



Wikimedia in Schools Series

Introduction to Wikimedia

Notes for Teachers:

This introduction is designed to give students an understanding of Wikimedia and Wikimedia projects before beginning the Wikimedia in schools series.

The lessons in the series can be completed in any order, and each is a stand-alone lesson. However, completing the whole series will give students a deeper understanding of digital and media literacy, and how to use these skills to increase democratic and civic engagement and for positive social change.

This introduction should take around 10 minutes to complete before a session, and only needs to be completed once.

If you have any questions about the delivery of this session please contact our Education Lead sally.latham@wikimedia.org.uk.

You can also sign up to our [newsletter](#) to see ideas and best practice from other schools.

The Wiki Teacher Community has a Facebook group which you can join and you can also join our mailing list for updates on webinars and events.

What is Wikimedia UK?

Wikimedia UK works in partnership with organisations in the cultural, education and other sectors to make open knowledge accessible to all, and remove barriers to accessing open knowledge.

Our work focuses on knowledge and communities that have been left out by structures of power and privilege, helping to eradicate inequality and bias on the Wikimedia projects.

We work to improve media literacy across society, equipping people to not only access information but to be able to critically evaluate what they find online.

Key Terms:

Wiki:

A website or database developed collaboratively by a community of users allowing any user to add or edit content.

Open knowledge:

Also known as free knowledge, open knowledge is knowledge that is free to use, reuse and redistribute without legal, social or technological restrictions.

The Wikimedia Projects

Here are some of the Wikimedia projects.

How many have you heard of? Discuss with your classmates.

 <p>WIKIPEDIA</p>	 <p>WIKIMEDIA COMMONS</p>
 <p>WIKIBOOKS</p>	 <p>WIKIDATA</p>
 <p>WIKIVERSITY</p>	 <p>WIKIQUOTE</p>

What is Wikipedia?

- ★ Wikipedia is a free, online encyclopedia written and maintained by a community of volunteers known as Wikimedians.
- ★ Wikipedia is the largest, most read reference work in history.
- ★ Wikipedia has over 500 million visitors and 18 billion page views per month.
- ★ Wikipedia is a collaborative project, where anyone can contribute.
- ★ Wikipedia strives for a neutral point of view, without bias or opinion.
- ★ Wikipedia only contains articles that are verifiable, meaning that they have reliable sources.
- ★ Wikipedia is closely monitored by the community, including administrators, to remove incorrect or unverified articles or edits, and vandalism is typically reversed in less than 5 minutes.
- ★ There are over 300 different Wikipedias in different languages.

Appendix - Image Attribution



WIKIPEDIA

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