

WaterCan

Ever wonder what it would be like to live without access to clean water? Worldwide, almost a billion people—about one-seventh of the world's total population—lacks access to safe drinking water. Over a third still lack access to basic sanitation facilities. Clean water for health and sanitation is something most people take for granted in Canada, but there are ways to improve this situation around the world. If global access to clean water is important to you and your students, WaterCan offers resources to help.

WaterCan is a Canadian charity dedicated to helping the world's poorest people gain access to clean water, basic sanitation and hygiene education, and encourages Canadians to lend support. By providing resources and information suitable for classrooms from K to Grade 10, WaterCan is bringing information about water and sanitation to Canadian classrooms. There are many ways to introduce water education to your students, from teaching about the importance of water in Canadians' daily lives to helping students identify the ways in which the human body depends on water for survival and health, and learning about waterborne diseases such as Guinea worm and Typhoid. If you share the belief that teaching youth about the importance of water, both in Canada and around the world, can help them to become better informed and involved global citizens, visit www.watercan.com/students where you will find resources for lesson plans, a school by school fundraising challenge, and ways to turn your students into Water Warriors.

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision

For the past 20 years, hundreds of thousands of students across the U.S. and Canada have gained an understanding of how they can use science and technology to change the world through Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision, the world's largest K–12 science and technology competition. As the program has evolved over the past two decades, it continues to encompass a wide variety of potentially beneficial student ideas and technological innovations, always remaining true to its core mission, to encourage excellence and motivate students in STEM disciplines. Applications for this year's competition are available online at exploravision.org and are due by February 1, 2012.

New from First Nations Films

First Nations Films distributes and creates award-winning documentary films and videos for, by and about First Nations people. Recent releases include *Unbowed*, a provocative feature film dramatizing the historic attempt to force assimilation of America Indians in the late 1800s, and telling an interracial love story—a story about the courage to love, even when it is forbidden. *In Search of Hamat'sa* traces the history of the Hamat'sa (the Cannibal Dance) and presents some of the ways in which diverse attitudes about this history inform current performances of the dance. *Dancing on the Moon* is a funny, sad and sometimes scary story of three

Native American friends on the road to a powwow. *Life on the Reserve* highlights the significant challenges and hopes of people living on reserves, as told by the residents. For more information and to order films, visit www.firstnationsfilms.com

BEADFORLIFE CURRICULUM

BeadforLife offers a free service-learning tool for the classroom: *Understanding Global Poverty, How Youth Can Make a Difference*. The BeadforLife curriculum includes five lessons and the option to raise funds for your own school or community. Easy to download, BeadforLife includes step-by-step instructions, reproducible handouts, videos and original African music. The program is designed for grades 6 to 12 and is easily adapted for both younger and older students. The lessons explore the broader issues of resource scarcity and distribution, as well as a new section about what it's like to live in extreme poverty. Students will use hands-on activities and simulations, and engage in discussions to better understand global poverty and ways they can take concrete actions to help.

You can download BeadforLife's free curriculum (full version or one-day condensed version) which includes: PDF of curriculum, BeadforLife DVD, two songs from "The Heart of BeadforLife," and additional resource materials, or purchase a printed version of the curriculum: <http://beadforlifestore.org/curriculum.asp>

To take advantage of the Fundraising with Curriculum Program: teach the curriculum, host a bead party, and give back to your school or community. Your selected organization will receive a donation of 20% of funds raised at your Beadparty.

Visit: <http://beadforlife.org/curriculum.html>

Interactive Media-On-Demand Service

Learn360, an interactive media-on-demand service for K to 12, has announced the update of its online video content to correlate to Common Core Standards and 21st Century Skills. Teachers, parents and students will have access to video content correlated to the new standards, in addition to existing provincial standards. Designed to be relevant to the real world, the standards reflect the knowledge and skills that young people need to succeed in post-secondary schooling and careers to ultimately contribute to an increasingly competitive global economy. Video content correlating to Common Core Standards includes language arts, math, science and social studies. Video content correlating to 21st Century Skills link to all subject areas and grade levels, with focus on the following key areas: learning and innovation skills, information, media and technology skills, and life and career skills.

Learn360 offers thousands of digital video titles, images, articles, audio files and podcasts. These trusted resources are provided by top educational publishers such as Encyclopedia Britannica, AETN (which includes A&E, History and Bio), PBS and National Geographic, among others. Learn360 continues to

build its extensive library of full-length videos and clips, teacher resources, lesson plans and multimedia files.

For more information on Learn360 or to sign up for a free 30-day trial, visit www.Learn360.com.

Online Safety

While the Internet offers many benefits, there remain risks for children, from inappropriate material to offenders trying to lure them online. To help parents and educators teach kids how to not get caught in the net, the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and Shaw Communications Inc. have distributed *Zoe and Molly Online* safety kits to schools free-of-charge across Western Canada.

The *Zoe and Molly Online* initiative is designed to help parents and educators engage in an important conversation with children in a non-threatening way. It encourages children to trust their instincts and speak to a safe adult before they share information or if they encounter inappropriate material online. Designed to help children 8 to 10 years of age learn about online safety, the *Zoe and Molly Online* initiative includes a website (zoeandmolly.ca), a new Grade 3 *Caught in the Net* comic book to teach children what to do if they come across inappropriate material online, as well as Grade 4 resources to teach children the importance of not sharing personal information online.

To complement the important safety messages addressed by the comics, the *Zoe and Molly Online* website includes additional safety information, activities and games which educators and parents can access with their children. For additional Internet safety information, visit the Canadian Centre's *The Door That's Not Locked* Internet safety website (thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca).

God(s): A User's Guide Exhibition

A print depicting the familiar face of Jesus Christ—but in the distinctive graphic style of the Tsimshian, a West Coast First Nation. A fierce, dramatic and colourful Indonesian wooden sculpture of the eagle god Garuda, who plays a role in both Hindu and Buddhist mythology. An elaborately decorated ark (a receptacle containing a synagogue's Torah scrolls) carved in 1923 by a Montréal artisan for the thriving Jewish community in Glace Bay, Cape Breton Island. These are only a few of the artifacts presented in the exhibition *God(s): A User's Guide* at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau until September 3, 2012.

The exhibition offers visitors experiential insights, through a combination of 225 exquisite and evocative sacred objects and other artifacts, sounds, multimedia, lighting and interactive elements, into the practices and beliefs of the world's major religions. Its eleven themes bring into focus how the universality of spiritual questioning is expressed through specific and diverse religious practices. Whether believers or non-believers, visitors will find *God(s): A User's Guide* a fascinating and mind-opening look at their fellow citizens' religions,

and a means of understanding how religions influence our multicultural society.

Teaching with Technology Contest

CDW Canada, a provider of technology solutions for Canadian organizations in the public and private sectors, has launched its fourth annual Teaching with Technology™ Contest, providing Canadian educators, school administrators and IT staff the opportunity to win information technology for their classrooms and schools. The contest runs until February 29, 2012 with winners receiving gift certificates which can be used to purchase CDW Canada Teaching with Technology sponsor products. Teachers and administrators of K to 12 are eligible to win prizes in one of four ways:

Story Contest: Entrants are invited to submit stories between 200 and 500 words that describe the role technology plays in their schools or classrooms. Two winners will be selected by a panel of expert judges to each receive a CDW Canada gift certificate valued at \$5,000.

Video Contest: A new component this year invites educators and administrators to enter via the Teaching with Technology Video page. Entrants are asked to submit videos no longer than three minutes in length, demonstrating how they are incorporating technology into their classrooms and the benefits they are seeing as a result. The winner of this contest, selected by a panel of judges, will receive a CDW Canada gift certificate valued at \$5,000.

Tweet UR Tech Tale Contest Entry: Entrants are asked to tweet entries (with a 140-character limit) describing how technology is used in the classroom. One winner will be selected by a panel of judges to receive a CDW Canada gift certificate valued at \$500.

Sweepstakes Contest Entry: With two categories—Educators and IT professionals—this contest will result in a total of eight winners who will be drawn at

random (five educators and three IT professionals). Winning educators will each receive a CDW Canada gift certificate valued at \$200. Winning IT administrators will each receive a CDW Canada gift certificate valued at \$1,500.

Deadline for entries in all contests is 11:59 p.m. ET on February 29, 2012. Complete rules and regulations for all contests are available at www.TeachingwithTechnology.ca

Credit Card Education Centre

An online education centre has been set up to educate teens about the responsible use of credit cards. Its goal is to empower the next generation of cardholders with the information they need to use credit responsibly and to prosper financially without the burden of excessive debt. www.creditcardcanada.ca/education-centre/

Burgess Shale Online Exhibition

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and Parks Canada has launched the Burgess Shale online exhibition, as part of the Virtual Museum of Canada. The website provides, for the first time ever, an immersive journey into the world of the bizarre prehistoric creatures that formed the foundation for all animal life on Earth half a billion years ago. Through the use of never-before-seen visuals, including stunning virtual animations, the website brings to life over 100 years of research and discoveries, in which the ROM and Parks Canada play a vital role.

The online exhibition showcases Yoho National Park's 500-million-year-old Burgess Shale fossils. Considered the most current and comprehensive resource for knowledge on the Burgess Shale, the website features an authoritative fossil gallery including approximately 200 species, almost every Burgess Shale species ever described. The creatures are highlighted by a rich collection of high resolution images and life-like models or digital reconstructions for over 70 species.

To experience the Burgess Shale Online Exhibition, visit: www.burgess-shale.rom.on.ca

Listen, I read

Through its Imagineaction program, the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) is partnering with the Canada Council for the Arts, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCU), the Public Lending Right Commission (PLRC) and Indigo Books and Music to launch a project called *Listen, I read*. This initiative will bring Canadian students together with authors and books to encourage them to share their opinions and to use literature and video to become socially involved.

After choosing a Governor General's Literary Award-winning book, teachers and students will read and analyze it, discuss it with the author, translator or illustrator, and then make a video illustrating the social action the book inspires.


The objectives of this initiative are to: promote contemporary Canadian literature and reading; combine new technology with the processes of creativity and learning; make students aware of literacy issues; use the arts to help youth find their voices as citizens.

For more information visit www.imagine-action.ca

Cyberbaiting

The latest edition of the Norton Online Family Report sheds new light on the realities and risks of growing up in the digital age. This year's report identifies the new issue of "cyberbaiting," a growing phenomenon where kids taunt their teachers, then capture the distressed reactions via cell phone videos.

Overall, almost 62 per cent of kids across the world said that they have had a negative experience while online. Nearly four in 10 (39 per cent), however, have had a serious negative experience online, such as receiving inappropriate pictures from strangers, being bullied or



Featured Lesson Unit:
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- Understand the stages of disaster relief
- Learn through: videos, slideshows, group activities, presentations
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becoming the victim of cybercrime. The report also shows that kids who are active on social networks open up more doors for content or situations that can be tricky for them to handle: 74 per cent of kids on social networks find themselves in unpleasant situations online, compared to 38 per cent who stay away from social networking.

One of the more shocking examples of using social networks for bad behavior is cyberbaiting, where students first irritate or bait a teacher until he or she cracks, filming the incident on their mobile device so they can post the footage online, embarrassing the teacher and the school. One in five teachers has personally experienced or knows another teacher who has experienced this phenomenon.

Perhaps because of cyberbaiting, 67 per cent of teachers say being friends with students on social networks exposes them to risks. Still, 34 per cent continue to “friend” their students. Only 51 per cent, however, say their school has a code of conduct for how teachers and students communicate with each other through social media. Eighty per cent of teachers call for more online safety education in schools, a position supported by 70 per cent of parents.

In Canada: The Breakdown

- 69 per cent of Canadian adults surveyed have fallen victim to cybercrime and 37 per cent of children reported being victims as well.

- 68 per cent of children in Canada said that they have had a negative experience online
- 88 per cent of teachers reported that being friends with students on social networks exposes them to online risks
- Only 6 per cent of Canadian teachers are friends with students on social networks, compared to 34 per cent globally
- 8 per cent of teachers have personally experienced or know another teacher who has been cyberbaited
- 71 per cent of teachers call for more online safety education in schools, a position supported by 68 per cent of parents.
- Only 5 per cent of parents in Canada say they have no idea what their children do online, but 17 per cent of children in Canada think their parents are clueless and have no idea about their online activities
- 32 per cent of parents suspect their child changes the way they act online when parents are watching them – and 41 per cent of children said they sometimes stop what they are doing online if they know their parents are watching

For tips on how to keep your kids and yourself safe online, visit: <http://ca.norton.com/familyresources>. For more findings from the Norton Online Family Report globally and by country, visit: www.norton.com/cybercrimereport.

Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction

Valerie Sherrard’s new novel, *The Glory Wind*, has won the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People. Administered by the Canadian Children’s Book Centre, the Geoffrey Bilson Award rewards excellence in the writing of an outstanding work of historical fiction for young readers. *The Glory Wind* was also the winner of the 2011 Ann Connor Brimer Award, a bronze medalist for the 2011 Independent Publisher Book Awards, and a nominee for the 2011 Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children Award and for the TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award.

The Glory Wind follows a young boy who must come to terms with the moral prejudices of his small town in the prairies in the ‘40s when he befriends the daughter of a young widow who moves in next door. Gracie is unlike anyone Luke has ever met—fun, charming, imaginative and full of life. But when the townsfolk discover that her mother’s past is less than completely honourable, they set out to isolate both mother and daughter. This new novel from Valerie Sherrard explores themes of friendship, loyalty, hypocrisy, and forgiveness.

Help for Stutterers

A typical school day can be fraught with painfully embarrassing situations for children who stutter. “I don’t raise my hand in class because I’m worried about what others might think,” says 14-year-old Juan. Parents and teachers who notice a child beginning to stutter should seek help right away. “In the past, experts incorrectly believed that giving attention to a child’s stuttering would exacerbate the situation,” said speech-language pathologist Lisa Scott, Ph.D., of The Florida State University. “We now know that children who stutter will have significantly less disfluent speech and a higher recovery rate if they are treated when they are young.” To help adults gain a better understanding of stuttering, the Stuttering Foundation offers a free streaming video of *Stuttering and Your Child: Help for Parents* at www.StutteringHelp.org. For a free copy of the newly updated brochure, *If You Think Your Child Is Stuttering*, parents and teachers can call the Foundation’s toll-free helpline at 800-992-9392 or visit www.StutteringHelp.org. The site also offers a worldwide referral list of specialists in stuttering.

National Youth Arts Week

The Arts Network for Children and Youth is planning ahead for National Youth Arts Week, May 1-7, 2012. Projects and events for and by youth will take place in communities across the country, providing an opportunity for young people to express and exchange ideas and to showcase their talents. Visit www.youthartsweek.ca for more information and to find out how to plan an event in your community.



Introduce your students to a Canadian Paralympic Athlete

Are your students searching for the key to personal success?

Help them find it during a motivational moment with Canada’s Top Paralympic Athletes! Learn about their journey as some of them prepare for the London 2012 Paralympic Summer Games this Aug. 29 – Sept. 8.

Paralympic Athletes bring their stories of determination, focus and success directly to your school.

Presentations are booked by the Canadian Paralympic Committee’s speaker bureau, are tailored to your school’s needs, and available in major Canadian cities.



To learn more or to book an athlete presentation:

Email: kmclachlan@paralympic.ca
 Phone: 613-569-4333 x225
 Visit: paralympic.ca/heroes

