phrase a few good men? Well, during the month of June, Thinkfinity hopes to recruit at least 1,000 excellent educators from schools that have not registered Thinkfinity Field Trainers or End Users who will register and participate in the one hour on-line Educator Webinar. Register for this session by going to <http://www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx> and clicking on register at Educator Webinar. The plan is to have a session every day during the month of June.

Widgets – Thinkfinity will be making Widgets available so that schools can place widgets such as the Thinkfinity Search Engine, the Thinkfinity Calendar and other commonly used Thinkfinity features on local web sites. Watch for this later this summer or early in the fall.

NECC – Thinkfinity is a level two sponsor for this year’s NECC conference which will be held in Washington, DC, June 28 – July 1, 2009. Thinkfinity will have a booth and would love to visit with you at their booth. So if you are there, make sure you stop and let them know how much Illinois appreciates being a part of the Thinkfinity “family.”

New Posters – Thinkfinity is releasing a new poster titled the 21st Century Kid! Our goal in Illinois is to train at least one person in every school so that we can hang one of these posters in every school library and/or computer lab in Illinois. Field trainers, as you are planning your training sessions let me know so that I can send you 18” X 22” posters. I can also download the 8.5” by 11” version to you so that you can share those during your training sessions.

Kayti's Picks

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/17/g912/disease.html>

With all the swine flu news, I thought I would add a lesson on a pandemic. This lesson will focus on the spatial diffusion of the influenza (flu) pandemic of 1918-19. [Spatial diffusion](#) is the geographic spread of ideas, innovations, or phenomena (such as disease).

<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/lessons.cfm?DocID=362>

Throughout history, in places such as ancient Greece, Rome and Britain, celebrations were held to honor mothers, motherhood or a mother deity. Several attempts at establishing a special day of recognition for mothers in the United States eventually led to a joint resolution of Congress, signed by President Wilson on this day in 1914, proclaiming a national Mother’s Day. This lesson introduces students to the basics of human development and the critical role of parents in taking care of a newborn.

http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=253

May 10, 1869, Celebrations occurred in New York, Washington, Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco. Nearly seven years after President Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act, the east coast and the west coast were finally connected by rail. In this lesson Students analyze archival material in order to make connections between the arrival of the railroads and many of the changes that occurred subsequently in the United States and its territories.

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=796

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries, was born May 22, 1859. In this lesson, students examine story elements and vocabulary associated with mystery stories. Students complete Internet activities designed to increase exposure to and appreciation of the mystery genre. Students then create story frames, write their own original mystery stories, and publish them online.

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

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