

# Using Wikipedia in Schools



Open Source Schools

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# What is Wikipedia?

- Freely accessible online encyclopaedia
- ~3 million articles in English
- Plus 8 million more in 264 other languages
- All content “open source”
- Written by >95,000 pseudonymous contributors
- Operated by the US charity, the “Wikimedia Foundation”

Welcome to **Wikipedia**,  
the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.  
2,959,577 articles in English

- |             |               |               |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| ■ Arts      | ■ History     | ■ Society     |
| ■ Biography | ■ Mathematics | ■ Technology  |
| ■ Geography | ■ Science     | ■ All portals |

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### Today's featured article



**Nevado del Ruiz** is the northernmost volcano of the Andean Volcanic Belt, lying about 129 kilometers (80 mi) west of Bogotá in the Tolima Department of Colombia. It is a stratovolcano, composed of many layers of lava alternating with hardened volcanic ash and other pyroclastic rocks.

Nevado del Ruiz has been active for about two million years, since the early Pleistocene or late Pliocene epoch, with three major eruptive periods. The current volcanic cone formed during the "present" eruptive period, which began 150 thousand years ago. Nevado del Ruiz usually generates Plinian eruptions, which produce swift-moving currents of hot gas and rock called pyroclastic flows. These eruptions often cause massive lahars (mud and debris flows), which pose a threat to human life and the environment. On November 11, 1985, a small eruption produced an enormous lahar that buried and desolated the town of Armero in Tolima Department, causing an estimated 23,000 deaths. This event later became known as the *Armero tragedy*—the deadliest lahar in recorded history. The volcano is part of Los Nevados National Park, which also contains several other volcanoes. The summit of Nevado del Ruiz is covered by large glaciers, although these have retreated significantly since 1985 due to atmospheric warming. (more...)

Recently featured: *The Age of Reason* – Port Chicago disaster – Domitian

[Archive](#) – [By email](#) – [More featured articles...](#)

### Did you know...

*From Wikipedia's newest articles:*

### In the news

- **Paul Biyoghé Mba** becomes Prime Minister of Gabon (*coat of arms pictured*) after Jean Eyeghe Ndong resigns to launch his presidential campaign.
- **Bombings** in Jakarta, Indonesia, kill at least nine people and injure at least 50 others.
- In Iceland, after five days of debate the *Althing* votes by a narrow majority to apply for membership of the European Union.
- The body of Russian human rights activist **Natalia Estemirova** is found in Ingushetia after her abduction in Chechnya.
- **Caspian Airlines Flight 7908**, a scheduled commercial flight from Tehran, Iran, to Yerevan, Armenia, crashes shortly after takeoff with 168 people on board.



[Wikinews](#) – [Recent deaths](#) – [More current events...](#)

### On this day...

#### 19 July: Burmese Martyrs' Day

- 711 – According to estimations made by historian David Levering Lewis, Muslim Arabs and Berbers led by Tariq ibn Ziyad defeated Roderic and the Visigoths at the



# Class notes

- You can freely quote Wikipedia in your class notes
- Background information on topics
- Specific information
- Images

# Copyright

- All content – text, images\*, video – free to reuse
- Published under CC-BY-SA
- Must be attributed
- Derivative work must be open licensed
- \* some images are “Fair Use”

Following the inauguration of Barack Obama, Bush and his family boarded a presidential helicopter typically used as [Marine One](#) to travel to [Andrews Air Force Base](#).

Bush, with his wife, then boarded an Air Force [Boeing VC-25](#) for a flight to a homecoming celebration in [Midland, Texas](#). Because he was no longer President, this flight was designated Special Air Mission 28000, instead of [Air Force One](#).

After a welcome rally in Midland, the Bushes returned to their ranch in [Crawford, Texas](#) by helicopter. They bought a home in the [Preston Hollow](#) neighborhood of [Dallas, Texas](#), where they planned to settle down.

His first speaking engagement will occur on March 17, 2009 in [Calgary, Alberta](#). He will be speaking at a private event titled "A conversation with George W. Bush" at the [Telus Convention Centre](#).

## See also

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- [Electoral history of George W. Bush](#)
- [George W. Bush's nicknames](#)
- [Political positions of George W. Bush](#)
- [Bushisms](#)
- [List of George W. Bush legislation and programs](#)
- [Historical rankings of United States Presidents](#)

## External links

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- [Official White House biography](#)
- [George W. Bush Presidential Center](#)
- [Archived White House website - National Archives and Records Administration](#), maintains content from January 20, 2009\*[Extensive essay on George W. Bush and shorter essays on each member of his cabinet and First Lady fr.](#)

# Static Versions

- Wikipedia contains sexually explicit, violent language and is subject to vandalism
- Not necessarily child-safe particularly for young children
- There is a child suitable static version
- <http://schools-wikipedia.org/>
- Twenty volumes, 5k articles 34k images
- Free download or free DVD



**WIKIPEDIA**  
The Free Encyclopedia

## Subjects

Art

Business Studies

Citizenship

Countries

Design and Technology

Everyday life

Geography

History

Information Technology

Language and literature

Mathematics

Music

People

Portals

Religion

Science

## Title Word Index

You can download a  
copy of this web site

**Download**

# 2008/9 Wikipedia Selection for schools

Welcome to this **Wikipedia Selection**. This 2008/9 Wikipedia DVD Selection is a free, hand-checked, non-commercial selection from Wikipedia, targeted around the UK National Curriculum and useful for much of the English speaking world. It has about 5500 articles (as much as can be fitted on a DVD with good size images) and is about the size of a **twenty volume encyclopaedia** (34,000 images and 20 million words).

Wikipedia is the free encyclopaedia anyone can edit, and develops accurate content but suffers vandalism. Wikipedia is not necessarily a childsafe environment and has "adult" content. This selection of topics have been carefully chosen, tidied up, and checked for vandalism and suitability (by SOS Children volunteers, whom we gratefully acknowledge). We also gratefully acknowledge the Wikimedia Foundation for their support and their agreement to our use of the Wikipedia logo, and tens of thousands of contributors to Wikipedia who have written and researched the content in the first place, including this year adding content where gaps in the school curriculum were not covered.

The content is available for free download from the [SOS Children website](http://soschildren.org) or as a 3.5GB free DVD. The content includes a shortened copy of the [SOS Children website](http://soschildren.org) with details of projects in 123 countries. This selection is also browsable online at <http://schools-wikipedia.org/>. The content is covered by [various disclaimers and licences](#).



## How to Navigate

The content can be navigated using a **pictorial subject index**, or a **title word index** of all topics.

This Selection includes thirty "Portal Pages", which give a brief overview of a topic and list some key articles within it. For example: [Portal for Ancient Greece](#), [Portal for Physics](#), [Portal for Medieval Britain](#), [the Food Portal](#) or the [Bangladesh Portal](#). You can use the indexes to find your way around but the best way is perhaps to pick an article and follow the links to other topics embedded in the text. For example, good starting places are [Africa](#), [The Solar System](#), [Tsunami](#) or [Apple](#).

## How the content was selected and checked

Topics were chosen for interest to children, by relevance to the National Curriculum and including much of the very best of Wikipedia. The selection is vast, and covers core subjects but does not try to be uniformly detailed: for example it has more depth on Llandudno, which is featured in the curriculum, than other similar places.

Articles were chosen from a list ranked by importance and quality generated by project members. This list of articles was then manually sorted for relevance to children, and adult topics were removed. Compared to the 2007 version some six hundred articles were removed and two thousand more relevant articles (of now adequate quality) were added. SOS Children volunteers then checked and tidied up the contents, first by selecting historical versions of articles free from vandalism and then by removing unsuitable sections. External links and references are also not included since it was infeasible to check all of these.

Please note that Wikipedia's policies are that content has to be verifiable and based on recognised reliable sources. We have not included references and sources in this selection, but you can check them at Wikipedia online if you have any questions.



# Reliability

- Perception - “amateur, unreliable, full of vandalism”
- Actually – accuracy “close to Britannica”
- Even Britannica has errors
- Articles list sources
- Wikipedia is a great study in critical assessment of sources

# Active learning

- Active learning leads to improved understanding, longer retention
- Grabs interest and attention
- Give your students a project: research, write a Wikipedia article
- Your area, city, subject area?
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WP:SUP>

# Blocked access?

- Anyone can edit
- Some edits are un-constructive
- One tool to address this is blocking
- How to edit while the school is blocked?
  - Create an account
  - Monitor abuse through RSS
  - Can email unblock request

# Other Wikimedia Projects

- Commons – 5m image & media library
- Wikibooks – 40,000 educational textbooks
- Wikiversity – 10,000 lectures, course notes, activities etc.
- WikiSpecies – 200,000 living organisms
- Wiktionary – 1m definitions and translations
- Also: Wikiquote, Wikisource, Wikinews, MediaWiki

*Réalisez!*  
*French, just one book away...*



*Allons-y!*

Wikibooks

# French Language Course

From **Wikibooks**,

the open-content textbooks collection

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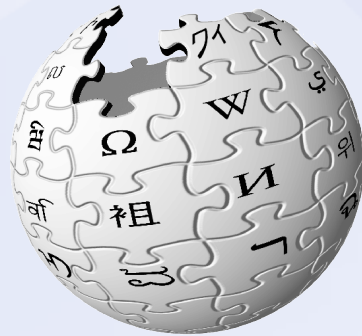
## Contents

- 004 - Lessons
  - 005 - Introductory lessons
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# Get involved

- Wikimedia UK is the local chapter
- Promote use of the sites
- Generate material
- Public relations
- Join us for just £1 per month

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