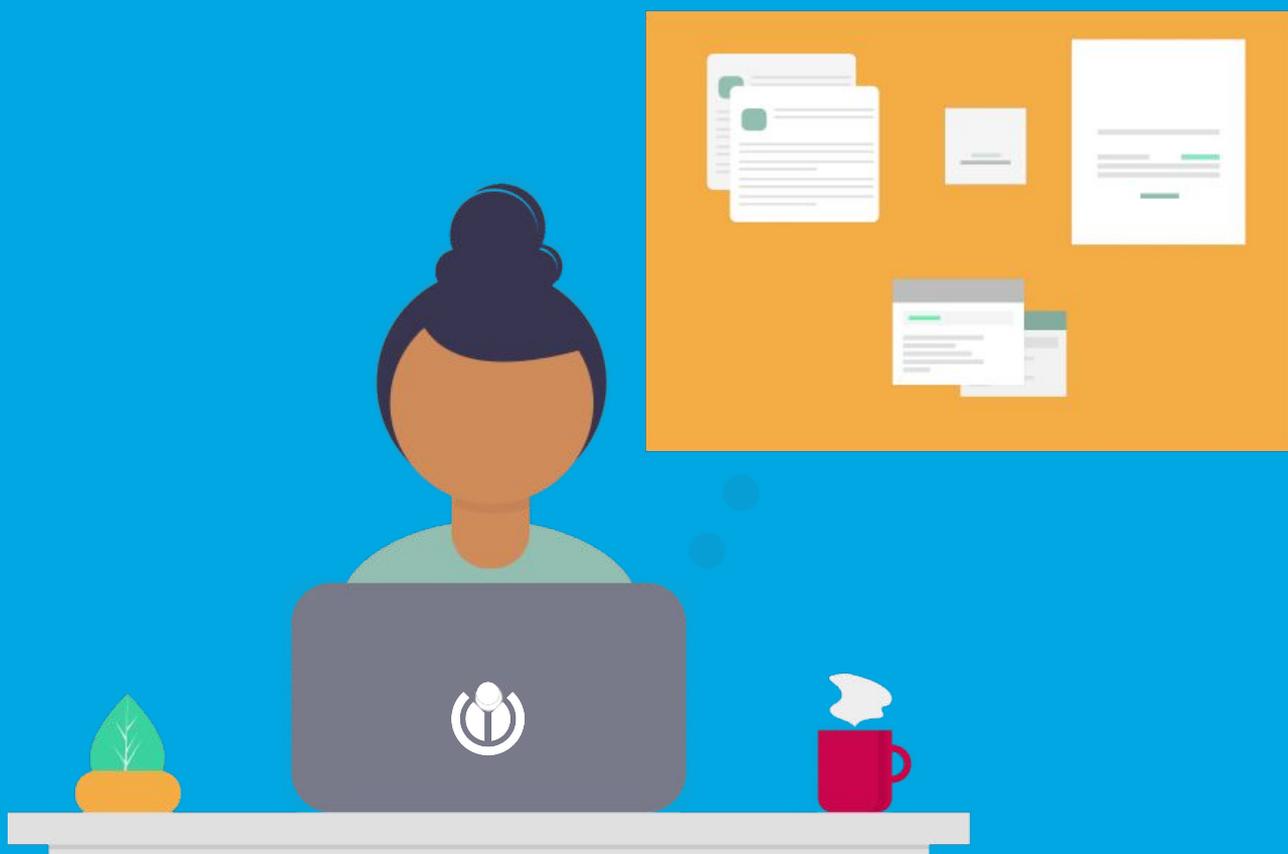


Wikimedia lesson plans for remote learning

Using Wikimedia projects to foster learning and discovery



Welcome!

This document presents a selected compilation of [lesson plans](#) that leverage the power of Wikipedia and its sister projects as open educational resources (OER). Whether you're teaching geography, english, or history these lesson plans provide activities that improve students' media and information literacy skills while advancing subject-specific topics and fostering creative and agency in the digital space. Each lesson plan presents a clear learning objective, resources needed to carry out the lesson, and action steps for facilitators and students to better develop the activities.

While the lesson plans indicate suggested subjects and age groups we highly encourage you to customize them to your own context and needs. They're free for you to use, remix, and share!

Who is this document for?

- **Teachers** looking to foster independent learning, digital skills, and creativity among their students using open educational resources.
- **Parents and guardians** looking for activities they can include in their home learning programs or as complements to national remote learning curricula.



In this document you will find:

- What is Wikipedia?
- What are the Wikimedia projects?
- How can I use these lesson plans?
- Lesson plans menu
- 10 lesson plans for remote learning
- Additional resources



What is Wikipedia?

Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia created and maintained as an open collaboration project by a community of volunteer editors passionate about open knowledge.



It is the largest and most popular general reference work on the World Wide Web, and arguably the world's largest open educational resource. It is available in over 300 languages comprising more than 40 million articles of encyclopedic value.

More importantly: it is very likely that your students consult Wikipedia on a regular basis!

How can I use these lesson plans?

1. Explore the [lesson plans menu](#) to choose one that responds to the topic you want to work on or that aligns with your learning objectives.
2. Adapt the lesson plan to respond to your particular context and learning objectives if needed.
3. Prepare the resources needed in advance and explore the Wikimedia projects indicated so you can better guide your students during the activity.
4. Start a new learning journey with your students and watch the magic happen!

Bonus:

Share your experience with us on social media using the hashtag #EduWiki!



Lesson plans menu

Suggested Subject	Activity	Learning objectives	Age group
Art	“Thank you” cards for our community members	Learners use Wikiquote and Wikimedia Commons to create “Thank you” cards for local workers during the COVID-19 crisis (or other challenging times).	7+
Computer Sciences	Only five clicks away	Learners navigate hyperlinks on Wikipedia articles through five clicks as a model to discovering new information on the internet.	11+
English	I bet you can't find...	Learners identify sources of information they can find on the web and choose relevant information on Wikipedia to solve a query.	9+
English	Let's be scriptwriters!	Learners create scripts for new scenes or plotlines for their favorite movie/film. Learners use Wikipedia to recall previous knowledge and discover Wikibooks .	11+
English	Four stars for Wikipedia!	Learners examine Wikipedia articles and rank their quality based on a simple star grading system.	13+
English	Who said that?	Learners identify sources of information of stated facts on a Wikipedia article and reflect on what makes an article reliable.	15+
Geography	Our work of art	Learners associate previous knowledge of planet Earth with the pictures they find on the Wiki Loves Earth archive and create an art piece of their favorite photograph.	5+
Geography	Planning my dream holiday!	Learners contrast the information they find on Wikipedia and Wikivoyage about their dream destination, and decide on relevant information needed to plan a holiday.	13+
History	Who's in your textbook?	Learners explore Wikipedia to create a profile about a notable person not represented in their textbook.	11+
Social Sciences	My family recipe	Learners document a local family recipe on Wikibooks and Wikimedia Commons .	12+

Let's start!



Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

Creating "Thank you" cards for our community members

Wikimedia Project:

Wikiquote,
Wikimedia Commons

Age range:

7+

Discovery Questions:

Who are the people supporting your community during a challenging time?
How can you show gratitude to them?

Resources:

Computer, internet access, art supplies or photo editing software and printer

Learning Objective:

Learners use Wikiquote and Wikimedia Commons to create "Thank you" cards for local workers during the COVID-19 crisis (or other challenging times).

What you do:

- * Prepare examples of thank you cards for essential workers using quotes from Wikiquote and images from Wikimedia Commons. They can be digitally or manually created.
- * Lead a reflection with your learners about gratitude and appreciation to essential workers who are stepping outside their homes during the COVID-19 crisis to ensure we are safe and healthy. Can they think of examples in their families or local communities?
- * Show learners the card designs you have prepared and let them know that they will design their own thank you/gratitude card for all the local workers they appreciate.
- * Explore together Wikiquote to get the main messages for their cards based on the feelings the students want to express, and Wikimedia Commons for picture inspirations.

What the learners do:

- * They identify the essential workers who support their communities during these challenging times: their roles, values, expertise, challenges, etc.
- * They express their feelings of gratitude and appreciation for these workers.
- * They decide on an essential worker they want to create a "thank you" card for.
- * They explore Wikiquote to find quotes that express their feelings, and they explore Wikimedia Commons to get images for their card.
- * They create their cards either using photo editing software or traditional art supplies.

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Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

Only five clicks away

Wikimedia Project:

Wikipedia

Age range:

11+

Discovery Questions:

How do you discover new information on the internet? How are different web pages connected?

Resources:

Computer or cellphone, internet access, notebook

Learning Objective:

Learners navigate hyperlinks on Wikipedia articles through five clicks as a model to discover new information on the internet.

What you do:

- * Select Wikipedia articles on topics of general interest of your learners. Preferably, choose articles from the "Featured Content" section (high quality articles).
- * Present one article as the start of their exploration, tell your learners they can start reading the article and click on any link that sparks their interest. Ask them to write down the links they decide to click on. There is only one rule: they are allowed to make only five clicks from the start article. After 5 clicks they must stop browsing and take a screenshot of the page they reached (or write down the name).
- * Give your learners enough time to browse. Ask them to share the name of the final article they reached after five clicks and how they landed there. Repeat as needed!

What the learners do:

- * They accept the challenge of only making five clicks to navigate Wikipedia.
- * They start reading an article on Wikipedia and freely navigate the content.
- * They click on a hyperlink that catches their attention and browse the new article it opens.
- * They write down the names of the hyperlinks they click on and they take a screenshot (or write down the name) of the article they found at the end of those five clicks.
- * They share and compare the articles they navigated and the final article where they landed.

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Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

I bet you can't find...

Wikimedia Project:

Wikipedia

Age range:

9+

Discovery Questions:

How can I search for information on the web? How can I discover new information?

Resources:

Computer, internet access, notebook

Learning Objective:

Learners identify sources of information they can find on the web and choose relevant information on Wikipedia to solve a query.

What you do:

- * Choose an area of interest of the learners. With the help of Wikipedia prepare a list of notable facts (or people, places, animals, etc.) connected to that area of interest.
- * Create 3 - 5 clues for the learners that can help them conduct the search for those items on your list. For example, if you want them to find Freddy Mercury your clues can be: He was a songwriter, he was born in Zanzibar, he performed around 700 concerts in his life.
- * Explain the challenge and offer a points system or reward for their successful findings.
- * Guide the learner as they conduct their web search: make them aware of the sites they're using, how they arrive to Wikipedia, what they're looking for when they skim the pages.

What the learners do:

- * They use the clues given as a challenge to conduct different web searches.
- * They explore websites, look for sources, and track how they arrive to Wikipedia.
- * They assess the relevance of the information they find.
- * They consolidate their findings, and share their impressions about their navigation process.

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Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

Let's be scriptwriters!

Wikimedia Project:

Wikipedia, Wikibooks

Age range:

11+

Discovery Questions:

What is your favorite film/movie?
What makes the story special?

Resources:

Computer, internet access, notebook

Learning Objective:

Learners create scripts for new scenes or plotlines for their favorite movie/film. Learners use Wikipedia to recall previous knowledge and discover Wikibooks.

What you do:

- * Choose a movie/film that your learners enjoy.
- * Read the plot/summary of the movie using Wikipedia with them.
- * Help the learners recall their favorite scenes, characters, and storylines of the movie.
- * Ask the learners to imagine they are scriptwriters in this movie: they can choose to add a new scene, add a new character to a scene, or create an alternative ending.
- * Review the work the learners have created and provide feedback as needed.
- * Allow learners to act out the scripts they have created with other classmates or family members. Pretend you are in the movie!
- * Compile the new scenes or alternative endings, publish them on Wikibooks, and share!

What the learners do:

- * They identify their favorite movie/film, review its plot on Wikipedia, and explain their favorite scenes, characters, or storylines.
- * They invent a new scene, character, or alternative ending to their favorite movie.
- * They outline a script for their addition to the movie and integrate feedback.
- * They act out their scripts with classmates or family members.
- * They discover a compilation of their work published on Wikibooks.

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Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

Four stars for Wikipedia!

Wikimedia Project:

Wikipedia

Age range:

13+

Discovery Questions:

Should you trust everything you read online? How can you tell if the content you find online has good quality?

Resources:

Computer or cellphone, internet access, notebook

Learning Objective:

Learners examine Wikipedia articles and rank their quality based on a simple star grading system.

What you do:

- * Guide a reflection with your learners about the information they find online: Which sites do they visit more frequently? How can they evaluate if the content is reliable?
- * Direct them to Wikipedia and tell them they are going to rate the articles they find there.
- * Ask them to choose three different articles and rate them using stars for each of these requirements:
 - It has a clear introductory summary
 - It has references to reliable sources
 - It is written in a neutral point of view
 - It has up-to-date information
- * Ask them to share which articles got 4 stars and which ones got only 1.

What the learners do:

- * They recall the websites they visit frequently and the information they get from these.
- * They reflect on what makes these sites reliable and the quality of content they find online.
- * They explore three Wikipedia articles of their choosing and rate them according to a simple star grading system provided by the instructor.
- * They compare and share their ratings, and they recognise the importance of clarity of information, writing from a neutral point of view, referencing reliable sources, and presenting up-to-date information.

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Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

Who said that?

Wikimedia Project:

Wikipedia

Age range:

15+

Discovery Questions:

Who writes the information I find online?
How easy is it to find the sources of the information I consume online?

Resources:

Computer, internet access, worksheet or notebook

Learning Objective:

Learners identify sources of information of stated facts on a Wikipedia article and reflect on what makes an article reliable.

What you do:

- * Choose an article or list of articles of a topic the learner has to review.
- * Curate a list of 4 facts from each Wikipedia article you use and include 1 fake or imprecise statement.
- * Challenge the learners to explore the Wikipedia article and find the 5 facts you curated.
- * Ask them to identify the source where those statements came from.
- * Guide them into reflecting in the difference between the 4 true well-referenced facts and the 1 untrue/imprecise statement you selected.

What the learners do:

- * They review the list of 5 facts provided.
- * They explore the corresponding Wikipedia articles and retrieve the paragraphs/statements where those facts are stated.
- * They locate the sources used to create those paragraphs/statements.
- * They identify the 1 false/imprecise statement.
- * They discuss the importance of identifying sources of information on the web.

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Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

Our work of art

Wikimedia Project:

Wikimedia Commons

Age range:

5+

Discovery Questions:

What makes our planet special? How do nature and humans interact with each other?

Resources:

Computer, internet access, art supplies

Learning Objective:

Learners associate previous knowledge of planet Earth with the pictures they find on the Wiki Loves Earth archive and create an art piece of their favorite photograph.

What you do:

- * Gather a diversity of art supplies (dry pasta, fabric swatches, or old magazines count too!)
- * Explore the winning photographs of the annual Wiki Loves Earth photography competition.
- * Choose a set of photos that can spike the interest of your learners or that are connected to a topic in their school curriculum.
- * Guide the learners to analyze the photographs, identify known elements, learn about new ones, and choose their favorite photo.
- * Use the art supplies to create a picture that represents their favorite photo.
- * Encourage them to display their work of art in a prominent part of their house!

What the learners do:

- * They observe high quality photographs depicting the richness of our planet.
- * They recognise animals, plants, geographical features, climates, etc.
- * They ask about the features they're not familiar with and connect new to previous knowledge.
- * They choose a favorite photograph.
- * They use different art supplies to create a representation of their favorite photograph.

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Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

Planning my dream holiday!

Wikimedia Project:

Wikipedia, Wikivoyage

Age range:

13+

Discovery Questions:

What is one place you wish to visit?
What information can you gather to plan your dream holiday there?

Resources:

Computer, internet access, notebook

Learning Objective:

Learners contrast the information they find on Wikipedia and Wikivoyage about their dream destination, and decide on relevant information needed to plan a holiday.

What you do:

- * Invite your learners to talk about a place they would like to visit in 2021, what makes this place special, and how they envision a dream holiday in this place.
- * Guide your learners to explore Wikipedia and Wikivoyage to complement what they already know about this place.
- * Ask your learners to identify information that would be particularly helpful to plan a holiday in the destination they have chosen. Help them identify where this information is located and why the information is presented differently on these two sites.
- * Help the learner prioritize and compile the information they need to create a travel plan for their dream holiday. Provide them with guiding questions if needed.

What the learners do:

- * They identify one place they would like to visit in 2021 and recall the previous knowledge they have about this destination.
- * They explore Wikipedia and Wikivoyage to learn more about the place of their interest.
- * They compare the information they find on these two sites and decide which information they need in order to plan a holiday to this destination.
- * They compile the information they need and create a travel plan for their dream holiday.

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Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

Who's in your textbook?

Wikimedia Project:

Wikipedia

Age range:

11+

Discovery Questions:

Who is represented in my textbooks? Who is missing? What makes someone be deemed as "notable"?

Resources:

Computer, internet access, school textbooks, notebook

Learning Objective:

Learners explore Wikipedia to create a profile about a notable person not represented in their textbook.

What you do:

- * Choose a school textbook from the learner that includes many examples of notable people in history or different disciplines.
- * Choose a couple of characteristics to focus on (gender, nationality, mother tongue, etc).
- ^ Write down these characteristics in the form of a grid. Explain to the learners that they will find and keep tally of notable people from their textbook (and those missing) according to these characteristics. Support their reflection in the representation gaps they find.
- * Guide them into finding examples of underrepresented people in Wikipedia to even these gaps. Support them creating a summary page for one new notable person they found on Wikipedia.

What the learners do:

- * They lead the exploration of their textbook and keep tally of the characteristics of the notable people they can find in it.
- * They lead the reflection on the characteristics of the people they find and identify the gaps in representation. They ask questions about people missing in their textbook.
- * They use Wikipedia to read about people not found in their textbook.
- * They create a summary page about one new notable person they found on Wikipedia and add it as a new page in their textbook.

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Lesson plans for remote learning

using the Wikimedia projects

Activity:

My family recipe!

Wikimedia Project:

Wikibooks,
Wikimedia Commons

Age range:

12+

Discovery Questions:

What ingredients and staples are in my region? What dishes are commonly cooked in my home?

Resources:

Computer, internet access, camera or smartphone, cooking ingredients, notebook

Learning Objective:

Learners document a local family recipe on Wikibooks and Wikimedia Commons.

What you do:

- * Familiarize yourself with Wikibooks and its Cookbook category.
- * Reflect with the learners about the dishes they're familiar with: where they come from, what ingredients are used, what are the steps to cook them.
- * Invite the learner to document the making of one of these dishes with a camera or smartphone. If you're a parent or guardian, provide ingredients and guide the preparation.
- * Help the learners upload the pictures they took to Wikimedia Commons.
- * Help the learner use these pictures to improve the recipe on Wikibook's Cookbook and review the steps indicated there to compare with their experience. If the recipe does not exist, you can create it!

What the learners do:

- * They recall their favorite dishes, the ingredients, steps, and traditions associated to this dish. They ask questions and choose one dish to cook and document.
- * They help in the preparation of the dish and identify the main steps. They summarize this information in the format of a recipe. They take pictures of the ingredients and cooking process, and they upload them to Wikimedia Commons (with assistance).
- * They explore Wikibook's Cookbook to find the dish they worked on, improve it with the pictures they took, review the information on the recipe, and improve it accordingly.

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Additional resources:

- Editable versions of the lesson plans: [Remote learning using Wikimedia projects](#)
- Other activity suggestions: [#EduWiki challenges](#)
- Motivational video: [Knowledge belongs to all of us](#)
- Using Wikipedia: [Crash Course Navigating Digital Information](#)
- Wikimedia education stories: [This Month in Education](#)
- Find Wikipedians in your country: [Wikimedia movement affiliates](#)



Thank you for your interest in these lesson plans!

We hope you enjoyed them!

Share your experiences with us and keep
engaging with the sum of all knowledge
through the Wikimedia projects.

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