Biomes

Did you know that a biome is a large geographic area and with plants and animals that are adapted to that special environment?

Can you name five or more different world biomes?

We have compiled some amazing resources on biomes for you and your students.

Answer: Aquatic (freshwater and marine), forest (tropical rainforest, temperate forests and boreal forests/taiga), desert, tundra (arctic and alpine) and grassland (temperature and savanna).
https://infotopia.info/biomes.html

https://shorturl.at/WOk8A
Authentic Social Studies Assessments Through Student-Written Letters
by Henry Seton
(from Edutopia.org)

According to the author, writing letters offers opportunities for students to get creative and connected to the course content. Mr. Seton has wonderful suggestions about how the basic flow to help his students write letters, either to a family member or friend, or as an advocacy letter. He also has information about how to extend the activity and other letter-writing opportunities.

kidtopia facts

Have you tried **Kidtopia Facts** yet?

You can get at least 7 resources on facts about Animals, Art, Biographies, Dinosaurs, Earth, Geography, Health, History, Math, Mythology, Plants, Science, Technology, Space, and Weather.

These resources are specifically for younger students, from grades K-4. Try them out!

In addition, students can do a "search" by typing a word into the search box. All of the searches will include special web sites chosen to meet the needs of younger students.

https://www.kidtopiafacts.com/

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Kidtopia

Banned Books

Banned books have been in the news the past few years. Here are some links to various lists of the top ten banned books by year and the top banned books through the years.

The first is an article from *Variety* with 18 banned and challenged books that they believe everyone should read:

https://variety.com/shop/banned-challenged-books-1235167579/

The next article from the American Library Association includes the 10 most challenged books every year, from 2023 back to 2001. Each book title includes the main reasons cited for censoring or challenging the book.

https://bit.ly/332ycFJ

According to the ALA, most challenges are made because of the following reasons:
- sexually explicit material
- offensive language
- unsuited to the age group
- violence
- LGBTQIA+ issues

The American Library Association also publishes the top 100 challenged books by decade, as follows:
1990-1999:
https://bit.ly/3HxFYXa

2000-2009:
https://bit.ly/3HBqotB

2010-2019
https://bit.ly/3J6WAFJ

Most Challenged Books of 2023
https://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks/top10

What is the difference between a challenge or banning a book?

A challenge means that someone has questioned inclusion of the book in a library or in the curriculum. This person wants the book to be removed and restrict access to it by others. A reconsideration committee must review the item and decide whether or not to censor (ban) the book.

Our search engines/web directories include:

https://www.infotopia.info

https://www.kidtopia.info

https://www.kidtopiafacts.com

https://www.infotrek.info

https://www.virtualLRC.com

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https://www.amazon.com/?tag=virtlearresoc-20&linkCode=ur1

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Find our activity books, puzzle books, coloring books, planners, and more at:

https://www.amazon.com/author/infotopiapress

To subscribe to our newsletters or to contact us, please send an email to:
bell@infotopia.info

We appreciate your feedback and love to hear from you!

Dr. Michael Bell and Carole Bell
(Retired) Librarians/Teachers

Carole and Mike Bell

https://infotopia.info/portals.html

Browse **Information Portals** ranging from the Digital Public Library of America, RefDesk, Awesome Library, encyclopedia.com and many more!

An Information Portal allows the user to do a search to find a wide variety of information on the Internet.