



Guided Tour

Your Complete Guide to Britannica Library



Watch and Learn

Check out our [Britannica Library videos](#) to learn more about the features in this guide, and more.



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Introduction to Britannica Library

Learn about the Britannica Library platform and its features.

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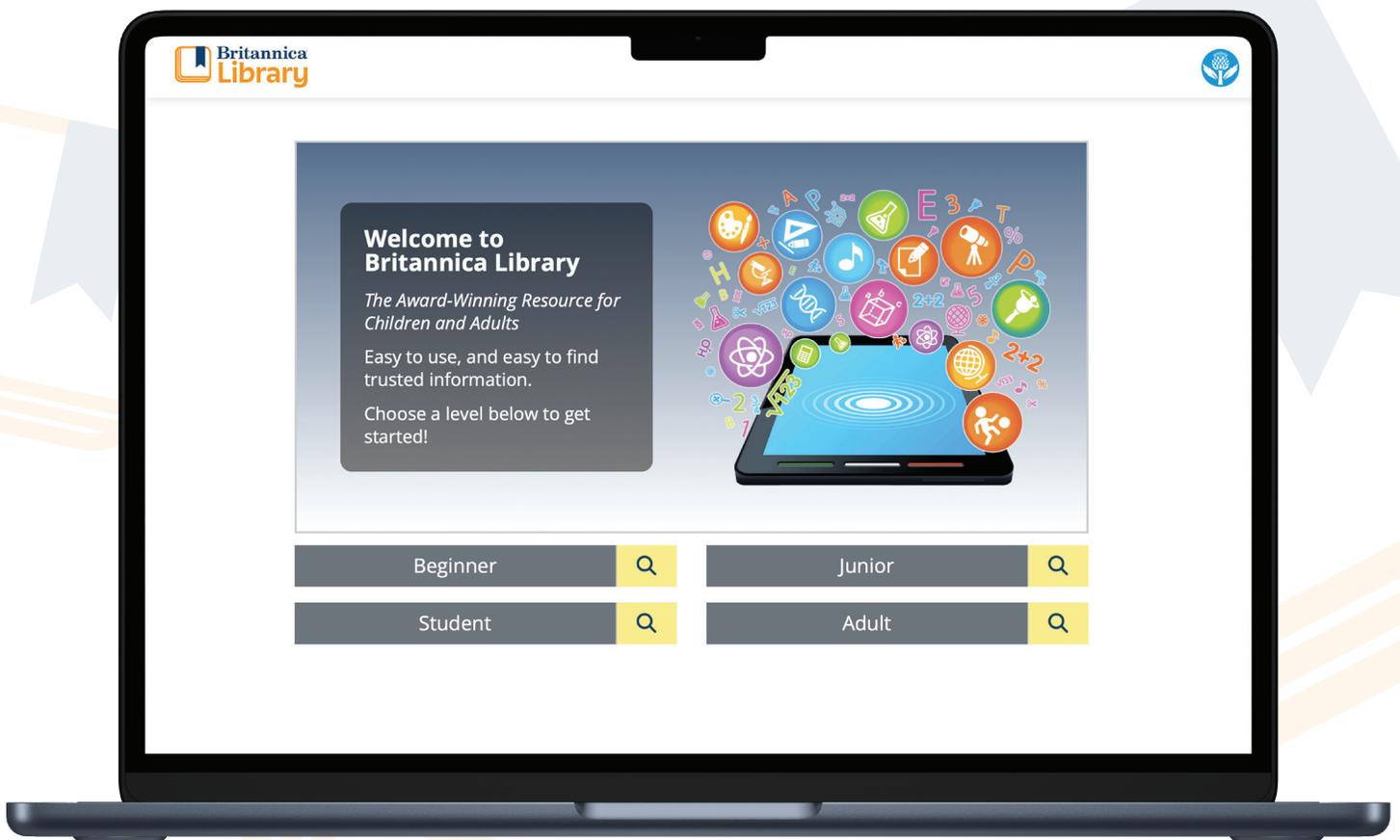
Teach Britannica: Resources for Educators

Discover educator resources, ready-made lessons, and helpful tools.

Meet the award-winning library resource for children and adults

Encourage independent discovery for patrons of all ages.

Britannica Library offers a safe, trustworthy platform designed to make learning engaging and accessible for all ages and learning abilities. With four distinct levels – **Beginner**, **Junior**, **Student**, and **Adult** – and accompanying standards alignments, Britannica Library meets patrons where they are and helps them thrive.



Articles

No matter the level, Britannica Library's articles are designed for quick navigation and readability, making information easy to find, engaging, and accessible. The layout reduces cognitive load, helping users stay focused.

The image shows a tablet displaying a Britannica article about Germany. The article layout includes a title 'Germany', a flag, a 'QUICK FACTS' section with expandable items for 'Introduction' and 'Geography', a main text paragraph, an 'Inline Visuals' section with a photo of a farmhouse, a 'Fun Facts' section with a 'DID YOU KNOW?' box, and a 'Collapsible Table of Contents' on the right. A 'Navigator Toolbar' is visible in the top left, and an 'Article Media Gallery' is on the right. Green callout boxes with arrows point to these features.

Navigator Toolbar

Literacy Support

Article Media Gallery

Collapsible Table of Contents

Inline Visuals

Fun Facts

Germany
Flag of Germany
Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

QUICK FACTS

- ▶ Introduction
- ▼ Geography

Germany is located in north-central Europe. The central part of the country is hilly and forested. The north is a wide, sandy plain. The south contains the Bavarian Alps. Much of Germany has a temperate climate, with warm summers and cool, overcast winters.

Germany
A farmhouse stands in the mountains of Germany's Black Forest.
© reinhard sester/foolala

1 of 4

DID YOU KNOW?
Mainz, Germany, is the birthplace of **Johannes Gutenberg**. He invented a printing press that made books more widely available and allowed more people to learn how to read.

- **Neighboring countries:** Denmark, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands
- **Surrounding bodies of water:** The North and Baltic seas lie to the north.
- **Mountains:** Bavarian Alps in the south
- **Major cities:** Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Stuttgart
- **Highest peak:** Zugspitze—9,718 feet (2,962 meters)
- **Major rivers:** Rhine, Elbe, Oder, Danube



space debris

Numerous pieces of human-created debris are in orbit over the Earth, endangering future space...

Article Media Gallery

Preview all media – photos, interactives, illustrations – at the top of each article, with a Jump to Article tool for quick access.

Introduction

Where Plants Grow

Types



All plants belong to one of two main groups, vascular plants and nonvascular plants. Vascular plants have special tissues, called xylem and phloem, that carry water and food throughout the plant. Vascular plants also have roots, stems, and leaves. Vascular plants include herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees. Herbaceous plants have soft stems. Shrubs and trees have woody stems.

Table of Contents

Easily navigate articles using the accordion table of contents, enabling users to jump to specific sections effortlessly.



engineering class

College students participate in an engineering class on robotics.

© ID 144996012 © Monkey...

2 of 3



Inline Visuals

Photos, videos, and interactives are embedded directly within articles to provide context and enhance readability.



From pigeons in big cities to penguins in Antarctica, all birds have similar features. They all have wings, though they cannot all fly. All birds also have feathers. In fact, birds are the only living animals that have feathers.

Literacy Support

Support independent learning with read-aloud, word-by-word highlighting, and a quick-click Merriam-Webster dictionary.

ENGLISH ESPAÑOL

Ant*arc*ti*ca

geographical name \(')ant-'ärk-ti-kə, -'ärt-i-\

- body of land around the South Pole; plateau covered by great ice cap

See full definition

Definitions provided by Merriam Webster

MOONS

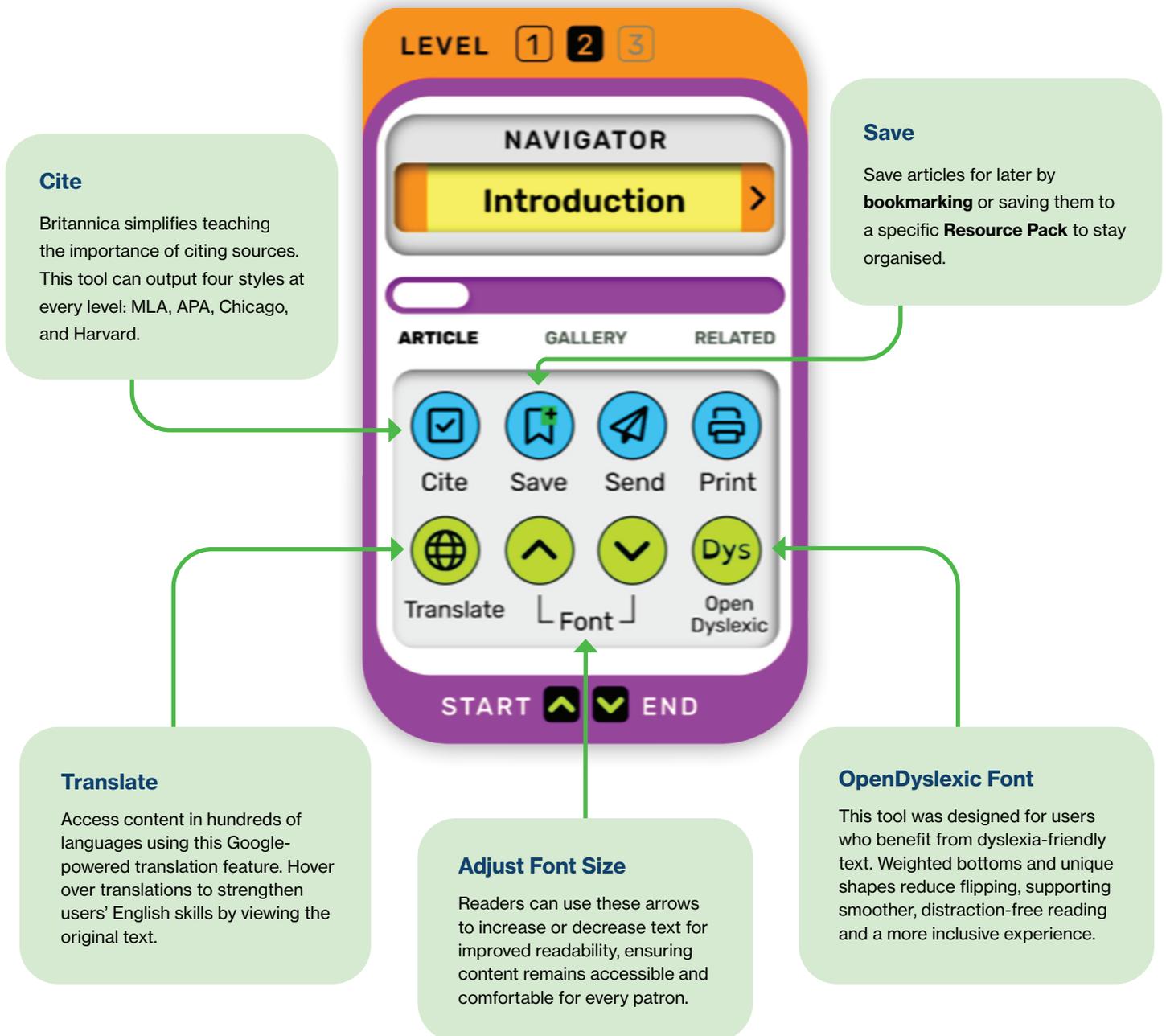
Bulleted Lists and Fun Facts

Bulleted lists and fun facts break up text, making it digestible and engaging.

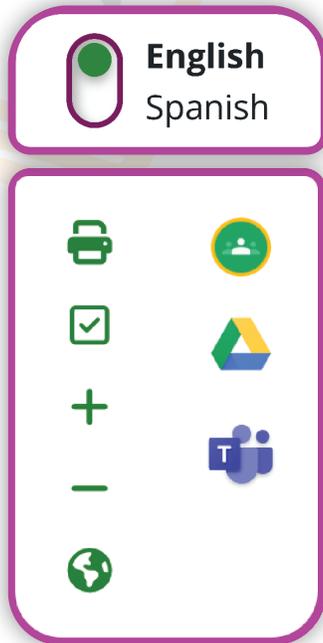
Six of the eight planets have at least one moon. Venus and Mercury are the planets that do not have a moon.

Navigation and Learning Features

Navigate effortlessly with Britannica Library's all-in-one toolbar, right within every article. Centralised tools save time on non-learning tasks: print, cite, adjust fonts, toggle reading level, and share directly to **Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Google Drive, or email.**



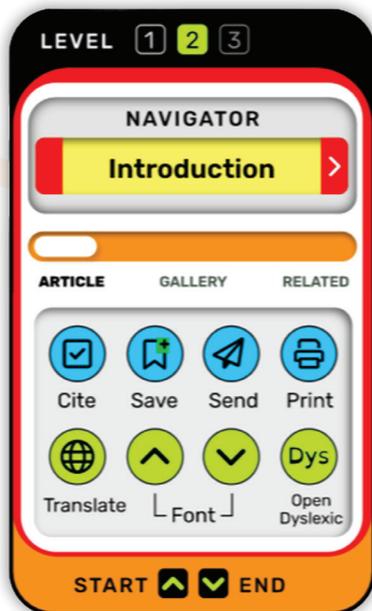
Navigator Tool Across Learning Levels



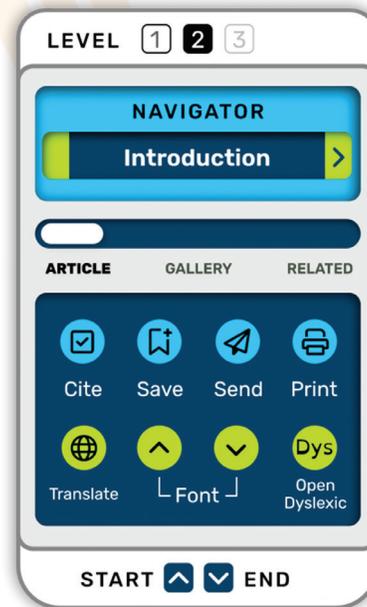
Beginner



Junior



Student



Adult

Why Are Some Features Grayed Out in Translated Articles?

When you use the Google Translate tool on Britannica Library, some features – like Cite, Save, Send, and Read-Aloud – are disabled. This is because the translated version is generated by Google, not Britannica.

Citing & Saving
These tools work with Britannica's original content, but since Google generates the translation, citations and saved versions would not reflect the translated text.

Reading Aloud
This feature reads Britannica's original content and does not support the translated text.

Sending Articles
When sharing an article, only the original English version is available to avoid confusion.

Printing
While Britannica does not generate a formatted print page for translations, you may be able to print using your browser's print function.

Enhanced Differentiation and Integration

Advanced Search

With **all** the words

With the **exact phrase**

With **any** of these words

Without these words

With these words **near** each other

SEARCH 



Britannica ImageQuest Integration

For sites with a Britannica ImageQuest subscription, seamlessly integrate with Britannica Library for easy access to rights-cleared images.

Advanced Search

Refine searches with options to match exact phrases, include or exclude words, or find words near each other – perfect for pinpointing specific information quickly.

Multimedia

Enhance media literacy with a variety of high-quality videos and images. Use these as lesson hooks or discussion points to engage patrons and bring topics to life.

All About Bees



Bees are interesting insects.

Web's Best Sites

Biology LibreTexts - Photosynthesis

[https://www.libretexts.org/Courses/Lumen_Learning/Biology_for_Non-Majors_1_\(Lumen\)/06%3A_Metabolic_Pathways/6.06%3A_Photosynthesis](https://www.libretexts.org/Courses/Lumen_Learning/Biology_for_Non-Majors_1_(Lumen)/06%3A_Metabolic_Pathways/6.06%3A_Photosynthesis)

Milne Library - Inanimate Life - Photosynthesis

<https://milnepublishing.geneseo.edu/botany/chapter/photosynthesis/>

BCcampus Open Publishing - Concepts of Biology - 1st Canadian Edition - Overview of Photosynthesis

<https://openstax.org/r/bccampus-concepts-of-biology-1st-edition-overview-of-photosynthesis/>

University of Florida - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - Photosynthesis

<https://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/manage/overview-of-florida-waters/water-quality/photosynthesis/>

Roger Williams University Pressbooks - Introduction to Molecular and Cell Biology - Photosynthesis

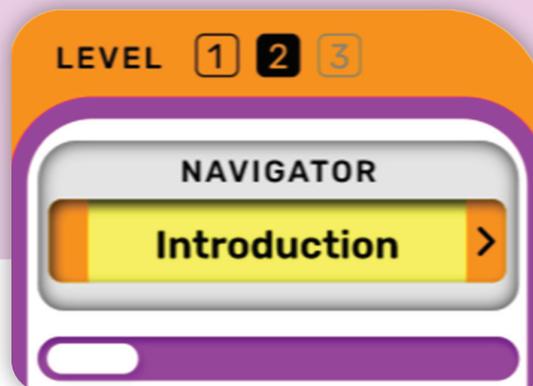
<https://www.pressbooks.pub/bio101/chapter/photosynthesis/>

Web's Best Sites

Expand research beyond Britannica Library with Web's Best Sites. Each resource is carefully reviewed by the Britannica Editorial Team to ensure relevance and appropriateness for user research.

Reading Levels

Easily support or challenge patrons by **adjusting the reading level preference** and using the **Lexile filtering option**. Setting a Lexile range (860–1700) ensures reading materials are accessible and appropriately challenging, making differentiation simple and effective.



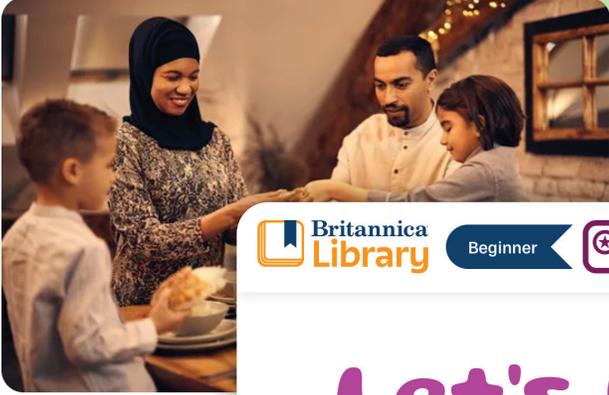
Level: Beginner

Britannica Library: Beginner is designed for ages 4+, offering read-aloud articles with age-appropriate vocabulary, vibrant images, videos, and interactive features that keep young learners engaged. With easy navigation, children can dive into content crafted just for them!

 **Beginner** 

Holiday

← 0 Jump to article ↓ 2 →



A Family Share
Sharing meals is a special part of many holidays.
© Drazen

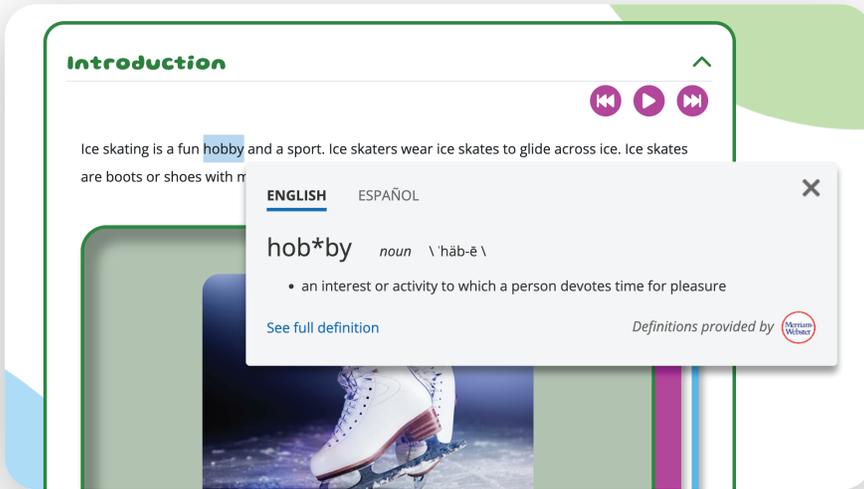
Introduction

A holiday is a special day.
Each holiday is different.
But they are alike in some ways.

 **Beginner** 

Let's Explore

-  **Animals**
-  **Our World**
-  **Places**
-  **People**
-  **Science**
-  **Nature**



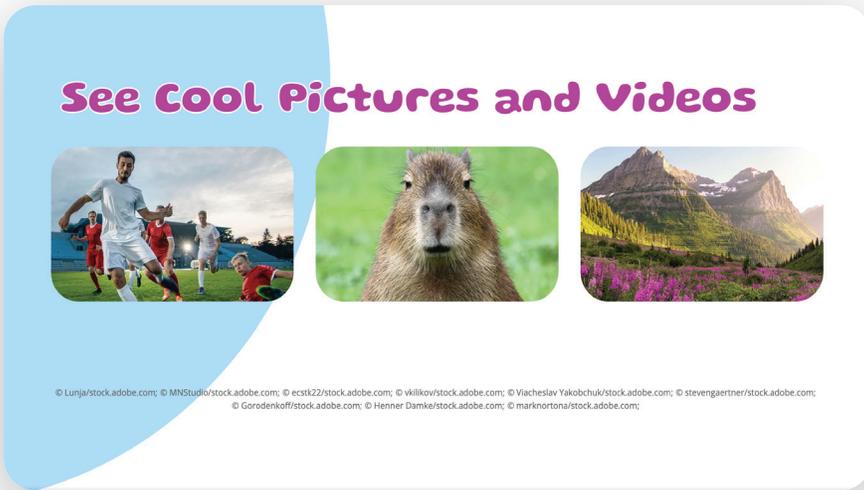
Text Support Features

The **quick-click dictionary** allows you to quickly find definitions for any word. A **read-aloud feature** with word-by-word highlighting is available via the play button at the top of each section, supporting emerging readers.



Engaging, Easy-to-Read Layout

Standards-aligned content spans six categories, enhanced with **media galleries** and **inline visuals** for an immersive experience. Articles are thoughtfully sectioned and digestible for emerging readers.



Visual Learning in Action

Skip the text and hop directly to fun visuals that teach about animals, our world, places, people, science, and nature.

Level: Junior

Captivate young readers with exciting topics and vibrant visuals that spark engagement and curiosity. Regularly updated content provides unique lesson hooks, fuels discussions, and ignites curiosity across subjects.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the Britannica Library logo, a 'Junior' badge, and a user profile 'My Britannica'. The main heading is 'Frederick Douglass'. Below the heading is a portrait of Frederick Douglass. A search bar is visible with the text 'Explore Britannica Library (start typing!)'. A section titled 'Introduction' is partially visible, with the text: 'His brilliant speaking and writing made him one of the most powerful voices to abolish slavery. Douglass was one of the first American citizens to hold an important position in the abolitionist movement.'

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the Britannica Library logo, a 'Junior' badge, and a user profile 'My Britannica'. Below the navigation is a search bar with the text 'Explore Britannica Library (start typing!)'. A featured article is displayed with the title 'Grow-in-the-Dark Plants' under the heading 'In The News!'. The article text reads: 'Scientists are working on a way to grow plants without needing direct sunlight.' Below the article is a large heading: 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science'. At the bottom, there are two small images: one showing a woman in a lab and another showing a woman's face next to the word 'TIME'.

Explore



Biographies



Pictures & Videos



Articles



Explore the Globe

Use the **World Atlas** to explore global geography and **uncover historical landmarks** to enrich lessons.. Quick links to biographies, pictures, videos, and articles make accessing a world of learning easy and immediate.

In the News!

PLAY! Word of the Day Fun Fact

An Unexpected Treasure

A 9-year-old found an unusual rock. It turned out to be a prehistoric

The banner features a cartoon news anchor sitting at a desk with a microphone and a computer monitor. The background is a green and blue geometric pattern.

News and Important Events

Take learning beyond the headlines. Updated twice weekly, our **In the News!** feature includes **Merriam-Webster vocabulary games**, fun facts, and links to timely articles – perfect for developing media literacy.

Learn Some Words in Cherokee

Learn some words in the Cherokee language.

click and then drag circle left and right to reveal photos

eagle
awohali

The interactive shows a bald eagle in flight over water. To the right, there are two buttons: a purple one with the word "eagle" and a blue one with "awohali". Below the eagle is a white rectangular area for a photo reveal.

Interactive Media

Bring topics to life with **hundreds of dynamic interactives**, from historical events to fascinating life cycles. Access these interactives from the homepage to enhance engagement and understanding.

Animal Kingdom

DISCOVER THE WIDE WORLD OF ANIMALS!

View by Animal Group Habitat A - Z List

The banner features a photograph of two walrus seals resting on a sandy beach. A blue circular badge in the bottom right corner says "DISCOVER THE WIDE WORLD OF ANIMALS!". Below the photo is a navigation bar with three buttons: "View by", "Animal Group", and "Habitat", and a link "A - Z List".

Animal Kingdom

We know animals are the most popular topics with this age range! Users can browse animal data to their heart's content by group, by habitat, or alphabetically.

Level: Student

Engage ages 12+ with resources that inspire curiosity, foster discussion, and promote independent learning. Regularly updated content and interactive tools make it easy to dive into new topics and explore concepts in depth.

Britannica Library Student My Britannica

Olympic Games

← 0 Jump to article ↓ 38 →



Footraces of various distances

Introduction

Every four years the finest athletes in the world compete against each other. This gathering, known as the Olympic Games, is a celebrated sporting festival in the world. It is attended by professional athletes from more than 200 countries.

Britannica Library Student My Britannica

Explore Britannica Library (start typing!)

IN THE NEWS!

Teen Invents New Water Filter

Fourteen-year-old Tina Jin's invention makes water safe to drink.

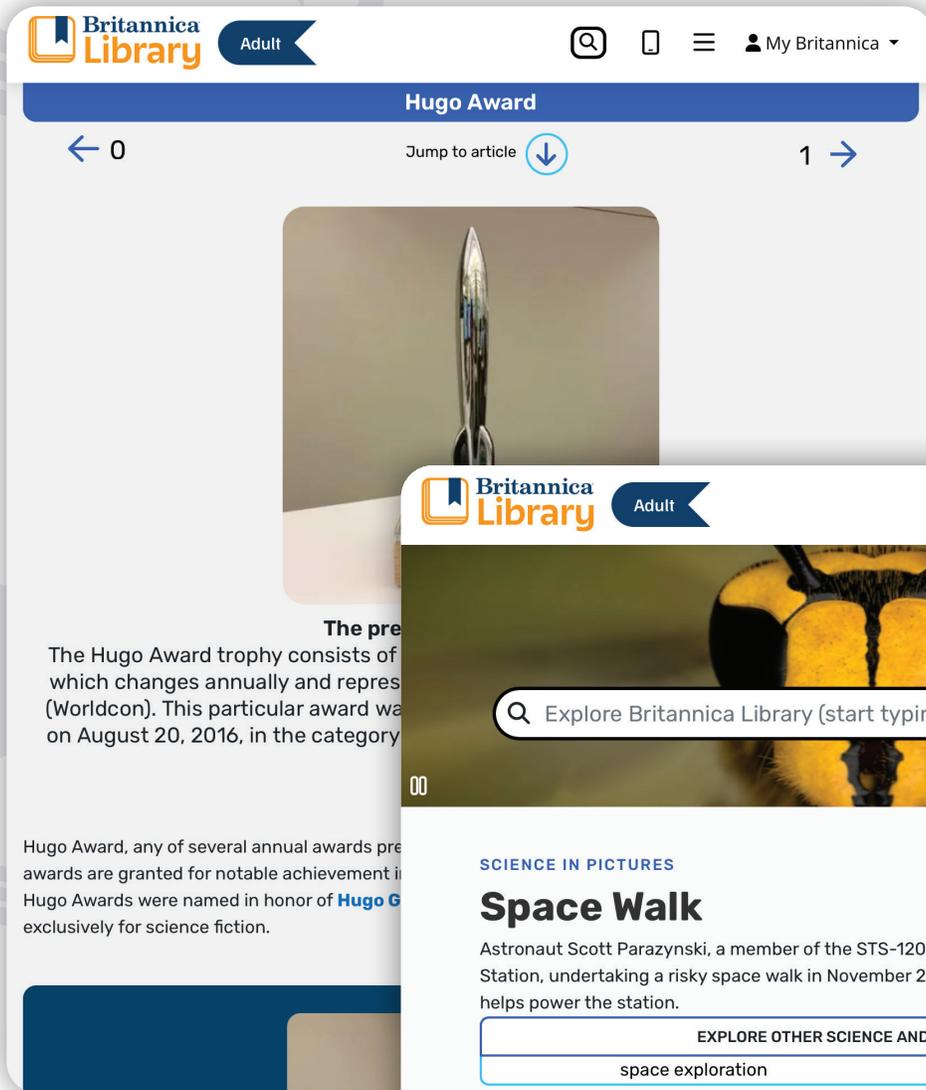


WHAT'S AN EQUINOX?

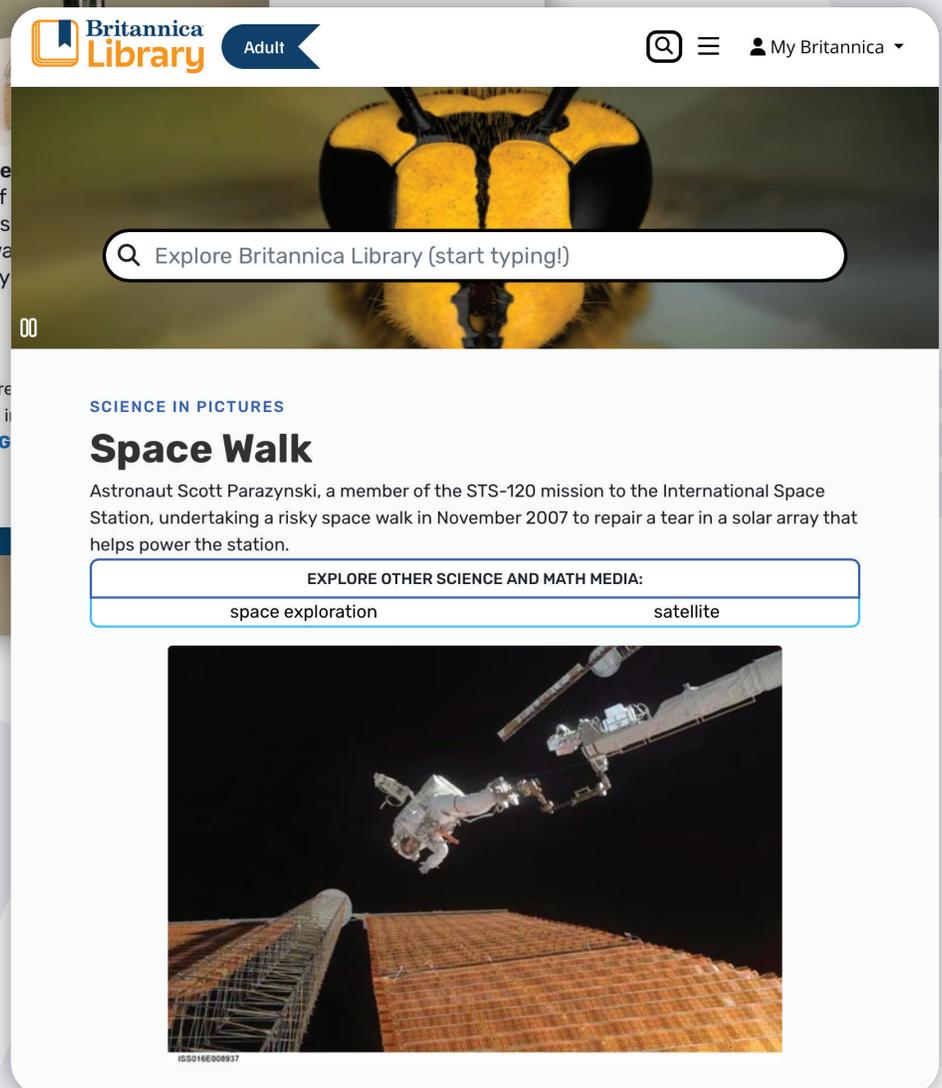


Level: Adult

Provide upper-level patrons an in-depth, ad-free research experience that supports critical thinking and exploration.



The screenshot shows the top portion of a web browser displaying the Britannica Library website. The header includes the Britannica Library logo, a navigation menu with 'Adult' selected, and a user profile 'My Britannica'. The main content area is titled 'Hugo Award' and features a large image of the award trophy. Below the image, the text begins with 'The Hugo Award trophy consists of...' and 'The Hugo Award, any of several annual awards pre...'. A search bar is visible at the bottom of the page.



The screenshot shows the top portion of a web browser displaying the Britannica Library website. The header includes the Britannica Library logo, a navigation menu with 'Adult' selected, and a user profile 'My Britannica'. The main content area is titled 'Space Walk' under the heading 'SCIENCE IN PICTURES'. Below the title, the text reads: 'Astronaut Scott Parazynski, a member of the STS-120 mission to the International Space Station, undertaking a risky space walk in November 2007 to repair a tear in a solar array that helps power the station.' Below the text is a section titled 'EXPLORE OTHER SCIENCE AND MATH MEDIA:' with two links: 'space exploration' and 'satellite'. A large image of an astronaut performing a spacewalk is shown at the bottom.

EXPLORE

ARTICLES



IMAGES AND VIDEOS



BIOGRAPHIES



CANADA IN FOCUS

My Britannica

MY CONTENT Save articles and content for later and organize them into packs.



Explore Content

Access a variety of resource types – **articles, images and videos, biographies, primary sources**, and more – that provide in-depth content and context across subjects, events, and perspectives.

FLASH FACTS



Celebrating Women's History

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society. The United States has observed it annually throughout the month of March since 1987.

National Women's History Month

Woman suffrage



The Tale of Two Submerged Continents

Recent studies of Earth's geological and geographical features have revealed evidence of ancient continents in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Continent

Gondwana

Interactive Learning

On This Day highlights significant historical events, encouraging patrons to connect with history. **Flash Facts** provides quick insights and links to articles on fascinating topics, sparking curiosity and expanding knowledge.

COMPARE COUNTRIES

Compare countries and territories to learn about the people, governments, and terrain of our world.



Explore Compare Countries

WORLD ATLAS



Explore Atlas

Tour the U.S.A.

Research Tools

Organise content with **My Britannica**, where users can save articles and create personalised **Resource Packs** – perfect for projects and long-term research. The **Compare Countries** tool and **World Atlas** provide a global perspective, allowing patrons to explore diverse cultures, governments, and geographies.

NEW & REVISED ARTICLES



TODAY
election



TODAY
Monuments of Hope, Memorials to a Poisoned Past



TODAY
Confederate States of America



TODAY
social security

More New & Revised Articles

New and Revised Articles

Keep learning current with new and revised articles on trending topics, historical figures, and key events, offering reliable, up-to-date content.

NEW! ASK Britannica...

YOUR QUESTIONS. OUR ANSWERS, POWERED BY AI.



For generations, knowledge-seekers have turned to Britannica for answers they can trust. Now, we are transforming how you access knowledge with **ASK Britannica** – our AI-powered search assist tool, available now within the 'Adult' level of Britannica Library.



NEW! ASK Britannica... YOUR QUESTIONS. OUR ANSWERS, POWERED BY AI.

How many planets are there in earth's solar system?



← Q1 →

There are eight planets in Earth's solar system: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. These planets orbit the Sun in elliptical paths.

The four inner planets—Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars—are called terrestrial planets because they have average densities in the range of 3.9–5.5 grams per cubic cm. The four outer planets—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune—are giant planets with densities close to 1 gram per cubic cm.

Pluto was considered a major planet until 2006, when it was redesignated as a dwarf planet by the International Astronomical Union (IAU). According to the IAU, a planet must orbit the Sun, be round or nearly round in shape due to its own gravity, and have cleared the neighborhood around its orbit. Pluto does not meet the third requirement because it orbits partially within the Kuiper belt.

↓ Sources

↓ Related Questions

Was this answer helpful?



Save

Next Question

New Thread

How it Works

ASK Britannica answers your questions with information and insights from our wide-ranging collection of articles.

Ask natural-language questions and instantly receive **reliable answers sourced from Britannica's content**.

No sifting through endless results, no distractions, just facts.

Responsible AI

Britannica is committed to using technology responsibly, especially in our approach to AI, offering new ways to engage with our content.

Unlike open-source AI tools available online, **ASK Britannica is purpose-built for education** – it won't write essays, provide inappropriate answers, or rely on unverified data.

What ASK Britannica is NOT

It is NOT open source.

It will NOT write papers for students.

It will NOT answer inappropriate queries outside of its educational scope.

Teach Britannica: Resources for Educators

Teach Britannica is an educator's companion, offering ready-to-use resources that support instruction and enrich learning across all levels of Britannica Library. Through this dedicated hub, librarians and educators alike can access tools like graphic organisers, instructional strategies, and lesson minis – all designed to make teaching easier and more impactful.

My Britannica



Teach Britannica

Educator resources to enhance learning

Accessing Teach Britannica

Teach Britannica is easily accessible from the **Britannica Education icon** in the main navigation on Britannica Library.

LESSON MINI

PRINT

Seasons and Cycles

Grade: K-2

Topic: Science

Unit: Seasons

Overview



In this lesson mini, students learn about seasons and their effects on daily life. They observe and record local weather conditions, exploring how these change over time. Students also make observations at different times of year and relate the amount of daylight to each season.

© M. Schappert/stock.adobe.com

Ideas for Implementation

- Science
- Library media
- Literacy
- Learning centers

Lesson Minis

Personalise learning and boost engagement using these modular minis – ideal for **lesson planning** and **real-world extension activities**.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGY

PRINT

Active Reading Through Writing

Grade: 6-8, 9-12, UNIV

Type: Read Actively / Develop Language (MLL)

30-40 MINUTES

When: Before, during, and after reading

Materials: Active Reading Through Writing graphic organizer, preselected text, whiteboard or display, writing utensil

Description



The Active Reading Through Writing strategy encourages students to engage with texts through writing before, during, and after reading to enhance comprehension and critical thinking skills while activating prior knowledge. In addition, this strategy develops students' analytical abilities, reflection skills, and deeper understanding of the material. The strategy prepares students for reading by activating background knowledge. Students process new information during or after reading to support synthesis and connections between texts.

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Instructional Strategies

Access six categories of **evidence-based methods** for effective education, such as **Acquire Vocabulary** and **Organise Thinking**, which are essential for learning goals of any classroom.

GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

GRADE K-2 3-5 6-8 9-12 UNIV

2-Circle Venn Diagram

GRADE: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, UNIV

VIEW

3-Circle Venn Diagram

GRADE: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, UNIV

VIEW

5Ws and 1H

GRADE: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

VIEW

Analyzing Figurative Language

GRADE: 6-8, 9-12

VIEW

Animal Research

Annotating Text

Autobiography

Body Biography

Graphic Organisers

Visual tools such as **diagrams**, **charts**, and **structured visuals** support understanding of relationships, processes, and concepts, **making complex ideas easier to grasp**.



Interested?

Visit teachbritannica.com/library to access free resources and tools!



Britannica
EDUCATION

To learn more, contact us:

enqbol@britannica.co.uk

+44 207 500 7800

Britannica.co.uk