

# SIRS Discoverer Back-to-School Update

**Released August 2017**



# SIRS Discoverer: Where Research Starts

In preparation for the school year, use this guide to help with activities and lessons that equip students with:

- [Critical Thinking](#)
- [Reading Fluency](#)
- [Research Skills](#)
- [Media Literacy](#)
- [Global Awareness](#)
- [STEM Education](#)
- [Information Literacy](#)

Plus new additions and curriculum activities curated by our editors!

The screenshot shows the ProQuest SIRS Discoverer website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Subjects' and 'Features' dropdown menus, a search bar, and links for 'Link Google Account' and 'Help'. Below the search bar, there are options to search by 'keyword' or 'subject', a 'Sort by Date' dropdown, and an 'Advanced Search' dropdown. The main content area is divided into three sections: 'Browse Subjects' with icons for Arts, Health, History, Language Arts, Math, People, Science, Social Studies, Sports, and Technology; 'Explore Features' with cards for Animal Facts, Current Events, and Pro/Con Leading Issues; and 'Spotlight On...' featuring a 'Celebrate Canada' spotlight with a Canadian flag image and a link to 'See the July Spotlight of the Month'.

# Critical Thinking

Develop critical thinking skills with 60 age-appropriate, editorially-created [Leading Issues](#).

- Students can:
  - Select a [topic](#) and evaluate the evidence for a Leading Issue in the [supporting articles](#)
  - Answer the [critical thinking questions](#) and then come up with own questions
  - Analyze the [editorial cartoon](#) and answer visual literacy questions
  - Choose the [viewpoint](#) that has the strongest evidence then write an argumentative essay

## New 2016-2017 Content!

5 New Leading Issues: Electoral College, Gender Identity, Health Care, Refugees, and Vaccines

## Pro/Con Leading Issues

A-Z List:

ADHD  
Advertising in Schools  
Affirmative Action  
Airport Security  
Animal Cloning  
Animal Experimentation  
Animal Rights and Welfare  
Banned Books  
Bullying  
Capital Punishment  
Cell Phones in School  
Cheating  
Cheerleading  
Child Labor  
Curfew  
Cursive Writing

Featured:



Animal Experimentation



Cyberbullying



Gender Identity



Health Care



Homework



Racial Profiling



Refugees



School Uniforms



Vaccines

See All Pro/Con Leading Issues...

## Essential Question

Does the use of drones violate people's privacy?

### VIEWPOINT 1

Drones are flown over private property and violate the privacy of individuals.

Police, Others Expand Use of Drones

*Los Angeles Times* (Newspaper); Lexile Score: 1350

### VIEWPOINT 2

Drones help keep people safe by going places people cannot and do not violate privacy.

Few Privacy Limitations Exist on How Police Use Drones

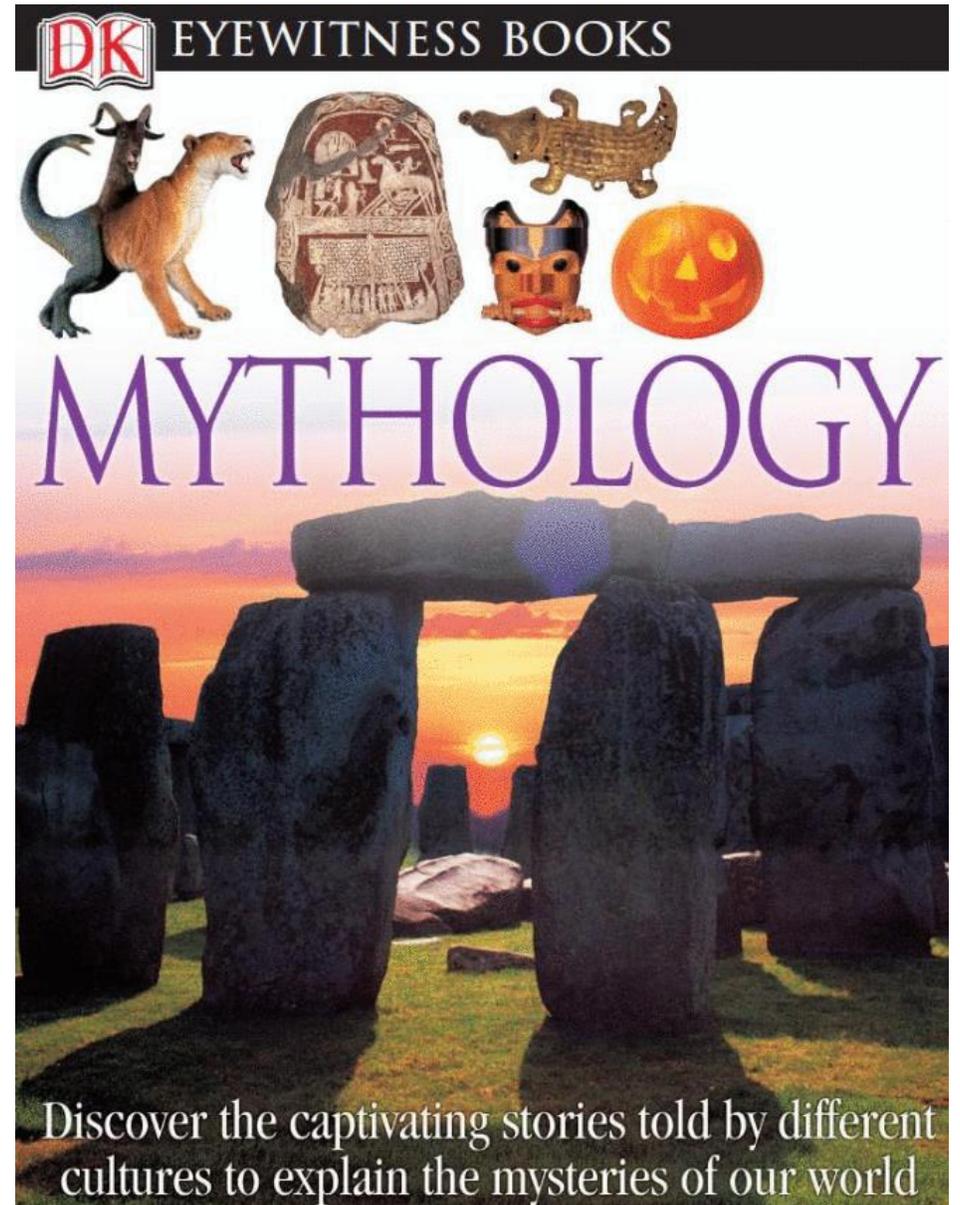
*NationalJournal.com* (Magazine); Lexile Score: 1500

# Reading Fluency

Tools that assist students with reading fluency:

- [Nonfiction Books collection](#) offers 500+ visual engaging books to read on any device from publishers such as DK and Rourke
- [Current Events](#) delivers opportunities for daily reading
- **Lexile levels** are associated with each article and can be sorted, filtered, or searched ([in advanced search](#))
- **Text-to-speech** provides audio and mp3 downloads
- **Language translation** is available in 12 languages

**New 2016-2017 Content!**  
**16 New Books from DK and Rourke Publishing**



# Research Skills

“Elementary school is when kids first begin to learn how to learn. Kids start using search engines quite early on, making elementary school the perfect time to teach **research skills** that become a foundation for a lifetime of learning.” — [Concordia University](#)

Teach research skills by having students do their first research project using [Animal Facts](#):

- Explore an animal category type then select two animals and read the facts
- Compare and contrast the characteristics of two animals using this [Animal Comparison graphic organizer](#)
- Use Animal Facts to create a poster, tri-fold brochure, flip board, or pyramid display

**New 2016-2017 Content!**  
**40 New Animal Facts**  
**300 Total in Collection**

Explore by Type:



Amphibians



Arachnids



Birds



Fishes



Insects



Invertebrates



Mammals



Reptiles

[See All Animal Facts...](#)

| Name   | Date   |
|--|--|
| <b>Animal Comparison</b>                     |  |
| Animal #1                                    | Animal #2                                    |
| Classification                               | Classification                               |
| Habitat & Location                           | Habitat & Location                           |
| Diet   | Diet   |
| Life Span                                    | Life Span                                    |
| Size & Weight                                | Size & Weight                                |
| One fact about animals' physical description | One fact about animals' physical description |
| One fact about animals' behavior             | One fact about animals' behavior             |

Created by Jennifer Oms, Content Editor Senior, ProQuest  
Graphic organizer originally appeared on ProQuest Share This Blog.

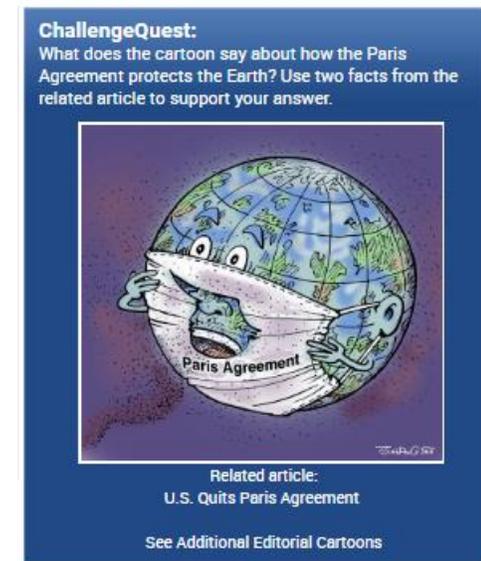
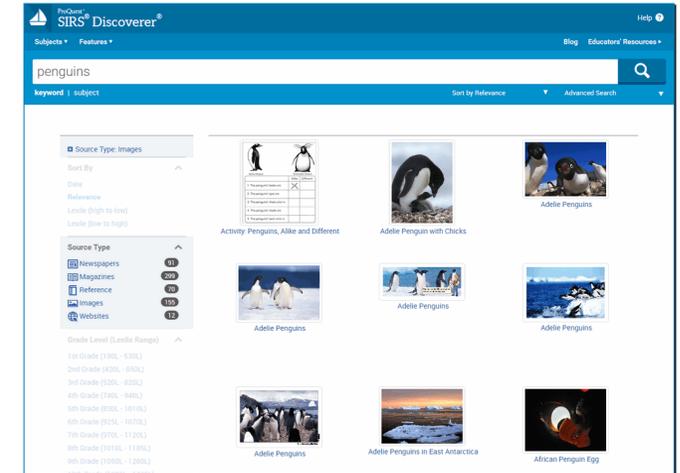
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# Media Literacy

“Media literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and create media. Media literate youth and adults are better able to understand the complex messages we receive from television, radio, Internet, newspapers, magazines, books, billboards, video games, music, and all other forms of media.” — [Media Literacy Project](#)

## Media literacy activities:

- View the monthly Spotlight On... [Visual Literacy](#) feature and answer the questions to analyze the image
- View the editorial cartoon in the monthly Spotlight On... [In the News](#) feature and answer the questions to interpret the cartoon
- Explore the [images source type](#) in any search result. Use images from the gallery to create a poster or flyer



**New 2016-2017 Content!**  
**1,400 New Images Added (Out of 37,280)**  
**Visual Literacy and In the News Updated Monthly**

# Global Awareness

“All humans are citizens of the world, and teaching that fact to children in school can make them more sensitive to global issues and inspire them to look outside their own walls. A globalized classroom helps students to see the local significance of international events.” — [Edudemic](#)

## Global awareness activities:

- Explore the world and browse the [maps collection](#) of nations, regions and world historic maps
- Use [Country Facts & Maps](#) to choose two countries and complete the [Country Comparison graphic organizer](#)
- Read articles in the [Countries](#) and [Cultures](#) sections of the [Social Studies](#) subject tree

**New 2016-2017 Content!**  
**264 Country, State, and Canada Facts**  
**Updated Yearly**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Country Facts



## Country Comparison

Directions: Use the chart to compare facts about two countries.

|                  | Country A: | Country B: |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Population:      |            |            |
| Size:            |            |            |
| Continent:       |            |            |
| Government Type: |            |            |
| Climate:         |            |            |
| Currency:        |            |            |
| Languages:       |            |            |

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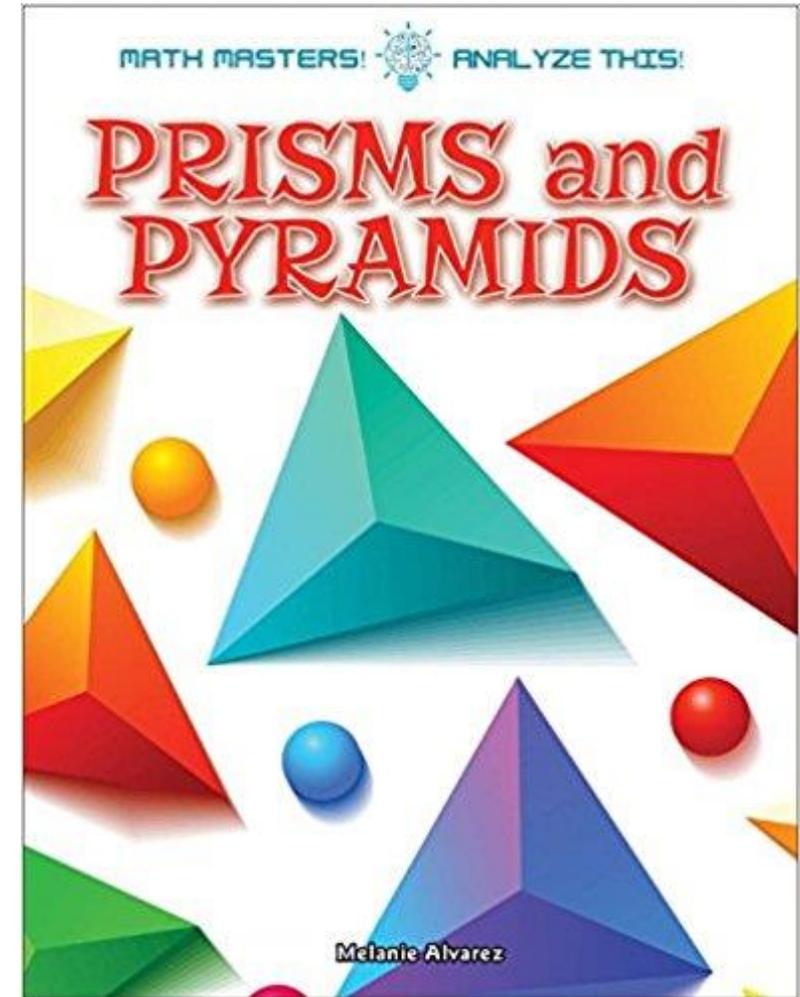
# STEM Education

“To succeed in this new information-based and highly technological society, students need to develop their capabilities in STEM to levels much beyond what was considered acceptable in the past.”--[National Science Foundation](#)

## STEM learning activities:

- Find hands-on projects in the [Home & Personal Projects](#), [Science & Nature Projects](#) sections of the subject tree.
- Use [Science Fair Explorer](#) to discover science fair projects using everyday materials found in any home
- Read articles in the [Science](#) and [Technology](#) and [Math](#) categories of the subject tree
- Explore science, math, and technology eBooks in [Nonfiction Books](#) collection

**New 2016-2017 Content!**  
**11 New Science and Technology eBooks Added**



# Information Literacy

Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."—[ACRL](#)

Teach students beginning information literacy skills by teaching them how to use SIRS Discoverer.

[Elementary](#) and [middle school](#) student tutorials guide students on the facets of doing research by showing how to

- Search keywords
- Browse subjects
- Compile research

**New 2016-2017 Content!**  
**1,800 Articles Added (Out of 121,350)**  
**30 New Sources (Out of 2,392)**

**Activity Three: Browse Subjects**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Find information about many interesting subjects.

Browse Subjects

|   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <br>Arts   | <br>Health  | <br>History        | <br>Language Arts | <br>Math       |
| <br>People | <br>Science | <br>Social Studies | <br>Sports        | <br>Technology |

1. Select the subject where you will find information about teeth.  
 Sports  
 Health  
 Technology
2. Select the subject where you will find information about George Washington.  
 People  
 Arts  
 Science
3. Select the subject where you will find information about basketball.  
 Technology  
 History  
 Sports
4. Select the subject where you will find information about rain forests.  
 Arts  
 Science  
 Sports

# Curriculum Activities and Calendar

See the [Activities page](#), [Events Calendar](#), and [Share This blog](#) for activities, projects, and printables for the entire school year!

| Events Calendar |        |        |         |           |          |         |          |
|-----------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|
| MONTHS          | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday  | Saturday |
| January         |        |        |         |           |          |         | 1        |
| February        |        |        |         |           |          |         |          |
| March           | 2      | 3      | 4       | 5         | 6        | TODAY 7 | 8        |
| April           |        |        |         |           |          |         |          |
| May             | 9      | 10     | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14      | 15       |
| June            |        |        |         |           |          |         |          |
| July            | 16     | 17     | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21      | 22       |
| August          |        |        |         |           |          |         |          |
| September       | 23     | 24     | 25      | 26        | 27       | 28      | 29       |
| October         |        |        |         |           |          |         |          |
| November        | 30     | 31     |         |           |          |         |          |
| December        |        |        |         |           |          |         |          |

## September

[Seeing Both Sides: Junk Food, Yes or No](#)

January

[Make a Natural Water Filter](#)

April

[Reveal Your Animal Instincts!](#)

## October

[A Recycled Band](#)

February

[Activities for the 100th Day of School!](#)

May

[Should We Ban Competitive Eating?](#)

## December

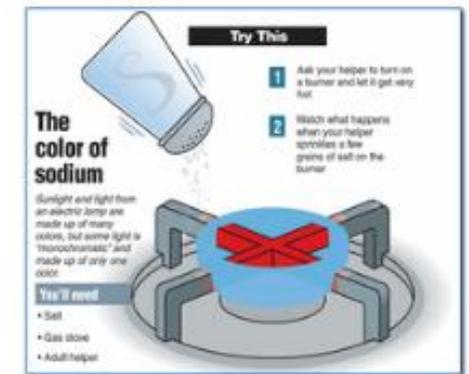
[Sand Art Menorah and Candles](#)

March

[Bring on the \(Educational and Fun\) Song Parodies!](#)

June

[Overnight French Toast](#)



## Math & Science

Math Activities & Puzzles  
Science & Nature Projects

For more information...

<http://www.proquest.com>

<http://blogs.proquest.com>

