

Edutopia, The George Lucas Educational Foundation's award-winning magazine about education innovation and reform, invites reader voices and comments regarding best practices in education. They're featured in an ongoing department called Sage Advice, in which our audience suggests solutions to challenges educators face each day. (Think of a reverse Dear Abby.)

You can see a few of the many notes received in response to previous topics at www.edutopia.org/sageadvice.

Please go to the link below for answers to the question, "How Do You Challenge and Motivate Gifted Students?"

<http://www.edutopia.org/sage-advice-march-2006>

To keep middle school students engaged in math during the summer months, [MathMovesU](http://www.mathmovesu.com) is launching two new exciting programs.

In honor of Mars Day at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum on July 20, MathMovesU wants to send students on a mission to Mars - virtually that is. During ***MathMovesU Mission to Mars***, students can answer questions to blast off from Earth and experience space travel through the cockpit of their space craft. Along the way, they will encounter and learn about different landmarks on Mars by completing themed math questions for a chance to win out-of-this-world prizes, including a family trip to Washington D.C. to celebrate Mars Day with a VIP tour of the National Air and Space Museum, owning a piece of the Red Planet, a Sony PS2[®] and more!

Even if your students aren't planning to go to summer camp this year, they won't want to miss out on ***CAMP MMU***. This virtual camp will showcase how math can be applied to fun, summer activities. Not only could your students win a Nintendo[®] Wii[™], but if they show us how math is used in summer camp activities, their math problem and name may be featured on MathMovesU.com.

Encourage students to participate by logging onto www.mathmovesu.com and you could win too! In addition to student prizes, you could win a gift certificate to Staples[®] if your students tell us that you referred them to our site.

<http://www.mathmovesu.com/>

Sincerely,

The MathMovesU team

Good Sources for 'ready-made' projects:

- 1) San Diego Unified School District's Edtech page has a link to the Triton/Patterns Project website which features technology projects for most disciplines which are based on this model. These projects were created by San Diego teachers for all grade levels.

<http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/projects/gradelevel/gradelevel.html>

Bernie Dodge of San Diego State University also has a matrix of even more projects:

<http://webquest.sdsu.edu/matrix.html>

- 2) Interact, a locally based company which creates a variety of simulation games has a catalogue of activities which are designed for a variety of levels but are particularly appropriate for secondary students.

<http://www.interact-simulations.com/home.asp>

- 3) The Staff Room, a district site from Ontario Canada, which offers sample lessons, suggested rubrics for specific types of projects, graphic organizers, and more.

<http://www.odyssey.on.ca/~elaine.coxon/welcome.htm>

Also, this link which lets you look at projects in specific subject areas.

<http://www.odyssey.on.ca/~elaine.coxon/subject.htm>

- 4) Website entitled "General Criteria for Project Based Learning." It has the background information on PBL but also offers a template for creating your own.

<http://www.rmcdenver.com/useguide/pbl.htm>

- 5) Social studies web site, which contains lesson plans about Ancient Civilizations – Use the MSN Search for Donn Ancient Civilizations.

- 6) Junior Great Books Foundation

<http://www.greatbooks.org>

Workshop schedule: <http://www.greatbooks.org/training/list.shtml>

Join the Journey!

STS-118 Educator Institutes

NASA and Sally Ride Science want to make sure you join us because not only is there a special emphasis on education, but one of the crew members is an Educator Astronaut.

The First Sally Ride Science, in partnership with Northrop Grumman and NASA, is offering a series of 3 Educator Institutes leading up to the launch of STS-118.

Join us at: San Diego Air & Space Museum in San Diego CA on August 4th for our Sally Ride Science Educator Institute.

Each Educator Institute features

- o One day of discussion, presentations, and workshops.
- o Focus on the education activities scheduled to fly on STS-118.
- o Engaging hands-on workshops.
- o A keynote by a NASA astronaut.
- o Presentations about the mission and education objectives.
- o A presentation and discussions around careers and classroom strategies to ensure gender-equitable classrooms.

Registration is \$30

Visit - <http://www.sallyrideeducators.com/> for more information.

Please contact Tiffany Wong with any questions twong@sallyridescience.com

Or call (858) 638-1432 ext. 124

Advanced Registration Recommended!

HELPFUL WEBSITES

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| www.achievement.org | Academy of Achievement |
| www.biography.com | Biography |
| www.why-files.org | “Why Files” Science behind the news |
| www.loc.gov | Library of Congress |
| www.wordsandwich.com | Vocabulary and logic game |
| adventuresforkids@sbcglobal.net | Book reviews and newsletters |
| www.crf.usa.org | Constitutional Rights Foundation |
| www.historical-thinkingmatters.org | Historical Thinking Matters |
| www.ourdocument.gov | National Archives (100 primary source documents) |
| www.archives.gov/education | National Archives resource about primary sources |
| http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html | American Culture and History |
| http://eudoc.lib.byu.edu/iondex.php/MainPage | Western Europe |
| http://www.win.tue.nl-engels/discovery/primary.html | Voyages of Discovery |