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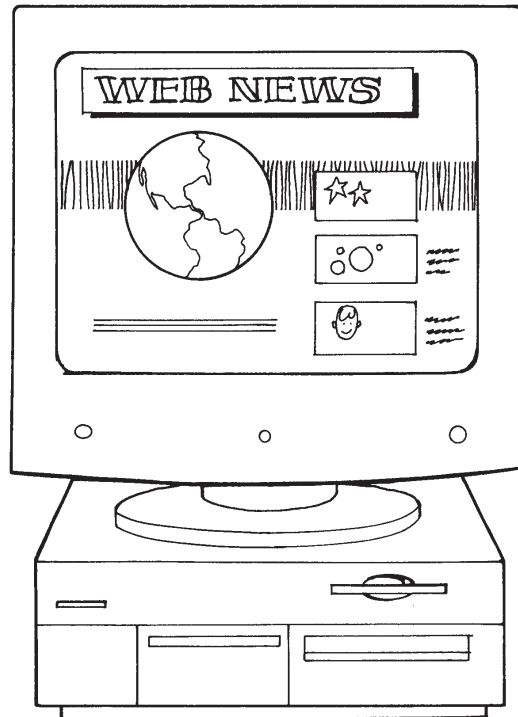# Table of Contents *(cont.)*

Fitting It All In

You will find the Internet useful to enhance your curriculum relating to various topics through the lessons supplied for you in this book. The lessons include teaching objectives, materials needed, Web Sites, general information on the topic, specific steps for teaching the lesson, related activity sheets, suggested student projects, and extended activities along with other sites to explore.

Give yourself enough time to feel comfortable with the materials and the World Wide Web environment before you do a Web activity with your students or start an online project. In other words, make haste slowly!

The Internet is a good place for

- locating information not available in textbooks or the classroom/school library
- finding and contacting experts in a particular subject area
- utilizing government information which is not easily accessible outside of the Internet to the general public
- sharing information with other teachers and/or students from anywhere in the world
- publishing students' work online
- obtaining timely information (breaking news)
- reducing professional isolation by helping teachers keep in contact with professional colleagues worldwide
- helping students retain material
- gaining maximum educational value with limited time commitment.

The Internet is not a good place to

- find summaries or quick overviews of a topic
- replace hands-on activities such as drawing, writing, building, etc., although it can supplement these activities
- have active face-to-face interaction with other students and teachers.

Safety Issues

Realize that the Internet is a neutral medium—culturally, racially, physically and with regard to gender. This can be an advantage to your students. However, the Internet has a dark side. It is also morally blind, making no judgements on what it passes on to the classroom screen. All you will know about the author of the data, or the other person you are communicating with, is what they reveal to you through the written message on the screen.

Just as we inform students about safety issues in dealing with strangers and potentially harmful situations outside the school, so too, we must let students know that there are some basic rules for online safety as well. The set of rules on page 14 was developed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (1-800-THE-LOST) and the Interactive Services Association. They are included in a pamphlet entitled: "Child Safety on the Information Highway."

Since many of the activities available on the Internet can be done outside of school hours, parents will need to assume supervision of their children's use of the Internet. Many districts have a form that parents are required to sign indicating that they know the school's policy on general computer usage and Internet use specifically. A meeting with parents would also be appropriate—especially if you intend to do some kind of online project with your class. Getting parental cooperation is an important component for any successful Internet experience.

Tips for Teachers

- Supervise students while they are online.

- If it is difficult to keep students away from unacceptable sites, consider creating your own list of sites and allowing the students to visit only these sites.

- Monitor e-mail communications. If someone sends you or one of your students an obscene or suggestive e-mail with the intent to harass or threaten, report this to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline at 1-800-843-5678 or **www.missingkids.com/cybertip**.

- Use an Internet filtering program or service such as Cyber Patrol, Bess, CYBERsitter, or Safe Net Plus. Note however, that it is not safe to assume a filter will block all inappropriate sites. Supervision is still necessary.

- Note the sites that students are visiting and periodically view them yourself to confirm that they are acceptable.

- Require students to obtain your permission before downloading anything off the Internet.

And in the interest of protecting yourself and your students…

- NEVER send confidential information over the Internet, including information about a student to a parent. Assume that any e-mail you send can be read by anyone on the Internet who has the tools and knowledge to access your e-mail.