



# WEBQUESTS FOR THE CLASSROOM

## What Is a WebQuest?

A WebQuest is: an open-ended question that requires the student to primarily use resources taken from the Internet OR a series of teacher-generated tasks that require the student to use resources taken from the Internet to research and complete a project.

### Main Elements of a WebQuest Include:

- an introduction to set the stage and provide background information;
- a task that is “doable” and interesting;
- information sources primarily found on the Web needed to complete the task;
- a description of the steps the students should take in completing the task; and
- some guidance and closure to help the students organize the information they find and complete the task.

## WebQuest Resources

Websites that offer templates or how-to steps for creating your own WebQuest include:

**The WebQuest Page** — <http://webquest.sdsu.edu/>  
Click on Training Materials and then click on Building Blocks to find a good guide to the basic steps involved in creating a WebQuest.

**Ozline.com** — <http://www.ozline.com/learning/> This website includes easy to understand information about why and how teachers should use WebQuests, links to WebQuest samples, and templates for creating WebQuests.

**Filamentality** — <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/>  
This website provides a free, no-frills template for creating and posting WebQuests.

**Thirteen ed-online** — [www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/month8/](http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/month8/)  
This website provides a complete tutorial on the use and creation of WebQuests.

## WebQuest Models

### I. The Basic WebQuest Model

This model allows the teacher to create questions and projects for the students to complete using one or more sites on the World Wide Web. The basic WebQuest model is fairly easy to learn to use and gives the students tasks that can be accomplished fairly quickly in a reasonable amount of time.

#### Examples of the Basic WebQuest Model:

**Louisiana Purchase WebQuest:** The teacher previews the listed websites that were used in this WebQuest for fourth/fifth graders. Students are given a WebQuest worksheet, which requires them to use the websites to search for specific information about Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase. After completing the WebQuest, students are asked to pretend to be Thomas Jefferson and write a letter to Congress asking them to support the purchase of the Louisiana Territory. (You can see how websites would readily support this assignment.)

Websites Needed for the Louisiana Purchase WebQuest:  
<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/P/tj3/about/jeffersonxx.htm>  
<http://www.monticello.org/education/asktj/letters.html>  
<http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/archive/duncan.html>

### II. The Open-Ended WebQuest Model

This model allows the teacher to create the web pages and the question/problem to be solved by teams of students using the World Wide Web. The open-ended WebQuest encourages higher level thinking, gives the teacher greater control over the content and purpose of the exploration, and encourages teamwork.

**Hands-On Exploration of the Open-Ended WebQuest Model:**

<http://webquest.sdsu.edu/> — The WebQuest page is the original source of WebQuest templates and samples.  
<http://bestwebquests.com/> — Samplings of WebQuests, sorted by content area and grade level

<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/edis771/webquests/directoryofwebquests.html> — Examples of WebQuests created by graduate students in the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn/> — Blue Web'n is an online library of web-based activities and teacher resources, grouped by content area

<http://sesd.sk.ca/teacherresource/webquests.htm> — Samplings of WebQuests, sorted by content area

<http://www.techtrekers.com/webquests/> — Samplings of WebQuests, sorted by content area. Many of these correspond to the Virginia Standards of Learning.

<http://webquest.org/> — Samplings of WebQuests, sorted by content area and grade level.

## Creating Your Own WebQuest

When creating a WebQuest, consider:

- What do you want your students to learn?
- What type of WebQuest is most appropriate for the students you teach?
- How will you assess their learning (research and project ideas)?
- What World Wide Web sites will help you meet your goals?

### Additional resources to use when creating your own WebQuest:

<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/edis771/designerquest/home.htm> — This website offers a step by step guide to creating a WebQuest.

<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/webquest/webquest.html> — Kathy Schrock's guide to creating WebQuests, as well as listings of websites that cover a variety of curriculum topics.

<http://midgefrazel.net/lrnwebq.html> — A complete WebQuest resource guide, including links to teacher-created WebQuests and to sites that assist teachers in creating their own WebQuests

<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/centers/clic/> — This website contains links to curriculum websites listed by the Content Literacy Information Consortium.

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## Sample WebQuest

Before venturing on a field trip, a WebQuest is a wonderful way to introduce students to the area they will visit. Here is an example of a WebQuest completed by students before going to the Baltimore Aquarium.

### Baltimore Aquarium WebQuest

In just one week, we will go on a wonderful adventure together. In order to learn more about the place we are going to visit you will spend some time at the website for the Aquarium. Follow the directions below and write in your responses.

1. Go to the URL and type in <http://www.aqua.org/>
2. Find the word animals and click on it.
3. Read the paragraph until you find the words matching game. Click on the words. Follow the directions for playing the game. Record your score: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Scroll down the page and click again on animals.
5. Click the words, "who they are"
6. How many animals are on display in the Aquarium? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In the "select a species box" find DIAMOND BACK TERRAPIN. Highlight it and release the mouse. Then click go.
8. What is the common name for the terrapin?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Where is their natural habitat?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What class of animals do they belong to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Hypothesize what types of food the terrapin consumes.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How do you suppose the aquarium manages the climate for the terrapins?  
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