



Wikipedia is celebrating its 25th anniversary! (January 15, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? A special day to celebrate Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia that everyone can consult... and even improve!

Who? The millions of users, readers, and volunteers who write, edit, and update articles.

Where? All over the world, especially online, since Wikipedia exists in more than 300 languages.

When? Every year, on January 15. In 2026, Wikipedia will celebrate its 25th anniversary.

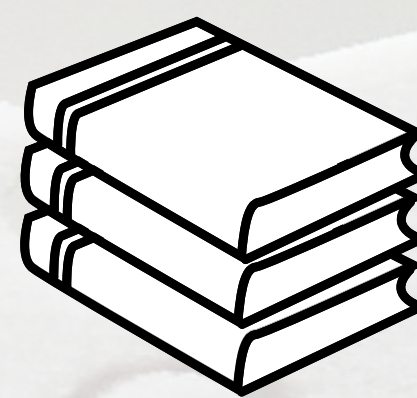
Why is it important? Because Wikipedia is one of the most widely used sites in the world for learning, fact-checking, discovering new topics, and sharing knowledge for free.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn a little more about Wikipedia!



OBJECTIVES

- Understand what Wikipedia is and how it works.
- Discover the principle of collaborative knowledge.
- Compare data between different language versions.
- Learn to verify the reliability of online information.
- Explain reasoning clearly and in a structured way.



SUBJECTS

- **Mathematics**
 - Data comparison
 - Simple calculations (differences, multiplications)
 - Reading tables
- **English**
 - Reading instructions
 - Comprehension of informational texts
 - Written explanation of reasoning
- **General knowledge**
 - Discovering a global digital tool
 - Reference to an anniversary and an international phenomenon
 - Media and information literacy



COMPETENCIES

- Read and interpret geographical maps
- Search for and select relevant information
- Compare territories on a global scale
- Justify an answer using observed data
- Develop critical thinking on current issues



DURATION

- About 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Show the Wikipedia logo or an image representing the encyclopedia.
- Ask the students:
 - "Have you ever used Wikipedia? What for?"
 - "Who do you think writes the articles on Wikipedia?"
- Allow for a few spontaneous answers before starting the activity.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — What is Wikipedia? Watching of a video and answer three comprehension questions.

Q1 — Articles are written by volunteers from all over the world. They are monitored, corrected, and sourced by many contributors.

Q2 — Around 300,000 each month.

Q3 — Around 16 billion (16,000,000,000).

STEP 2 — Wikipedia in Numbers. Calculations (subtraction, division) using statistical data and reflection on this data.

Q4 — $7,122,489 - 2,732,521 = 4,389,968$. Wikipedia contains many more articles in English than in French (approximately 7.1 million versus 2.7 million).

Q5 — $51,063,573 \div 5,576,084 = 9.15$. There are approximately nine times more English-speaking contributors than French-speaking contributors.

Q6 — $826 \div 143 = 5.77$. There are approximately six times more English-speaking administrators.

Q7 — English is a global language, used by many more people to write and share information.

STEP 3 — Finding the right Information, and the Right One! Research of an article of your choice and examination of the validity of its sources.

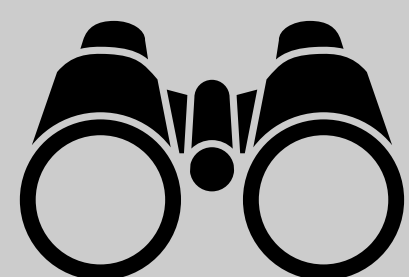
Various answers.

WRAPPING UP



- Reviewing what we learned: What did we discover on Wikipedia?
- Ask the students what surprised them about how the site works.
- Remind them that Wikipedia is a very useful tool, but that it's always important to learn how to verify information, on this site as elsewhere.

FURTHER EXPLORATION



 *Spotting Fake News.* National Geographic
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/fake-news>

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DID YOU KNOW?

Wiki comes from the Hawaiian word **wikiwiki**, which means "**quick**." When the creators of the internet invented the first websites that anyone could easily edit, they chose this word to show that changes could be made quickly and easily.

Ward Cunningham, creator of the first wiki in 1995, chose this word after seeing the "**Wiki** **shuttle**" at Honolulu Airport, the capital of the U.S. state of Hawaii.

The first site of this type was called **WikiWikiWeb**, to emphasize how quickly pages could be edited.



THE WIKIPEDIA RACE



Instructions

1. Start on the indicated starting article.
2. Your goal is to reach the finish article.
3. You may **only click on links within Wikipedia articles**.
4. You are not allowed to use the search bar.
5. Note the path you have followed (the articles visited).
6. The goal is to reach the finish line in the fewest clicks.

Example!

Starting article: Cat

Arrival article: Ancient Egypt

Possible path: Cat → Pet → Civilization → Ancient Egypt

🚩 **Course 1 — Animals & Nature** 🐻🌍

Difficulty: Easy
Start: Penguin
Finish: Ice Floe
 Maximum 6 clicks.

🚩 **Race 2 — Pop Culture & Sport** 🎵⚽

Level: Intermediate
Start: Football
Finish: Olympic Games
 Maximum 4 clicks

🚩 **Race 3 — Total Surprise** 🤖

Level: Challenge
Start: Pizza
Finish: Space
 The fewest clicks possible!