

Examples of online games

A simple starting point for finding games are sites you would go to for more general teaching resources, such as:

the National Trust
(<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/learninganddiscovery/interactive/default/index.htm>)

Ordnance Survey (<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/freefun/>)

Museums (e.g. <http://www.show.me.uk/games/games.html> which links to individual museum games, or directly, e.g. <http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/onlinestuff/games/>).

Alternatively, a number of sites have been identified by teachers who responded to a survey around games-based learning or were identified by Futurelab directly. This is not a comprehensive list of games, even online games, that could be used, but it is a starting point for finding appropriate games.

Suitable for primary and secondary students

<http://eu.spore.com/home.cfm?lang=en> – The free Creature Creator download in Spore is a tool for creating your own creature based on the commercial game. You can assemble your creature from a wide range of parts using a drag-and-drop interface. Creatures can be animated and shared. It could be used as an exercise in adapting animals for certain habitats defined by the teacher as part of science, as a stimulus for creative writing.

www.mathszone.co.uk – This site brings together maths puzzles, games and quizzes in one place catering for KS1–4.

<http://www.linerider.com/> – This is a puzzle game with a large creative element requiring the player to create landscapes around which the ‘linerider’ can travel.

www.miniclip.com – This site has lots of different games: some puzzle, some platform type. It could be aimed at a range of age groups although the games are not necessarily directly related to classroom subjects.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/games/> – The BBC site has a wide range of quiz and simulation games categorised for different subject groups and age groups from 4 to 16+.

<http://www.ramogames.com/> – This site brings together various games with an educational value, whether in the form of testing specific skills (maths, reading) or integrating real-world learning. The games are categorised by subject (not age), and not linked to the UK national curriculum.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Games/> – The National Geographic site has an extensive range of quiz games, adventure/strategy games and race type games. These are mostly geography based and it is a well produced site with lots of variety.

Aimed at primary students

<http://www.linguascope.com/preview/> – This is a selection of language quiz games including beginner and intermediate levels in French, Spanish, German, Italian and English. These are very simple games for learning vocabulary.

www.counnton.org – This website has a variety of games for primary level, including code breaking, telling the time, memory games and maths puzzles.

<http://www.tickettoread.com/> – A US based primary level reading challenge website where you read passages, learn words and answer quizzes about your reading to collect points. You build up points to spend on items for your 'clubhouse'.

<http://mapzone.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/games.html> – The games on this geography based website are divided into three categories: action, logic and jigsaw. The games appear to be designed for older primary level (KS2).

<http://CoolMath4kids.com> – This website has a wide selection of maths based quizzes and games for primary level.

<http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/> – This website has literacy and numeracy puzzles and quiz games (e.g. spelling, multiplication) for primary level.

<http://www.interactivestuff.org/sums4fun/colquiz.html> – Addition puzzle games where colours are filled in on a picture when you get an addition correct.

<http://www.prongo.com/games/> – This website has a comprehensive selection of puzzles and quizzes for primary and pre-school age groups.

<http://www.thekidzpage.com/learninggames/index.htm> – This website has a selection of puzzles and quizzes for primary and pre-school age including the following categories: maths and numbers, educational word games, picture games, Sudoku games and object matching games.

<http://www.funbrain.com/> – This site contains a selection of mostly primary level puzzle and quiz type games for maths and literacy as well as some purely 'fun' arcade style games. All the games are short but well produced and with good graphics.

Aimed at secondary students

<http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk> – This site contains quizzes based on KS3 and KS4 history subjects. Students also have the opportunity to build their own quizzes.

<http://www.catchmentdetox.net.au/> – This is quite a complex secondary level simulation game looking in detail at the geographic features of a river catchment.

<http://www.stopdisastersgame.org/en/home.html> – A simulation strategy game from the UN where you must stop disasters from occurring by building defences against natural disasters.

<http://www.theproblemsite.com/> – A comprehensive site for downloading free puzzles daily. There are a wide variety and choice of subjects including general logic and puzzle games.

Designed in the US

The following have been used by UK teachers but were designed for American students

<http://funschool.kaboose.com/> – This is a dynamic and well produced US site with a wide range of puzzle, quiz and adventure games. Mostly it caters for pre-school and primary. Also includes relevant content for celebrations, seasons and events.

<http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/> – This is a US-centric site with games for a range of ages categorised by subject. Spelling and geography, for example, might present some problems for teachers in the UK because of American differences.

<http://www.vocabulary.co.il/> – US vocabulary building site with a range of games which could prove problematic due to differences between US and British English.

<http://www.SpellingCity.com/> – This site has a US spelling puzzle games for primary level.

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web_games_menu.htm – This is a US site with a selection of quiz games and puzzles across age groups. There may be problems between British and US English.

<http://www.primarygames.com/> – A very US centric site with a selection of simulation, puzzles and quiz games for primary and older children.