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Welcome to Cyberspace

C'mon in. Take your shoes off and leave everything you think you already know at the door. You're about to embark on a wonderful journey through a world without boundaries. It's a world where anything can happen and anyone can appear. It's a world that you, along with millions of other people around the globe, will call home. With some help from us, of course.

This guide is chock full of resources that will help you to:

- Find out just what the Internet, World Wide Web and Cyberspace are. (Hint: they're pretty much the same thing.)
- Communicate with friends and relatives anywhere in the world (yes, unfortunately, even Uncle Bernie).
- Find friends who are interested in the same things you are.
- Learn everything from astronomy to zoology from thousands of information databases and libraries (where you can talk as loud as you want).
- Download games, books, information, articles and even computer programs for free. Hear news and sport practically as it happens.
- Play the latest games against the computer or people in different countries.
- Shop in a range of unique stores.
- Research every subject you could possibly dream of – including dreams.
- Build your very own website (where you finally get to make the rules).
- Visit zoos and museums around the globe.
- Take a virtual trip to every imaginable spot on earth (including that biggest ball of twine).
- Take classes from online schools, universities or organisations.
- Chat with people from next door or across the continents.
- Access organisations or find that special shoelace-collecting group.
- Read full-length books (or even short ones).
- Listen to historical speeches or your favourite tunes.
- Watch live video and animation.
- Have more fun than you could possibly imagine.

Travelling through cyberspace is an exciting adventure with no speed limits, and just like those family trips, you're going to need to bring a few things along for the journey: a willingness to learn and an adventurous spirit; a sprinkle of wisdom to know where to click and when to skip; an ability to evaluate what is a time-stealer and what is a time-stopper; and snacks, plenty of snacks. Hey, it's a great big virtual world out there, and virtual food is about as appetising as last night's liver.

Keep in mind, though, that travelling the Internet is like wandering through a foreign country. You're going to encounter a new language and become overwhelmed with all of the new things to see and do. Soon, you'll be a veteran traveller and will be able to enjoy all the sights and sounds of this new frontier. Don't be surprised if you get lost. (Sometimes, that's half the fun.) So, remember, don't get discouraged.

We've carefully selected the best of the best websites for kids just like us. And believe us, if it kept this tough group interested long enough to write down the website, then it's definitely worth checking out. Before you start with all of these best places to see in cyberspace, take a walk through our chapters to find out what the Internet is, how it got started, and the many ways you can use it. As always, remember to have fun.



My Rules for Online Safety

1. I will not give out any personal information such as my address, telephone number or parents' places of work.
2. I will not give out the addresses, telephone numbers or names of my school or after-school activities.
3. I will tell my parents immediately if I see anything or anyone that makes me feel uncomfortable.
4. I will never agree to get together with someone I met online without first checking with my parents.
5. I will never send a person my picture or anything else personal without first checking with my parents.
6. I will not respond to any messages that are mean or that in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents right away so that they can report it to the online service.
7. I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit.
8. I will not access other areas or break these rules without my parents' permission.

The Bigger Cats

<http://www.lam.mus.ca.us/~pcannon/cats.html>

Jaguars, cougars and pumas. At this site you'll discover dozens of interesting pages about those big cats otherwise known as lions and tigers. Oh my.



Australian Antarctic Division

<http://www.antdiv.gov.au>



Here you can learn all about an award-winning refrigeration system. No, we're not talking about Antarctica. Find out how Australia is generating power from blizzard winds, and check out the *Australian Antarctic Magazine*. They're pretty busy down there.

Brevard Zoo

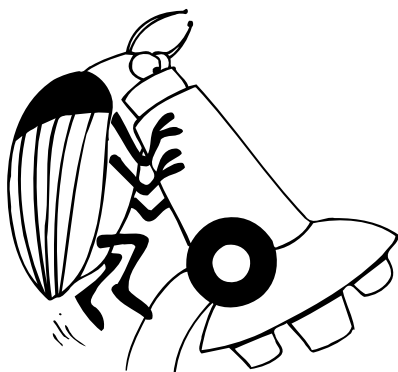
<http://www.brevardzoo.org/>

Go on a virtual tour and see the lemurs and the gibbons. Check out the big collection of animal photographs as well.



Bugs in the News

<http://falcon.cc.ukans.edu/~jbrown/bugs.html>



This website is all about microbiology. Microbiology is the study of things that are really, really teeny. These things are so small that they can only be seen under a powerful microscope. Here you can learn about viruses and bacteria and antibiotics.



Just for You

<http://www.4kids.org/>

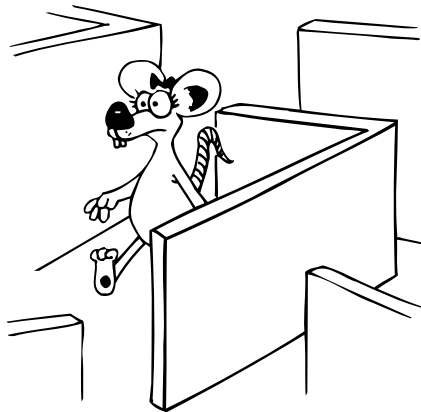


Other than this great guide that you already have in your hands, how do you find fun, safe sites? Right here, of course. A great selection of the newest offerings for kids on the Internet.

Boffins and Puffins

<http://www.penguin.com.au/puffin/kids/kids.htm/>

This book site's got all the classics, from Paul Jennings to the adventures of Spot. There's also some publishing advice for all you budding authors out there.



Kids' Shareware

<http://www.abc.net.au/surf/kids/>

No downloading, no waiting. Just click and you're into some classic games. You don't need a game board or someone to play with, just your computer screen.

Games and Recreation

<http://web.purplefrog.com/~thoth/library/comp.html>

This is the place for board games, card games, arcade games, table games and anything else you can think of with the word 'game' in it.

