15-Minute Digital Access Lesson Plans

A flexible teaching strategy for use with World Book Online worksheets and Australian curriculum-aligned topics

Lesson Preparation

- Select the relevant World Book Australia worksheet and identify the corresponding World Book Online article. Go to: https://www.worldbook.com.au/educators/worksheets/
- Print student worksheets for use during the lesson.
- If desired, print the relevant World Book Online article before the lesson. Printed articles can be used alongside worksheets, allowing students to highlight, annotate and revisit information without time restrictions.
- Identify key questions, vocabulary and information students should focus on during their online research.

1. Engage and Activate Prior Knowledge

Before accessing digital devices

Introduce the topic and invite students to share their existing knowledge, ideas and questions.

Use prompts such as:

- What do you already know about this topic?
- What would you like to discover?
- What do you predict the article will explain?
- What questions do you hope to answer?

Record students' predictions and questions on the board to establish a clear purpose for their research.

2. Introduce the Worksheet and Research Task

Before accessing digital devices

Distribute the printed worksheet or display it on the classroom interactive display.

- Read through the questions and clarify unfamiliar words or concepts.
- Identify the key information students need to find.
- Discuss skimming and scanning strategies for locating relevant facts, headings, keywords and sections.
- Encourage students to think about which keywords they could use to locate information efficiently.

Learning objective: Students understand what they are looking for and have a clear plan for using their online research time effectively.

3. Focussed World Book Online Research

15-minute digital access period

Students access the relevant World Book Online article using their digital devices.

During this focussed research period, students:

- Navigate to the selected article and identify relevant headings and sections.
- Use skimming and scanning skills to locate information that addresses the worksheet questions.
- Read relevant passages carefully and identify key facts, explanations and supporting details.
- Highlight or record important information, where appropriate.
- Use the article to develop accurate answers in their own words.

Teachers can guide students towards relevant sections and monitor progress throughout the activity.

The emphasis is on purposeful, curriculum-aligned research rather than extended screen time.

4. Continue Learning Offline

After the 15-minute digital access period

Students close their digital devices and continue working with their printed worksheets and any printed World Book Online articles.

They can:

- Complete unfinished worksheet responses using their notes and printed articles.
- Highlight, underline or annotate relevant information.
- Review key facts and explanations to develop more complete answers.
- Organise their findings and prepare to share what they have learnt.

Printed World Book Online articles allow students to revisit information, check their understanding and complete their work without needing further digital access.

5. Consolidate Learning and Check Understanding

Class discussion and review

Bring the class together to discuss their findings and review worksheet responses.

- Invite students to share their answers and explain where they found the information.
- Compare initial predictions with what students have discovered.
- Address misconceptions and clarify challenging concepts.
- Encourage students to support their answers with evidence from the article.
- Discuss any questions that remain unanswered.

This stage reinforces comprehension, critical thinking, communication and information literacy.

6. Extend Learning Through Further Investigation

Offline follow-up and extension activities

Build on students' research by extending the topic beyond the initial digital access period.

Suggested activities include:

- Investigating related topics using recommended World Book print resources.
- Comparing information across different sources.
- Creating a summary, labelled diagram, timeline, report or presentation using their research notes.
- Participating in group discussions or collaborative learning activities.
- Developing additional questions for further investigation.
- Completing extension questions or related curriculum activities.

Students can continue to refer to printed World Book Online articles, worksheets and other learning materials as they deepen their understanding.