



## Websites for Exploring Popular Spark Categories

If you have access to computers, consider these great websites for exploring sparks.

*Note: Website URLs change without notice. Please visit each website before recommending it to a young person, in case it has changed to the URL for an undesirable or adult-only site. All the website URLs were correct at the time of writing.*

### FOR SPARKS IN GENERAL

#### TED THEMES

[www.ted.com/themes](http://www.ted.com/themes)

Videos of great ideas and brilliant teachers, lecturers, leaders, scientists, artists, and many others talking about topics in technology, entertainment, design, business, science, culture, arts, and global issues. A great place to browse and explore.

### CREATIVE ARTS (PAINTING, WRITING, DANCE, MUSIC, ACTING)

#### AMERICAN TREASURES

[www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/)

Divided into three main areas—Memory, Reason, and Imagination—with approximately twenty items in each, this site is exceptionally rich. It is to be a continuously updated exhibit at the Library of Congress.

#### MYKUWORLD

[www.mykuworld.com](http://www.mykuworld.com)

MYKUWorld is social networking in condensed poetry, usually 4-lines. Here, writers converse in verse!

#### CARTOONSTER

[cartoonster.kidzdom.com](http://cartoonster.kidzdom.com)

This site is worth visiting if you are interested in learning about the basics of cartoon animation. Created by a teenager, there are simple tutorials that help you understand the concepts of frame-by-frame animation.

#### WORLD WIDE KIDS ART GALLERY

[www.theartgallery.com.au/kidsart.html](http://www.theartgallery.com.au/kidsart.html)

See examples of art done by children from around the world, and connect to links of art activities and information about art and art history.



## ATHLETICS

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS

[www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org)

Special Olympics provides sports training and athletic competition to one million people with mental retardation. Read biographies of athletes and coaches, read news articles, locate a local chapter, volunteer, or make a donation.

### WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (WNBA)

[www.wnba.com](http://www.wnba.com)

Everybody knows the NBA, but do you know about the Women's NBA?

### NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA)

[www.nba.com](http://www.nba.com)

The official site for all National Basketball Association (NBA) teams contains information on games and players.

### BLACK BASEBALL'S NEGRO LEAGUE

[blackbaseball.com](http://blackbaseball.com)

Learn about the origins of the Negro Baseball League: what they were, why they were founded, and why they no longer exist.

## LEARNING A SUBJECT MATTER (LIKE SCIENCE OR HISTORY)

### NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME

[www.invent.org/hall\\_of\\_fame/1\\_0\\_0\\_hall\\_of\\_fame.asp](http://www.invent.org/hall_of_fame/1_0_0_hall_of_fame.asp)

Learn about famous and not-so-famous inventors.

## SLAVES' STORIES

[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/slave-stories/](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/slavery/slave-stories/)

Meet four Africans who were taken into slavery in the year 1780. Woodcuts, paintings, and photographs of period artifacts bring their struggles to life for today's youth.

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

[www.history.com/this-day-in-history](http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history)

Select a date in history and learn what happened in that day's headlines. Participants can narrow their focus to specific dates in automotive, Civil War, Cold War, crime, entertainment, literary, Old West, Vietnam War, Wall Street, and WWII history.

### THE ANCIENT GREEK WORLD

[www.penn.museum/sites/Greek\\_World/index.html](http://www.penn.museum/sites/Greek_World/index.html)

Welcome to a partial presentation, in digital form, of a real-life exhibit on ancient Greek life using artifacts and photographs to help illustrate aspects of that life.

## MATH AND SCIENCE

### ABACUS

[www.ee.ryerson.ca:8080/~elf/abacus/](http://www.ee.ryerson.ca:8080/~elf/abacus/)

The abacus is a calculator whose earliest known use is circa 500 BCE by the Chinese civilization. Addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication can be performed on a standard abacus. This site offers instructions on the use of the abacus.

**MATH CATS**

[www.mathcats.com](http://www.mathcats.com)

This website emphasizes the logic and beauty of math, rather than drills and practice. It provides open-ended and playful explorations of important math concepts through online games, offline crafts, and interactive projects. Requires a free MicroWorlds download.

**SCIENCE BUDDIES**

[www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/recommender\\_register.php](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/recommender_register.php)

This absolutely amazing site has a project topic wizard that “interviews” you about your interests and then offers all kinds of science-fair project ideas (K–12) that suit your interests! It also has much more to offer for people interested in science, including careers in science and blogs.

**NASA**

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

Available in both English and Spanish, NASA’s home page provides information about NASA, including missions, events, research, and the most up-to-date news. Links are available to NASA Kids, Resources for Students, and Resources for Educators.

**NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM**

[www.nasm.si.edu](http://www.nasm.si.edu)

Here, in virtual space, are the objects that made the dream of flight a reality. Each is a reminder of a noteworthy achievement and evokes the spirit of its own particular time. From the Smithsonian.

**4,000 YEARS OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE**

[www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS/](http://www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS/)

This site lists more than 125 women scientists from our scientific and technical past.

**READING****GUYS READ**

[www.guysread.com](http://www.guysread.com)

A website for books that guys like to read.

**TEENREADS**

[www.teenreads.com](http://www.teenreads.com)

This website features author interviews and reading lists of books you’ll love, as well as a Teen Book Club and Reading Group Guides.

**READING RANTS!**

[www.readingrants.org](http://www.readingrants.org)

Out of the Ordinary Teen Booklists!

**HELPING, SERVING,  
VOLUNTEERING****UNITED NATIONS CYBERSCHOOLBUS**

[www.un.org/pubs/cyberschoolbus/](http://www.un.org/pubs/cyberschoolbus/)

View information about member nations, take a virtual tour, explore issues of human rights relating to children or take quizzes and play games to help you learn about the countries of the world. Interactive and well designed for school-age children.

## THE SHINNYO-EN FOUNDATION

[www.sef.org](http://www.sef.org)

The Shinnyo-en Foundation helps build more caring communities by supporting educational programs that engage and inspire young people in meaningful acts of service. “We believe in teaching our children the value of helping others in the spirit of goodwill and without regard to differences of faith or background.”

## WWW.DOSOMETHING.ORG

Find a cause you care about and get the facts so you can take action.

## BEING A LEADER

### VOICES OF YOUTH

[www.unicef.org/voy/](http://www.unicef.org/voy/)

Young people across the world have their say on current issues and events on this site sponsored by UNICEF.

### YOUTH LEADERSHIP

[www.youthleadership.com](http://www.youthleadership.com)

An online information center for youth leadership education and development.

## CARING OR ADVOCATING FOR ANIMALS, OR PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES

4

### CARE FOR ANIMALS

[www.avma.org/careforanimals/default.asp](http://www.avma.org/careforanimals/default.asp)

Learn about pets and the people who care for them at this site from the American Veterinary Medical Association.

### THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

[www.asPCA.org](http://www.asPCA.org)

The ASPCA works to rescue animals from abuse, pass humane laws, and share resources with shelters nationwide.

### WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

[www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)

WWF's mission is to preserve the diversity and abundance of life on Earth and the health of ecological systems by

- Protecting natural areas and wild populations of plants and animals, including endangered species
- Promoting sustainable approaches to the use of renewable natural resources
- Promoting more efficient use of resources and energy and the maximum reduction of pollution



## NATURE, ECOLOGY, THE ENVIRONMENT

### EXPLORING NATURE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

[www.exploringnature.org](http://www.exploringnature.org)

A natural science reference site for students and educators. This site includes resource databases in the areas of wildlife, biomes, adaptations, environment, trees and flowers, human anatomy, farm animals, and space. Databases for younger children include fun mazes and habitats. This site helps educators with information on how to bring naturalists to your school for visits, as well as activities, nature trails, and a science store from which to order materials.

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

[www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)

National Geographic grants support exploration, research, and conservation efforts around the globe—cultures, animals, national parks, wilderness, history.

## SPIRITUALITY OR RELIGION

5

### STANFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY

[plato.stanford.edu](http://plato.stanford.edu)

For those who like to think about thinking, living, good and evil, and other light subjects.

### BBC RELIGIONS

[www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/)

This BBC site offers an introduction to Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, and many other faiths.