_____

**Electronic news from the SouthEast Initiatives
Regional Technology in Education Consortium
(SEIR*TEC)**

_____

_____

In This Issue

_____

1. Classroom Activity on Use of Light in Holiday Celebrations
2. "All I Want for Christmas is a Nice, Clean Earth" Lesson Plan
3. CNNfyi.com Website for News-Related Lesson Plans
4. Grants for Educators Program
5. Government Services at Your Fingertips
6. Lesson Plan: How Much Water Do You Use?
7. Build a Web Community

_____

1. Classroom Activity on Use of Light in Holiday Celebrations

_____

Five different holidays will be highlighted in a social studies mini-unit during the month of December. The featured holidays include Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Le Re'veillon, Los Posados, and St. Lucia Day. Each celebration is explained and then followed by various activities. Lesson plans include activities that last a few minutes and some span an entire class period.

URL:
http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/TIresources/longterm/LessonPlans/Byrnes/light.html

_____

2. "All I Want for Christmas is a Nice, Clean Earth" Lesson Plan

_____

"All I Want for Christmas is a Nice, Clean Earth" is a lesson plan created by teachers who participated in the Columbia Education Center's Summer Workshop. This activity is designed to allow students to investigate items of litter that cause harm to the environment. It may be extended to increase awareness of the natural role of energy sources within the living organisms of the environment.

URL: http://ericir.syr.edu/Virtual/Lessons/Science/Biological/BIO0001.html

_____
3. CNNfyi.com Website for News-Related Lesson Plans
_____

CNNfyi.com is an educational website that fills a growing need for lesson plans related to news and information by showing ways in which current news and events shape the future and affect our lives. View this site for more information.

URL: http://fyi.cnn.com/fyi/teachers/

_____
4. Grants for Educators Program
_____

The Grants for Educators Program, funded by Education World's FirstUSA VISA card, is designed to provide financial support for teachers trying to create a meaningful classroom experience for their students. The focus of the program is to assist educators in lesson planning by using the Education World website as an educational tool and daily resource. Grant monies will be awarded in amounts of $250 and $500 during Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break and the following Summer Break. Those interested should complete the online application describing their proposed projects, listing expenses, expected results and outcomes. For full instructions, please refer to the grant application available at the website below.

URL: http://www.educationworld.com/ew_grants/grant_app.txt

_____
5. Government Services at Your Fingertips
_____

A website has been recently established to offer one-stop access to online federal resources. Visitors can browse or search a wealth of information - from researching the Library of Congress to tracking a NASA mission. Visitors can also conduct business online, such as applying for a student loan or tracking Social Security benefit.

URL: http://firstgov.gov

_____
6. Lesson Plan: How Much Water Do You Use?
_____

This ongoing online project asks students from grades 4-8, the question "How much water do you use?" Students will discover whether they use more of less water than people from other parts of the world. Classes may join the project at any time.

Related URL: http://k12science.ati.stevens-tech.edu/curriculum/drainproj/index.html

_____
7. Build a Web Community
_____

The bigchalk Foundation's Community Building Grant Program is awarding $1,000 cash grants to K-12 educators for creating online school communities via Web-based tools. The goal is to create vibrant, active Web communities for K -12 schools. More details, eligibility requirements, and instructions are posted on the Web. Entries accepted October 1, 2000 through March 15, 2001.

Related URL: http://www.3Com.com/government/urbanchallenge/index.html

_____
SEIR*News is a periodic news communication from SEIR*TEC.

The SEIR*TEC staff reserves the right to determine which articles will be used in **SEIR*News** based on content, length, and timeliness. The SEIR*TEC staff also reserves the right to edit information provided.

SEIR*TEC
Elizabeth Byrom, Director
Margaret Bingham, Co-Director
Jeanne Guerrero, **SEIR*News** Coordinator
http://www.seirtec.org

DISCLAIMER: We do our best to verify the information in **SEIR*News**, but we do not guarantee accuracy nor agree with every opinion expressed.

This document was developed by the SouthEast Initiatives Regional Technology in Education Consortium (SEIR*TEC) and is based on work sponsored wholly or in part by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI), under grant number R302A980001, CFDA 84.302A. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the OERI, the U.S. Department of Education, or any other agency of the United States government.