



AACPS Digital Citizenship

Lesson Title: Homework Help in a Hurry

Grade 5

Time: 30 minutes

Overview: Students learn strategies for getting immediate help with their homework.

Objectives:

- Describe offline sources of homework help
- Review online homework help directories and databases

Materials:

Activity Sheet: *Homework Help in a Hurry*

Student Computer Access

Websites: Tech Connections

[Online Databases](#)

[Anne Arundel County Public Schools Approved Search Engines](#)

[Math Homework Help](#)

Maryland Technology Literacy Standards for Students (MTLSS)

Standard 5.0 – Technology for Information Use and Management: Students will use technology to locate, evaluate, gather, and organize information.

Activities:

- **Ask:** *What do you do when you don't know the meaning of a word in your vocabulary homework? When you have to find out your state flower? When you can't answer your math homework questions?* Allow students to share their strategies.
- Tell students that this lesson is about getting homework help they sometimes need in a hurry.
- Distribute the activity sheet.
- Read and discuss "Got a problem with your homework?"
- Emphasize that offline strategies should always be tried first, as they are likely to be the fastest and most helpful.
- Distribute the activity sheet, *Homework Help in a Hurry*
- Read and discuss "Got a problem with your homework?"
- Emphasize that offline strategies should always be tried first, as they are likely to be the fastest and most helpful.
- Read and discuss "Still having a problem?"
- If students are familiar with search engines and directories, point out that some homework sites are directories organized into school subject categories and that others are databases, or collections, of useful information.
- Explain that features on these sites often change and that new sites for homework help are constantly being developed. NOTE: The sites contained in this lesson are available from the

- Have students follow the directions on their activity sheet to go to Web Resources >Tech Resources > Digital Citizenship locate the links for this lesson.
- With the students, explore the site and answer the questions on their activity sheet. Explain that when they are outside of school an adult or older student can help them search and read the recommended help at any of these sites.
- Have students complete the instructions under "Problem Solved!" making sure that all the sites are represented with at least one ad.
- Discuss the "Be CyberSmart" tip, pointing out that each site offers many activities and that it takes some willpower to stick to the task of answering a specific homework question.

Closure:

- **Ask:** *What offline strategies can you use if you need help with your homework?* (Use a textbook; ask a classmate, adult, or older student.)
- **Ask:** *How can you use online homework sites to answer your questions?* (Search by subject and topic and look up facts in online references such as encyclopedias and atlases. Sometimes searching by grade is helpful.)

Extension:

- Have students create a Public Service Announcement about their favorite Homework site or sites. Students could use Photo Story, Smart Notebook software, Publisher.

Websites in this lesson:

Online Databases

<http://opac.aacps.org/databases.htm>

Anne Arundel County Public Schools Approved Search Engines

http://www.aacps.org/instructionaltech/searchengines_oit1.asp

Math Homework Help

<http://mathforum.org/dr.math/>

Name _____ Date _____

Homework Help in a Hurry

Got a problem with your homework?

- Try your textbook. Check the index or glossary. Look for sections of extra help.
- Try talking to a classmate. Two heads are better than one!
- Try asking an adult. Sometimes adults remember this stuff from when they were in school.
- Ask an older student or sibling. He or she had to do the same work not so long ago.

Be CyberSmart![®]

Beware of catching *link-itis*! That's when you follow links from one site to another and forget why you went online in the first place.

Let's look at some sites that could help with homework.

1. Go to Web Resources > Tech Connections > Digital Citizenship. Find title of the lesson. Click on one of its links. Explore the site. Answer the questions below.

What is the name of the site?

2. For which school projects will this site be useful?

3. What kind of homework does this site give? For example, it might have lessons to teach kids how to do math problems. Or, it might have maps of all the states.

Problem Solved! Create an ad to tell other students about one homework site. Tell them what is great about it. Tell them how to use it to solve homework problems.