

MarcoPolo Website

MarcoPolo: Internet Content for Your Classroom

<http://marcopolo.mci.com/home.aspx>

Maps, demonstrations, audio clips, quizzes and expeditions are just a few of the resources MarcoPolo offers. Below are some examples of Internet content and suggestions for using them in your classroom. Each of the examples listed can be found in the [MarcoPolo Search Engine](#) by typing in a keyword or title.

Materials Available on the MarcoPolo Site

Teaching Materials

These resources are portable and reproducible (e.g., maps, charts, tables, graphs, timelines, images, articles, archival documents, data sets, worksheets, activities and handouts).

- Visit the National Aquarium in Baltimore Web site, one of the [Science NetLinks](#) Educational Super Sites, to find images such as a poison dart frog that you can use in a classroom rainforest exhibit or to explore the concept of protective coloration.
- Download a map of Africa, found in the [Xpeditions](#) Atlas, to enhance a history unit on the Age of Discovery or the Middle Passage, or as part of an earth science lesson on plate tectonics.
- Find data and charts on such economic realities as skilled labor shortages as part of an EconomicsMinute lesson on the new economy at [EconEdLink](#). Use it in a geography lesson comparing teenagers in different parts of the world, or in a mathematics class on graphing.

Online Presentations

These resources deliver information in interactive formats (e.g., online exhibits, guided tours, documentaries, slide shows, demonstrations, videos, audio clips and multimedia hypertexts).

- Virtual Jamestown, a Web site featured on [EDSITEment](#), combines primary source materials and historical reconstructions to give students a glimpse into the experience of the first English settlers in the New World. Use it as background for a unit on the colonial era or as the centerpiece of an extended research project.
- "Get a Grip on Robotics" is an exhibit at The Tech Museum of Innovation Web site, one of the Educational Super Sites at [Science NetLinks](#). Use this animated, interactive presentation on the robotic arm within a unit on "smart" technology or as part of a history unit exploring the "John Henry" impulse that pits man against machine.
- The Hall of the People is part of a virtual museum at the Arctic Studies Web site on [EDSITEment](#). Students can explore the mingled traditions that link the people of the Arctic across the Bering Strait. Use this exhibit in a unit on Native American history or as part of a geography unit on the influence of location and available resources on the way people live.

Learning Activities

These resources promote discovery, decision making, problem solving and critical thought (e.g., multiple-choice games, puzzles, quizzes, fill-in-the-blank forms and calculators, interactive exhibits, simulations, virtual realities and scenarios that guide learners in quests of knowledge).

- The Migration Station is one of the interactive exhibits within Xpedition Hall at [Xpeditions](#). Here students trace the westward movement of peoples from Europe to the United States and to Europe from countries to the East. Use this activity to help guide students in the study of their own immigrant heritage, or as part of a unit on the mechanisms of prejudice.
- In the [EconEdLink](#) NetNewsLine activity on the Economics of Internet Access, students examine the role that shortages, supply, demand and the rationing function of prices play in the growth of online communications. Use this activity to reinforce these economic concepts or adapt it for a civics class learning about the relationship between freedom of speech and the need for telecommunications regulations.

- Fastball Reaction Time is a simulation at the Exploratorium Web site that is integrated into a [Science NetLinks](#) lesson plan on learning. Use this activity in a lesson about the science of baseball or adapt it to generate data for a mathematics class exploring baseball statistics.

Internet Excursions

These resources link students to ongoing events to give them an opportunity to share in the adventure (e.g., a space mission, a political campaign, and an expedition to the Arctic or the bottom of the sea).

- The Jason Project, a reviewed link at [Xpeditions](#), comes from the undersea explorations of Dr. Robert Ballard, most famous for his discovery of the wreck of the Titanic. Through the project, students and teachers around the world join Ballard and his colleagues as they explore remote islands, study endangered habitats and search for clues to the past on the bottom of the sea. Participate in the Jason Project or visit the site for educational materials developed for past expeditions.

Internet partnerships

These resources link students to their peers in other schools and other countries (e.g., "keypals" programs that pair foreign language students across borders, cooperative research programs that gather data from science students around the world and collaborations organized by individual teachers).

- Intercultural E-mail Classroom Connections is a clearinghouse service that matches students in the United States with "keypals" from around the world. Access this site through the American Association of Teachers of French Web site on [EDSITEment](#).