

Guided Tour

A Virtual School guide to
getting started with
Britannica



Britannica Digital Learning

Select learning for any level.



Foundation ▼



Intermediate ▼



Advanced ▼

Our highly reputable editorial team, expertly create content at three levels to support pupils at every level of education.

Clicking on each of these levels will take you directly to the respective homepage.

“A safe world in which vulnerable children within the care of a Local Authority can still find out the truth without bias or fake news. A place where they can stay safe on the internet whilst still getting the same level of engagement.”

Darren Martindale,
Wolverhampton Virtual School

Britannica and Virtual Schools

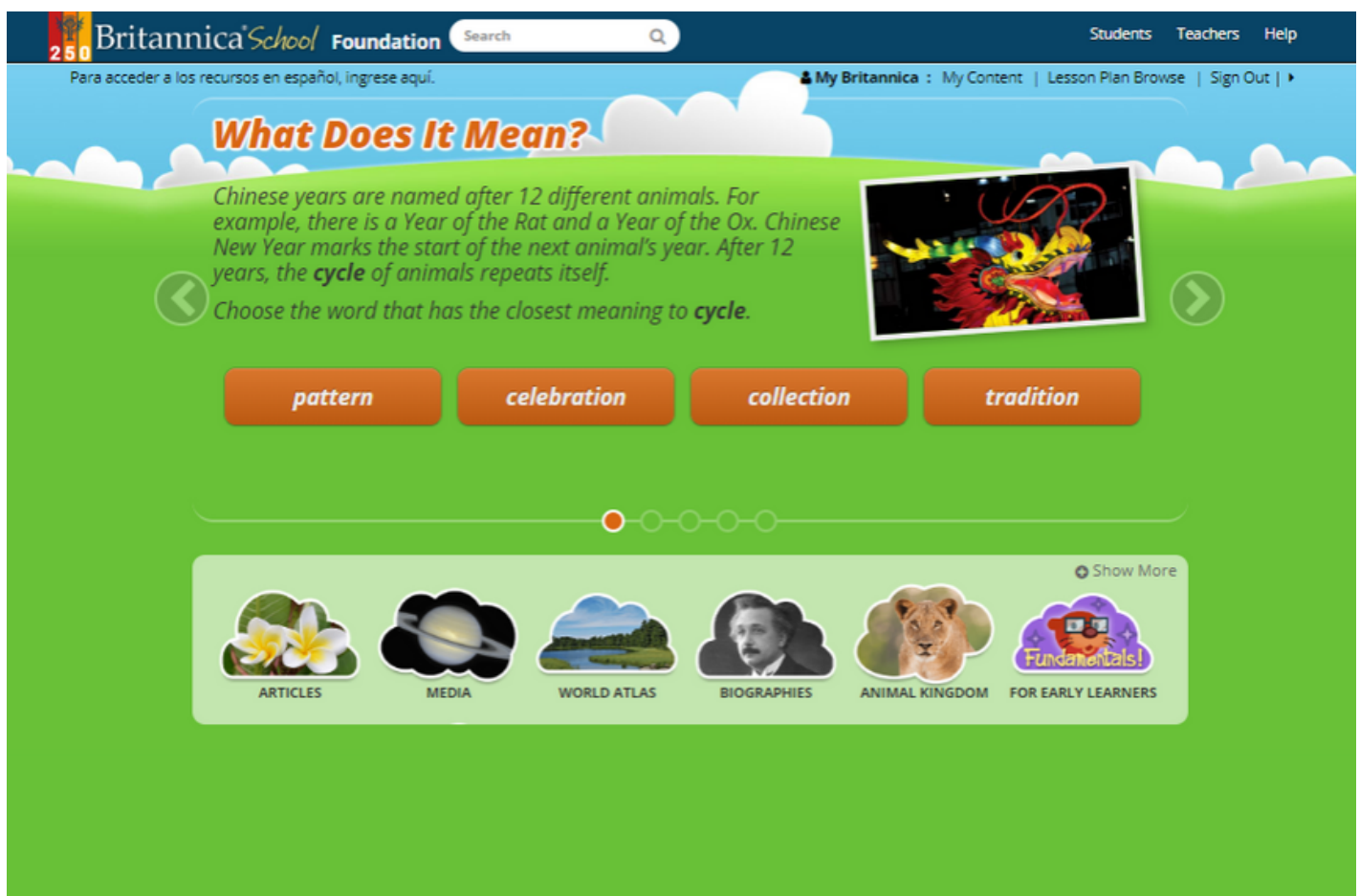


Britannica Digital Learning has been working in partnership with Virtual Schools across the UK since 2014 to help support the challenges that looked after children and young people face when online. We know it is important for you as carers to feel assured that those in your care are using a safe, reliable website and one that they are able to explore independently and unsupervised.

For 250 years, Encyclopaedia Britannica's editorial team have collaborated with experts, scholars and specialists to produce trusted content. Through working closely with authorities, carers, parents and educators we have been able to adapt this for the new generation of digital learners.

Foundation Level

Built and designed with younger learners in mind, the engaging and eye-catching colours and images help to grasp and keep their attention. Regularly updated content makes the homepage the perfect place to find unique activities and discussion points.



Features Shortcuts

Allow young children the freedom to explore Britannica independently! Use the World Atlas to go on a virtual tour around the world, explore the Animal Kingdom or just enjoy some fun and games in Britannica Fundamentals

Global Awareness

We believe it is crucial for children to gain an understanding of the world in which they live, not only through the content that we provide but also through engagement with current affairs around the world. From the homepage, children have access to the CBBC news headlines so that they regularly discuss and engage with up to date news.

Intermediate Level

Content and format is adapted for a more mature child, however, resources can be used in a similar way - to inspire curiosity, engage in discussion and encourage independent learning. Additional features on the intermediate level include the Daily Buzzword, a tool designed to develop young peoples' vocabulary, and news headlines powered now by the BBC.

The screenshot shows the Britannica School Intermediate website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the Britannica School logo, a search bar, and links for Students, Teachers, and Help. Below the header, a light blue banner contains the text "Para acceder a los recursos en español, ingrese aquí." and "My Britannica : My Content | Lesson Plan Browse | Sign Out |". The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, the "Daily Buzzword" section features the word "agile" with its definition, pronunciation, and usage examples. Below this is the "Can You Guess?" section with three image-based questions. On the right, the "Explore Britannica" sidebar lists various resources like Articles, Images and Videos, Biographies, World Atlas, Compare Countries, Tour Europe, My Content, and Lesson Plan Browse. At the bottom, there are two more sections: "Compare Countries" and "Explore Biographies".

Britannica School Intermediate Search

Students Teachers Help

Para acceder a los recursos en español, ingrese aquí. My Britannica : My Content | Lesson Plan Browse | Sign Out |

Daily Buzzword

agile adjective \AJ-u\l

What does it mean?

- 1 : able to move quickly and easily
- 2 : nimble
- 3 : mentally quick

How do you use it?

Jenna looked as **agile** as a cat as she made her way through the obstacle course to win the race.

Can You Guess?

Which 15th-century Italian artist designed a batlike flying machine?

Why is the Atlantic the saltiest ocean?

What is amber?

Explore Britannica

- ARTICLES
- IMAGES AND VIDEOS
- BIOGRAPHIES
- WORLD ATLAS
- COMPARE COUNTRIES
- TOUR EUROPE
- MY CONTENT
- LESSON PLAN BROWSE

Compare Countries

Norway and Sweden have similar forms of government.

Explore Biographies

Biography of the day: Crazy Horse

Compare Countries

The Compare Countries feature is powered by the World Bank meaning that these statistics are constantly updated and reliable. Use this feature to support global awareness and understanding of other countries around the world through non-bias, factual information.

Biographies

The perfect starting point for young people to begin enquiry into people of a specific era or occupation. From the influential to the infamous, this feature will provide the facts, not the opinions. .

Advanced Level

Content at the Advanced Level is designed to be of relevance to young people in Higher Education. Features such as Flash Facts and In Their Words are designed to develop critical thinking and mature debates. The news headlines are now powered through both BBC and The New York Times so as to allow young people scope to consider different perspectives.

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BritannicaSchool

Advanced

Search

Students Teachers Help

Para acceder a los recursos en español, ingrese aquí.

My Britannica : My Content | Lesson Plan Browse | Sign Out | ▶

"Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard."

H.L. Mencken (born September 12, 1880—died January 29, 1956)

GIVE ME ANOTHER QUOTE

FLASH FACTS

ON THIS DAY

IN THEIR WORDS

SCIENCE IN PICTURES

ARTICLE BROWSE

WORLD ATLAS

BIOGRAPHIES

TOUR EUROPE

COMPARE COUNTRIES

MY CONTENT

MEDIA BROWSE

EXPLORE BIOGRAPHIES

Read more about the lives of the important, the influential, and the infamous.

Era

Cultural Associati...

Known for


Gender

Go!

RECOMMENDED PRIMARY SOURCES


Find letters, speeches, and other primary

FLASH FACTS




Aurman Joshua Strong/U.S. Air Force

What Causes the Northern Lights?



© Chris Kruger/Shutterstock.com

Scientists Identify Four Species of Giraffes



© blueringmedia/istock

What's the Difference Between Veins and Arteries?

Media Browse

Explore a wide range of high quality multimedia resources to support research and develop understanding of a topic. This content varies to cover every corner of interest, from architecture, to life processes or sports.

Primary Sources

Crucial to any successful research project is evidence of using both Primary and Secondary Sources. Here, young people have direct access to letters, speeches and other primary source material to broaden their research further.

Supporting Young People's Learning

Reading Levels

Support young people by changing the level of an article dependent on their ability. Changing to a lower level means that the text will be shorter and vocabulary more simple.

Multimedia

Young people have access to a large range of high quality images and videos. These can be used to support their understanding and engagement with a topic or for discussion points!

The screenshot shows the Britannica School Intermediate website. At the top, there's a search bar with 'cells' entered. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Level 1', 'Level 2', and 'Level 3'. The main content area displays search results for 'cells'. The first result is 'cell (biology)' with a star icon. Below it, there's a brief definition: 'cell | The smallest unit of living matter that can exist by itself is the cell. Some organisms, such as bacteria, consist of only a single cell. Others, ...'. The second result is 'plant (biology)' with a star icon and a note 'TOP 3 RESULTS. 18 MORE RESULTS IN PLANT.'. Below this, there are three sub-headers: 'Complex tissues', 'Plant Cells and Tissues', and 'Sexual Reproduction', each with a brief description. At the bottom of the search results, there are several images related to the search, including a diagram of a plant cell and a diagram of a human cell. On the left side of the page, there is a vertical menu with icons for 'ARTICLES', 'IMAGES', 'VIDEOS', 'DICTIONARY', 'JOURNALS', 'WEB'S BEST SITES', 'PRIMARY SOURCES / E-BOOKS', 'YEAR IN REVIEW', and 'LESSON PLANS'.

Literacy Support

We have put tools in place to support developing and reluctant readers. Use the Read Aloud tool to highlight the text whilst a neutral voice guides the young person through the text. Next, double click a word for the dictionary definition of that word!

Translation Tool

Support your young person's English language development by translating content into their first language and then hovering over the translation to view the original text.

The screenshot shows the Britannica School Intermediate website with the article 'cell' selected. The article is at the 'Level 1' reading level. The main content area displays the 'Introduction' section of the article. It starts with a definition: 'The smallest unit of living matter that can exist by itself is the cell. Some organisms, such as bacteria, consist of only a single cell. Others, such as humans and oak trees, are composed of many billions of cells.' This is followed by a paragraph about cell shapes and sizes: 'Cells exist in a variety of shapes and sizes. Red blood cells are disk-shaped, while some skin cells resemble cubes. A single cell could be as large as a tennis ball or so small that thousands would fit on the period at the end of this sentence. Regardless of size, however, every cell contains the components needed to maintain life. Cells normally function with great efficiency, though they are vulnerable to disease. (See also cancer; disease; human; virus.)' The next paragraph discusses cell size measurement: 'Cell size is usually measured in microns. A micron is equal to about one millionth of a meter, and about 25,000 microns equal 1 inch. The smallest bacteria are about 0.2 micron in diameter. The diameter of the average human cell is roughly 10 microns, making it barely visible without a microscope.' The article continues with a paragraph about cytology and molecular biology. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Prokaryotes and Eukaryotes' with a brief introduction. On the left side of the page, there is a vertical menu with icons for 'ARTICLES', 'IMAGES', 'VIDEOS', 'DICTIONARY', 'JOURNALS', 'WEB'S BEST SITES', 'PRIMARY SOURCES / E-BOOKS', 'YEAR IN REVIEW', and 'LESSON PLANS'. The article also includes a diagram of a cell and a list of related resources.

Challenging Young People's Learning

Reading Levels

Young people can also challenge themselves by increasing the reading level of a text. This will mean that the content becomes more details and vocabulary more complex.

Related

Encourage young people to expand their interest and develop their understanding by clicking on the related tab! Doing this will take them to further resources on a topic.

Britannica School Intermediate

cell

Article Images & Videos Related Teacher

[+] Expand All

- Introduction
- Prokaryotes and Eukaryotes
- Cell Structure
- How Cells Divide
- Specialized Cells
- History of Cell Theory

RELATED RESOURCES FOR THIS ARTICLE

- Articles
- Primary Sources & E-books
- Web's Best Sites

View search results for:

Introduction

The smallest unit of living matter that can exist by itself is the cell. Some organisms, such as bacteria, consist of only a single cell. Others, such as humans and oak trees, are composed of many billions of cells.

Cells exist in a variety of shapes and sizes. Red blood cells are disk-shaped, while some skin cells resemble cubes. A single cell could be as large as a tennis ball or so small that thousands would fit on the period at the end of this sentence. Regardless of size, however, every cell contains the components needed to maintain life. Cells normally function with great efficiency, though they are vulnerable to disease. (See also [cancer](#); [disease](#); [human](#); [virus](#).)

Cell size is usually measured in microns. A micron is equal to about one millionth of a meter, and about 25,000 microns equal 1 inch. The smallest bacteria are about 0.2 micron in diameter. The diameter of the average human cell is roughly 10 microns, making it barely visible without a microscope.

The study of cells comprises the branch of biology called cytology, and the scientists who specialize in this field are called cytologists. A related field is [molecular biology](#), which examines large molecules such as nucleic acids and proteins and their roles in cell structure and function.

Prokaryotes and Eukaryotes

Based on fundamental differences in their cell structure, living organisms can be divided into two major groups—prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Bacteria and archaea are prokaryotes. Animals, plants, fungi, and protists are eukaryotes. (See also [living things](#).)

Daily Buzzword

Support the development of young people's vocabulary by encouraging them to take note of the Daily Buzzword. They could begin to build their own vocabulary banks as a daily activity at home.

Independent Study

The homepage provides young people with constant information and tasks. Encourage independent research and exploration of these resources to help inspire their natural curiosity.

Britannica School Intermediate

Para acceder a los recursos en español, ingrese aquí.

Sign In to My Britannica

Daily Buzzword

manacle noun \MAN-ih-kuhl\

What does it mean?

- 1: a shackle for the hand or wrist
- 2: handcuff
- 3: something that prevents free action

How do you use it?

Jack Sheppard was a notorious thief in early 18th-century London who managed to escape repeatedly from prison despite being held in the strongest cells, kept in solitary confinement, and bound to the floor by manacles.

Can You Guess?

Why was the Hindu temple Angkor Wat transformed into a Buddhist shrine?

Name the explorer who died in an attempt to rescue another explorer in the Arctic.

Why is the Atlantic the saltiest ocean?

Explore Britannica

- ARTICLES
- IMAGES AND VIDEOS
- BIOGRAPHIES
- WORLD ATLAS
- COMPARE COUNTRIES
- TOUR EUROPE
- MY CONTENT

Safeguarding Young People

Safe

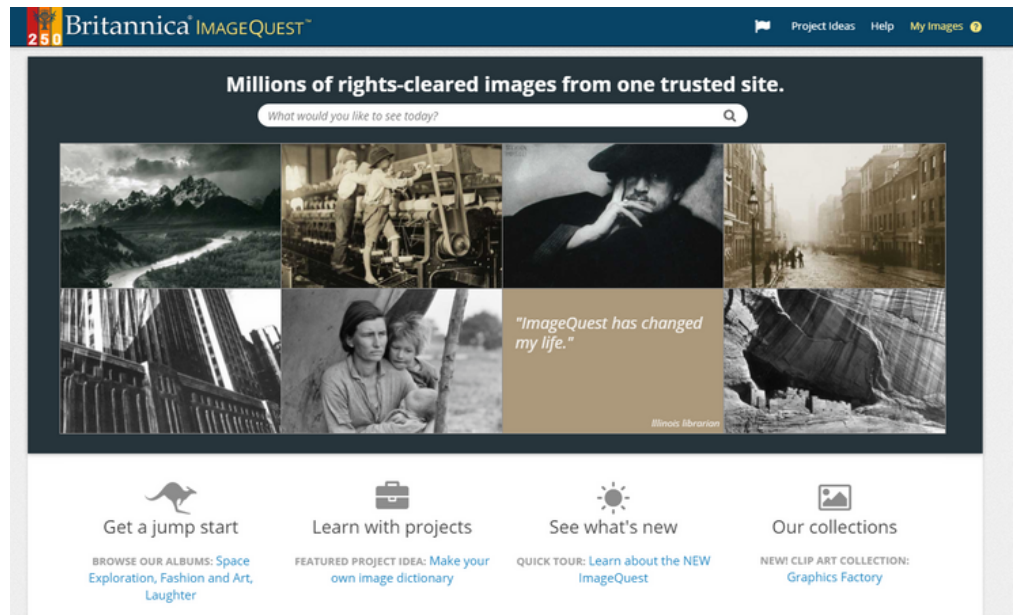
Britannica is an educational resource. Therefore, all information found within the site is non-bias and non-political. This means that young people can browse safely without seeing or reading anything inappropriate.

Reliable

The content within Britannica is constantly being updated (on average, every twenty minutes!) Therefore, you can be assured that the information they are accessing is 100% accurate and reliable.

Image Quest

Finding appropriate images online can sometimes be very difficult! However, access to ImageQuest. This means that they have access to millions of educationally appropriate images that are also safe and free to download.



My Britannica

Encourage young people to set themselves up with their own personal My Britannica area. Here, their teachers, carers and they themselves are able to view their favoured content and organise it into Resource Packs. To favourite any resource, simply click on the star that appears on the tool bar. Favourited content will then appear in the My Content section.

The screenshot shows the 'My Britannica School Intermediate' interface. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with the Britannica logo, a search bar, and links for 'Students' and 'Help'. Below the navigation bar, the 'My Content' section is displayed. On the left, a sidebar welcomes 'Estout' and shows 'All Favourites 10 items'. The main content area is titled 'Environment' and lists 'Favourites and Resource Packs'. It shows 'In this pack: 1 Video, 5 Articles, 4 Images'. Two resource packs are visible: 'pollution' and 'deforestation'. Each pack has a thumbnail image, a title, a brief description, and a 'Read this article' prompt. A blue arrow points from the text above to the 'My Britannica' link in the top navigation bar.

How should young people use Resource Packs?

Resource Packs are a great way for young people to organise revision for exams. They can use the notes section to summarise what they have learnt from a resource. They can also use Resource Packs to organise research on a particular topic! They can then share their Resource Pack with teachers or carers!

How should carers use Resource Packs?

To support with your young person's Personal Education Plan, we would encourage carers to make up a Resource Pack and pose questions to them within the notes section. This is a great tool for young people that are reluctant readers and who find independent research difficult.

Notes



To learn more about scheduling, contact us:
enquiries@eb.co.uk | 020 7500 7800 | Britannica.co.uk