

## Newsletter

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## Upcoming Distance Education Courses

We are offering two FREE online training courses in October and November. We offer Professional Growth Plan (PGP) points for each course.



Basic Moodle for Teachers (10 PGP Points) – A basic introduction to Moodle 2.5.2. You will learn how to build a classroom course and populate it with files, assignments and quizzes.

**Dates: October 22 – November 19**

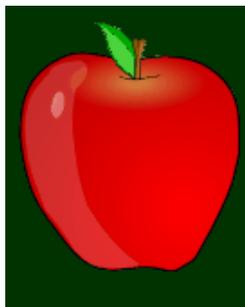


Intermediate Moodle for Teachers (10 PGP Points) – A continuation from the Basic Moodle for Teachers course. Choose this course if you already have Moodle experience and would like to learn how to use some of the more advanced features.

**Dates: October 24 – November 21**

Let us know if you have any questions or would like more details about the courses. All of the courses are completed online at your-own-pace during your own free time.

If you would like to register for a course, please visit the PRISM website ([www.rose-prism.org](http://www.rose-prism.org)), log in, and click the 'Event Registration' link. Use the drop-down menu to select the appropriate course and click the 'Registration Form' button. You will see a complete description of the course. To sign up, scroll down and enter your information. You should receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact us.



<http://www.teachersprintables.net>

## Teacher Printables

Free Teachers Printables are easy to download (in PDF or DOC format), customize (DOC version only), and print.

With Teachers Printables in PDF format, you can download and print attendance charts, lesson plan forms, school calendars, and more (requires Adobe Reader or another application that can read PDF files).

Customizable Teachers Printables are also available in DOC format (requires Micro-

soft Word, Google Docs, or another word processor that can open .DOC files.) You can download them, customize them on your computer, and then print them out.

449 teachers printables and classroom printables that you can download, customize, and print for free. Choose from attendance charts, grading sheets, lesson planning forms, parent communication forms, office passes, school calendars, and more.



<http://www.teachersfirst.com>

## TeachersFirst

TeachersFirst is a free, advertising-free teacher resource web site offered as a service to teachers by The Source for Learning, a non-profit learning and technologies corporation. Our value-added reviews and teacher-friendly site have been helping teachers since 1998, sharing the best of the web and our own original

content along with practical implementation ideas and best practices for effective integration of technology as a tool for teaching and learning. We have an international audience and a strong reputation for providing and recommending high quality resources.

TeachersFirst is written

and edited entirely by experienced, professional educators. All our resources are reviewed by teaching professionals with relevant experience. TeachersFirst's own units and lessons have been developed for actual classrooms, in consultation with practicing professionals or by the teachers themselves.



[http://www.figurethis.org/teacher\\_corner.htm](http://www.figurethis.org/teacher_corner.htm)

## Figure This: Teachers Corner

The rigors and demands of our increasingly complex, technologically dependent society have made high student achievement in mathematics a top priority among educators, policy makers, and employers. Today's citizens need more than basic computation and rote mathematical skills. They must master the higher-level concepts and approaches to problem solving that are key to success in work and everyday life.

To meet this need, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, in cooperation with the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Widmeyer Communications, and the Learning First Alliance, launched Figure This!

Figure This! demonstrates challenging middle school mathematics and emphasizes the importance of high-quality

math education for all students. Funding for the project was provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of Education.

Figure This! Mathematical challenges for families provide interesting math challenges that middle-school students can do at home with their families.



<http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?ID=189>

## KenKen

KenKen is a puzzle game that helps students improve their calculation skills, logical thinking and persistence. The goal is to fill a grid with numbers so that no number appears more than once in any row or column. In addition, the numbers must combine to form a target number using a specific operation.

Use the numbers 1 to  $n$  to fill an  $n \times n$  grid — for instance, use the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 to fill a  $4 \times 4$  grid — according to the following rules:

Every row and column must contain each number exactly once.

The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares, called a cage, must combine (in any order) to produce the target number using the mathematical operation indicated.

A number may be repeated within a cage, as long as it is not in the same row or column.

The solution to the puzzle will be unique. This page is updated with four new

KenKen puzzles daily and is provided in partnership with Nextoy, LLC.



<http://calculationnation.nctm.org/>

## Calculation Nation

Calculation Nation<sup>®</sup> uses the power of the Web to let students challenge opponents from anywhere in the world. At the same time, students are able to challenge themselves by investigating significant mathematical content and practicing fundamental skills. The element of competition adds an extra layer of excitement.

“The games on Calculation Nation<sup>®</sup> provide an entertaining environment where students can explore rich mathematics,” said Jim Rubillo, Executive Director of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). “Through these games, students are exposed to the same mathematical topics that they see in

class as well as those that are recommended in Curriculum Focal Points.”

Calculation Nation<sup>®</sup> is part of the NCTM Illuminations project, which offers Standards-based resources that improve the teaching and learning of mathematics for all students. Its materials illuminate the vision for school mathematics set forth in NCTM’s Principles and Standards for School Mathematics and Curriculum Focal Points.

Illuminations is also part of Thinkfinity.org, a comprehensive educational website funded by the Verizon Foundation to provide free educational resources to parents, teachers, and

students. Thinkfinity.org is the cornerstone of Verizon Foundation’s literacy, education and technology initiatives. The goal of Thinkfinity.org is to improve student achievement in traditional classroom settings and beyond by providing high-quality content and extensive professional development training.

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics is a public voice of mathematics education, providing vision, leadership and professional development to support teachers in ensuring equitable mathematics learning of the highest quality for all students.



<http://www.zygotebody.com/>

## Zygote Body

Zygote Body is a online, 3d browser of the human anatomy. Using a standard browser you can witness how this app really can help students learn the bones, muscles, organs, and other parts of the human anatomy.

Zygote Media Group, Inc. was founded in 1994 and has been creating the world's leading 3D anatomical products ever since.

3D anatomical products from Zygote have been seen in groundbreaking applications online, in broadcast television, films,

computer games, educational software, and in medical illustrations and animations.

Zygote is devoted to showing the world the beauty and miracle of human life through its 3D anatomy products.

Unlike other web based applications, no Flash, Java, or other plugins are needed. This application will run on any WebGL supported browser.



<http://www.google.com/sky/>

## Google Sky

Traveling to the stars has never been easier To help you explore the far reaches of our universe, we have teamed up with astronomers at some of the largest observatories in the world to bring you a new view of the sky. Using Google Maps this tool provides an exciting way to browse and explore the universe. You can find the positions of the planets and constellations on the

sky and even watching the birth of distant galaxies as seen by the Hubble Space Telescope.

We are particularly excited about the ability to view the universe at different wavelengths, to see how it would look if our eyes worked in the x-rays or infrared. As you explore these new layers, play with the transparency to blend between the

different wavelengths and see how different parts of the universe light up at different wavelengths

If you are interested in what's happening on the sky tonight or over the next few months then check out the podcasts from Earth and Sky or search for the position of your favorite planet.



<http://science.nasa.gov/iSat/>

## iSat

NASA has developed a great resource for tracking and viewing Earth satellite activity. Using the power of Bing Maps, the location and movement of all the satellites are tracked. Find a satellite that will be viewable in the night's sky.

The satellites are displayed based on their calculated positions in orbit. Hover your cursor over a satellite to see its name. Click on a satellite to bring up details about that satellite, including links to more information about it from Science.nasa.gov and National Space Science Data Center (NSSDC). Zoom in for a closer look at a satellite's orbit. Zoom out to see satellites in larger orbits and further distances from Earth.

## Upcoming Conferences

### The Professional Learning Communities at Work

The Professional Learning Communities at Work™ process is increasingly recognized as the most powerful strategy for sustained, substantive school improvement. This institute gives you and your team the knowledge and tools to implement this powerful process in your school or district.

For three days, you will have the opportunity to network with some of the most insightful minds in education, including the architects of the Professional Learning Communities at Work™ process. Presenters are accessible to you throughout the event.

The program includes time for questions during the breakout sessions, a panel of experts to address questions from the audience, and time for teams to reflect and seek the advice of the presenters. At the end of team time, you will focus on next action steps, with presenters on hand to guide you.

For those just beginning to explore PLCs, this is an excellent way to build your knowledge base. For those who are already involved in deep implementation, this institute is the perfect opportunity to revisit your mission, introduce new team members to the process, and get answers to new questions.

As you delve deep into the three big ideas of a PLC—focus on learning, build a collaborative culture, and results orientation—you will gain specific, practical, and inspiring strategies for transforming your school or district into a place where all students learn at high levels.

To sign up, visit their website at:

<http://www.solution-tree.com/events/institutes/plc-at-work-institute-cff341.html>

## What PRISM Can Do For You!

- Easily find the perfect teaching and learning resources from our library of over 4,000.
- Save a list of your favorite resources for quick retrieval.
- Create and share lesson plans that teach your subjects utilizing your favorite resources.
- Develop online classrooms with interactive assignments, lessons, quizzes and more!
- Store your classroom materials online so that they are available to you from any computer.
- Reach your students more effectively by using web media for the digital age.
- Earn PGP points by completing PRISM led online Moodle course – either Beginning Moodle or Intermediate Moodle courses are available to you at no cost several times throughout the year.
- Select from free learning resources that emphasize visualization, rich context, staged-problem solving, and electronically enabled collaboration / communication.
- Augment your own dynamic presence in the classroom with teaching tools that mirror the skills needed for success in higher education and the 21st Century workplace.

*Through our strong support from the **Lilly Endowment** and others, we are constantly growing and improving. Check our site regularly to see what new resources you can use in your classroom.*

**[www.rose-prism.org](http://www.rose-prism.org)**



PRISM is a free website that provides collections of online resources for Indiana educators in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The primary collection of digital teaching materials is indexed according to the Indiana Academic Standards for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade and secondary education courses.