



Scholastic *Expert Space*

Expert Space is the new online curriculum supplement that combines a rich collection of leveled content with sophisticated learning tools to help all students access information, build content-area knowledge, and develop key information literacy skills. In addition, educators can use *Expert Space* to digitally supplement the science and social studies curriculum and prepare students for success in the 21st century.

Instructional Content

Expert Space includes over one hundred content bundles and 120,000 articles that cover 100% of the National Essential Skills in science and social studies. Reading supports include anchored videos, leveled text, read-alouds, and Spanish translations that make content accessible to all students. Interactive quizzes and an online reward system help to motivate students.

Expert Space presents information via content bundles, or *xSpaces*, which include key topics in science and social studies. The 100 *xSpaces*—50 in science and 50 in social studies—were designed based on a National Survey of teachers, review of state standards, and topics most commonly covered in science and social studies textbooks. Each *xSpace* follows the same format in order to make the content accessible to all students.

1. **Anchor Videos**—Before students begin reading any information on a topic, they will view an anchor video. Research shows that when students have a mental model about a topic their reading comprehension improves. Each *xSpace* features a short 90-120 second overview video on the topic to build background knowledge.
2. **Feature Articles**—Next students will read the feature article on the topic. Each feature article is written on three reading levels so that students can study the same topic using the same resource, regardless of their reading abilities. Level One is written on a 600-800 Lexile® level; Level Two is written on an 800-1000 Lexile® level; and Level Three is written on a 1000-1200 Lexile® level. The article is also available in Spanish so that English Language Learners can read the feature article in their native language.
3. **Read-alouds**—Students are able to hear every *Expert Space* nonfiction article read aloud.
4. **Dive Deeper Section**—This section is designed to extend learning on each topic. Here students will find additional articles, video, slide shows, web links, interactive timelines and much more to extend their learning on the topic.
5. **Explore More Section**—This section provides a comprehensive list of all the *Expert Space* articles on the topic.
6. **Project Ideas Section**—Finally, we want students to apply this new knowledge to a short assignment or project so we provide journal prompts, opinion essays, and more to give students a chance to reflect on what they have learned. Teachers might also choose to use these as homework assignments, class projects or longer term papers or projects.

Instructional Design


Expert Space is completely web-based and can be accessed anywhere students have an Internet connection. As a trusted home base, students can find information, complete assignments, and manage projects in school, the library, as well as at home. Teachers can use *Expert Space* to supplement the science and social studies curriculum or to build information literacy skills. Librarians can use the program to support researchers and homeschoolers and make connections to the local school curriculum.

Expert Space includes several interactive learning tools that will help students build the information literacy skills necessary for secondary education.

- Personal Digital Locker—Students can save and manage links to articles, websites, images, or any web-based information that they deem relevant to their assignments. They can also store note cards, outlines, or other documents that they create electronically.
- The Assignment Planning Wizard and Calendar help students plan projects and stay on task. This unique planning tool asks students to identify a goal for their project, as well as sources of information. After they have identified this key information, the program guides them in creating a calendar of key due dates for each project requirement, such as note cards, outlines, rough draft, and final project. Students can also include dates for other activities and obligations that might impact meeting their deadlines. After students have started a new assignment, each time they log on to *Expert Space* they will be given an update on the status of their project. The system will also provide prompts on what the student might consider working on next.
- Skill Builder Tutorials—Students can watch a short animated tutorial on the best practices in each of eight 21st century information literacy skills, including taking notes, evaluating sources, setting goals, citing sources, and more. Educators may choose to use these tutorials to teach skills in the language arts classroom, content-area classroom, or school library. Students can also use the *Skill Builders* independently as they work on their assignment.
- Online Note Taker—This feature allows students to synthesize and organize information onto digital note cards for easy reference. As students use the web-based information to research, they record notes on digital note cards. The note card tool allows students to provide a title for their research, use a direct quote, or paraphrase information. Each time a student creates a new note card, before it can be saved, the program will prompt the student to add a source or citation. Further, each article within *Expert Space* will be cited in one of three ways—Chicago Manual of Style, APA, and MLA—so students can learn how to create a citation. The *Skill Builders* will teach students when they should attribute information to a source. All of the citations that are entered on the note cards will automatically populate a bibliography that a student can print and submit as part of their assignment. Finally, students can digitally sort and organize their note cards to begin forming a project outline.
- The Outline Builder—The note cards will help to populate a project outline. A student is always able to change the hierarchy or order of information presented in the outline.
- Dictionary/Atlas—*Expert Space* features five dictionaries, including one Spanish-English dictionary and one English-Spanish dictionary, as well as two thesauri. The program also includes an interactive atlas that will help build geography and map skills.

Professional Resources

The *Educator View* allows teachers and librarians to search for lesson plans, find articles and resources correlated to state standards, and search for articles by a Lexile® range to help differentiate instruction. Educators will also have access to the full suite of content and learning project tools.

 For more information about *Expert Space*, please refer to www.scholastic.com/expertspace.