

Guided Tour

Your Complete Guide to Britannica LaunchPacks



Watch and Learn

Explore [Britannica Education Webinars](#) for expert-led product walkthroughs, teaching strategies, and tips to make the most of our trusted learning resources.



Britannica
EDUCATION

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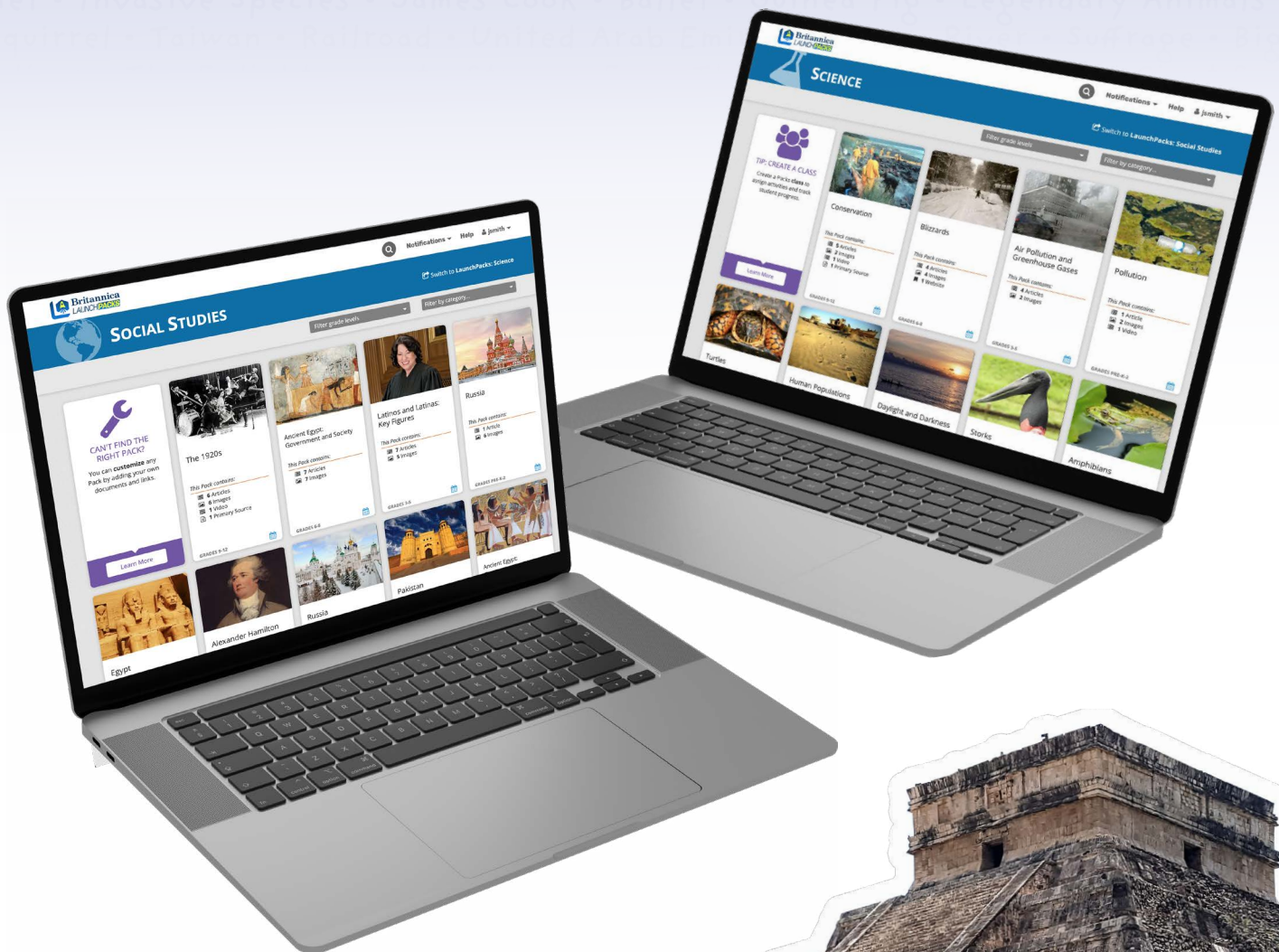
Teach Britannica: Resources for Educators

Discover educator resources, ready-made lessons, and classroom tools.

Welcome to Britannica LaunchPacks

Save planning time and generate engagement in science and social studies.

Britannica LaunchPacks provides access to thousands of individually curated, ready-to-use content sets covering a wide variety of topics. Whether you're using the Science side of the platform—Earth, life, physical, and space sciences—or the Social Studies side—world history, geography, economics, or U.S. history—the prebuilt, customizable Packs are ready for your students to explore.



Navigate the Home Page

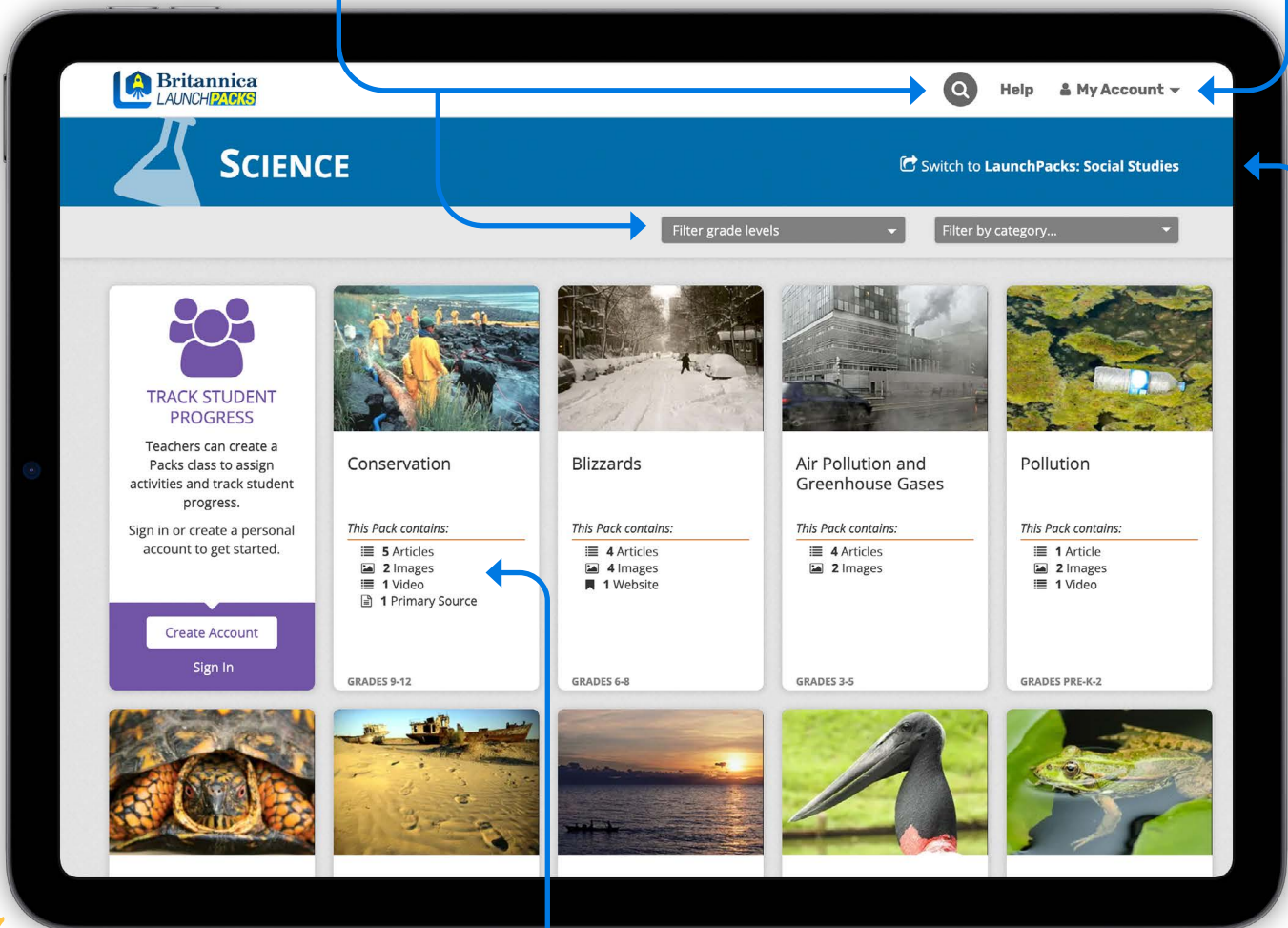
Whether you're using the Science or Social Studies side of LaunchPacks, your journey begins on the home page.

Search & Filter

Filter packs by grade range or topic category. Search Packs by keyword or standard.

Sign In

Create a personal account to customize your LaunchPacks experience. When you're signed in, this menu button will allow you to view custom Packs, activities, classes, and your schedule.



Identify Packs

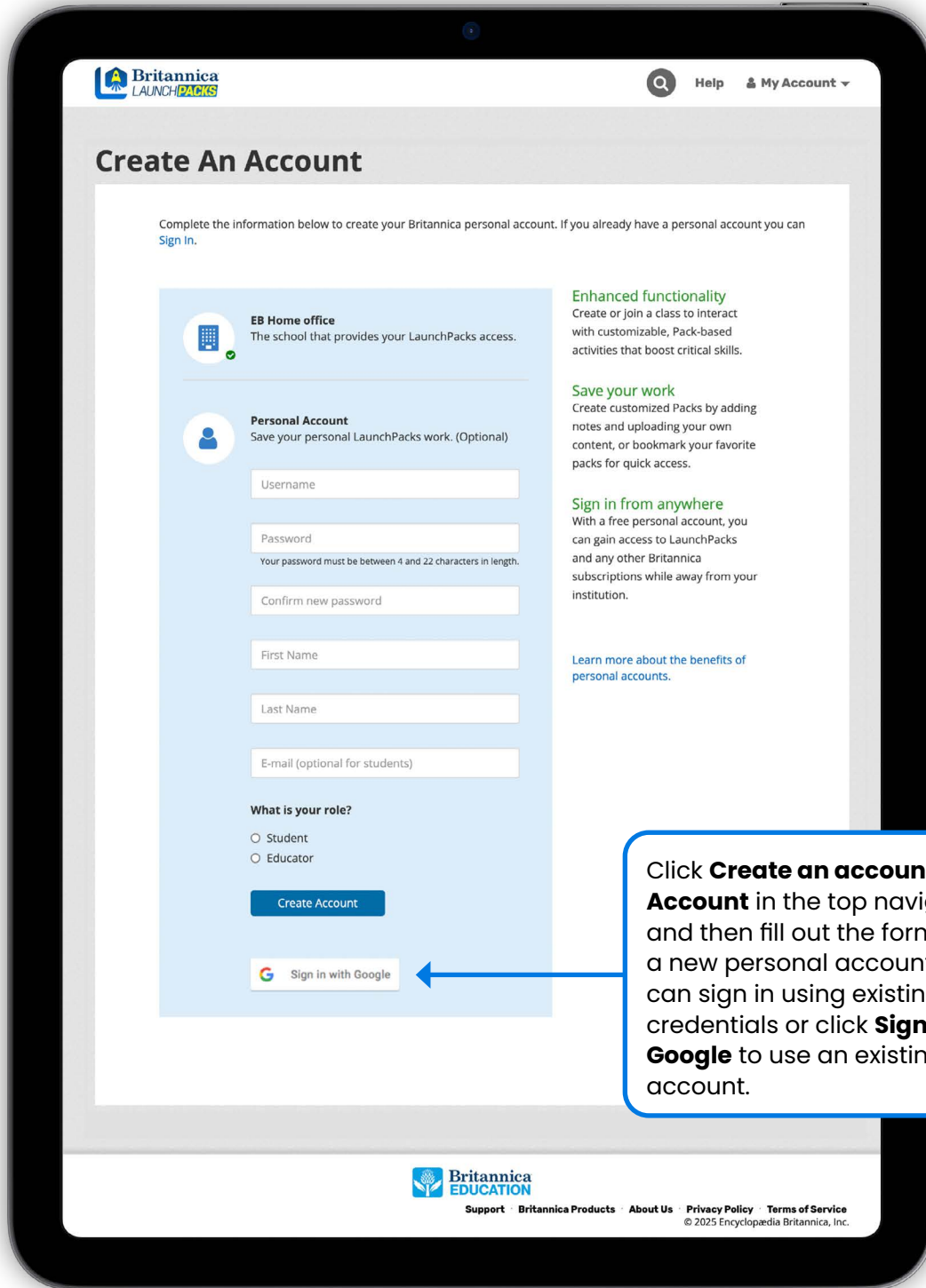
Each Pack contains a variety of content about one topic, from articles, images, and videos to interactives and primary sources. Look at each Pack to quickly identify its content and intended grade range.

Toggle Subjects

Switch between the Science and Social Studies versions of the platform if you have access to both.

Create an Account

A personal account is not needed to use Britannica LaunchPacks. However, students and teachers will need one in order to save work, customize packs, make annotations, and assign or complete activities.



Click **Create an account** from **My Account** in the top navigation bar and then fill out the form to create a new personal account. Or, you can sign in using existing Britannica credentials or click **Sign in with Google** to use an existing Google account.

Explore a Pack

Each Pack is a curated collection of Britannica articles and media about a certain topic. Let's explore what kinds of things you'll find inside a Pack.

Thomas Alva Edison

GRADES 6-8 | See this Pack for **GRADES PRE-K-2**, **GRADES 3-5**, or **GRADES 9-12**

Identify the Pack

At the top of every Pack, you'll find its name and grade level. You can view the same Pack tailored to different grade ranges at any time.

☆ Favorite  Print  More

Favorite, Print, and More

Use this menu to complete nonlearning tasks, such as saving it to your favorites, printing, and sharing it via email, Google Classroom, and Microsoft Teams. When you're using a personal account, additional actions are available, such as assigning the Pack to your students or adding it to your personal calendar.

Customize Content

When signed in to a personal account, you can use the Customize tab to ensure the Pack is perfect for your class. Add notes, upload additional content, add a graphic organizer, and more. Read more on p. 11.

LaunchPack

Customize



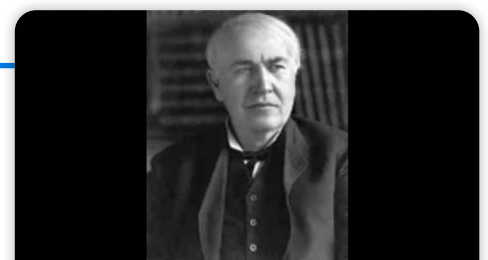
View [Curriculum Standards](#) related to this Pack.

View Curriculum Standards

Discover which state and national standards this Pack aligns to.

Pack Contents

Explore the various resources around the topic including articles, images, videos, and primary sources. Some Packs even include external websites links and Pear Deck activities. Return to the contents at any time by clicking the LaunchPack tab.



 **ARTICLE**

Thomas Edison

(1847–1931). Thomas Edison is one of the best-known inventors in the United States. By the time he died at age 84, he had patented, singly or jointly, 1,093 inventions. Many...

Article Reading Level

1 2 3

Article Tools

Interact with articles to make them work for you! Differentiation options are available to students, so they may toggle the reading level, translate to another language, and hear the article read out loud.

Reading Level

1

2

3

Reading Level

Articles have multiple reading levels. Use these buttons to switch to content that best fits your literacy level.

Page Tools



Page Tools

Use these tools to reduce or enlarge font size, print the full article, generate a citation, translate the article, or create an article excerpt.

-

Introduction

Giant Panda

Red Panda

Table of Contents

Expand or collapse the table of contents using the + or - symbols. Click a section title to navigate to that section of the article.



Read Aloud

Hear the article read out loud by clicking play by any section.

Double-Click Dictionary

View any word's Merriam-Webster dictionary definition by double-clicking it. You can also see its Spanish translation and listen to the pronunciation of the word by clicking the audio symbol.

English

Español

mam*mal *noun* \ 'mam-el \ 

- any of a class (Mammalia) of warm-blooded higher vertebrates comprising humans and all other animals that nourish their young with milk secreted by mammary glands and have the skin usually more or less covered with hair

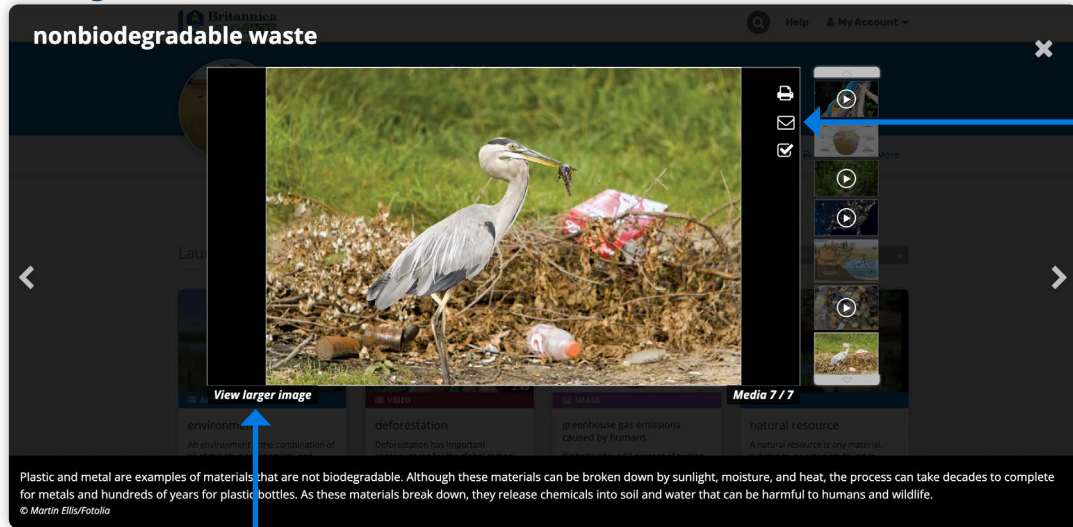
Definitions provided by



Media Tools

Click an image or video to expand it and then use the media slider on the right side to cycle through all media files from the same LaunchPack.

Images



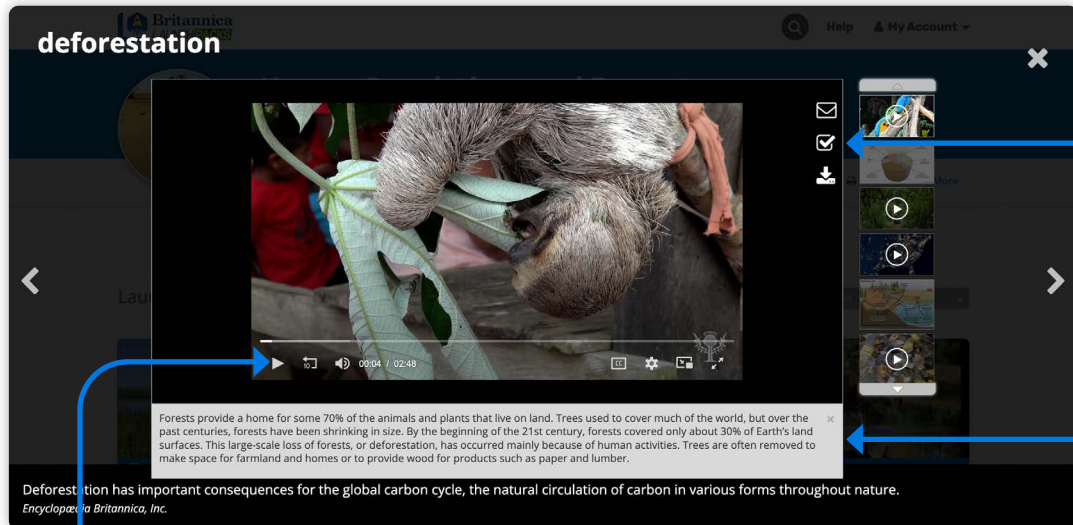
Tools

Print, email, or cite any image.

Look Closer

View the image larger in its own window or learn more about it in the caption below.

Videos



Tools

Email, cite, or download any video.

Video Features

After you click Play, use the video controls to turn on closed captions, make it full screen, change the volume, and more.

Transcription

Follow along with the video using the transcription below the video player.

Browse Standards

From any Pack, you can view the national and state standards met.

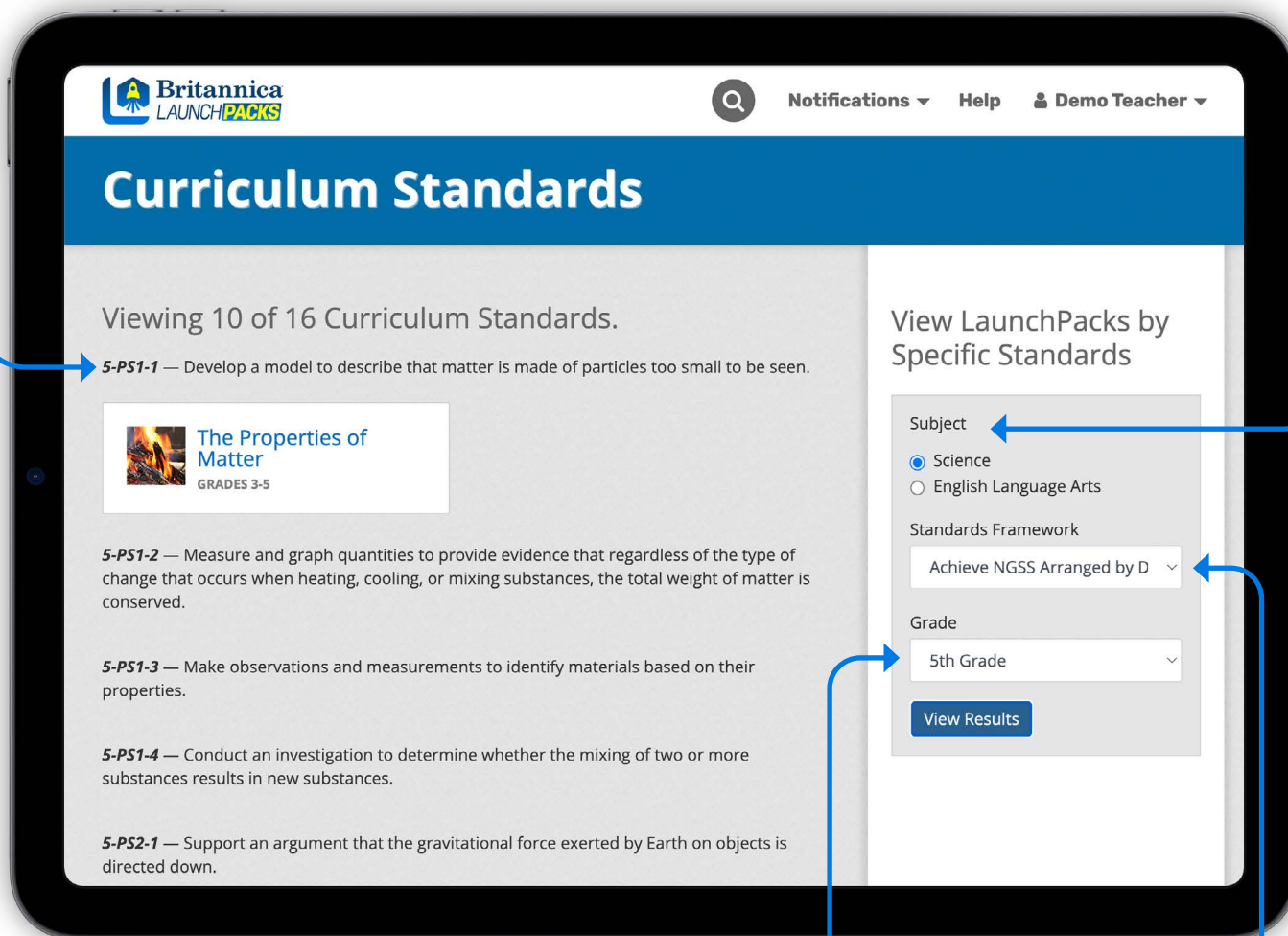
You can also browse all standards to find Packs that are aligned to your needs. From any page, click the magnifying glass in the top navigation bar and choose **Search by Standards**. Use the right side panel to filter LaunchPacks by the standards you need.

View Results

Packs aligned to a standard will appear under the related standard.

Filter by Subject

You can search for science standards in the Science platform, social studies standards in the Social Studies platform, and English language arts standards in both.



Filter by Grade Level

Choose a grade from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Filter by Standards Framework

Choose your national or state standard preference, such as NGSS arranged by DCI or topic, NCSS C3 Framework, or any state.

Make Article Annotations

A user can make annotations in any article after they are signed into their personal account.

Annotation Mode

Click the **Annotations** tab to begin annotating an article. Your annotations are visible only to you unless you share them.

Categorize Annotations

Organize your annotations by color or category: Comment, Question, Vocabulary, Evidence, Summary, or Connection.

Share, Download, Delete

Use these tools to email, download as a formatted Word or PDF document, or delete all your annotations.

The screenshot shows the Britannica LaunchPacks interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Notifications', 'Help', and 'Demo Teacher'. Below that, the article 'Roaring Twenties' is displayed. The article text includes: 'The decade that followed World War I was a time of rapid change in the United States and other Western countries. The trauma of the war left many people, especially in the younger generation, disillusioned. In its aftermath, they rejected what they saw as the failed and outdated conventions of the past. Their rebellion contributed to new trends as well as more lasting developments in society and culture. At the same time, many people in the United States and other countries experienced economic prosperity that they had never before seen.' There are three annotations: a blue highlight on 'other Western countries', a yellow highlight on 'prosperity', and a yellow highlight on 'economic prosperity'. A right-hand sidebar titled 'Annotation Tools' shows 'Categories (2)' with 'Vocabulary' and 'Comment' options. There are also icons for email, download, and delete. A pencil icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the article card.

Highlight and Annotate

Highlight any text and click the pencil icon that appears. Type your annotation and click **Save**. Your annotation will appear in the right side bar.

Find Your Notes

Hover over an annotation to see where in the article it's referencing, or hover over the article text to see its annotation inline. You can identify Packs or individual articles with annotations from the orange pencil icon on the Pack or article card.

Customize a Pack

Use the Customize tab when viewing a Pack to personalize the Pack's contents. Customizing a Pack creates a new version of the Pack, which you can find at any time by viewing **My LaunchPacks**. The original version can always be revisited later from the home page. You must be signed in with your personal account to use this feature.

 Discard Changes

 Save Changes

Discard or Save Changes

Use the buttons at the top right of the page to undo or save your edits.

Animal Hibernation

GRADES 3-5

Edit the Title & Grade

Change the Pack's name to better fit your needs. Click the drop-down to select a grade range different from the default.

Add Custom Content

 Upload a Document

 Add an External Link

 Choose a Graphic Organizer

 Add a KAHOOT! Quiz

Add Custom Content

Upload your own document, add a link to an external website, choose a premade graphic organizer, and even add a Kahoot! quiz to this Pack.



Delete Cards

If the Pack contains an article, image, or other card you don't need, you can click the X in its top-right corner to remove it from the Pack. It will be removed only from your customized Pack.

Demo Teacher's Note

Remove Note

Add a Note

Create your own notes to appear alongside the other media in the Pack. You can also add a note to existing cards. Your students will be able to see your notes if you share this customized Pack with them.



ARTICLE

winter

Winter is the coldest season of the year. It falls between autumn and spring. Winter comes from an old Germanic word that means "time of water." This refers to the rain and...


Add a note

Article Reading Level



Find Your Custom Packs

You can access your customized Packs via the My LaunchPacks link in the My Britannica menu at the top of the page. From there you can pick up where you left off.



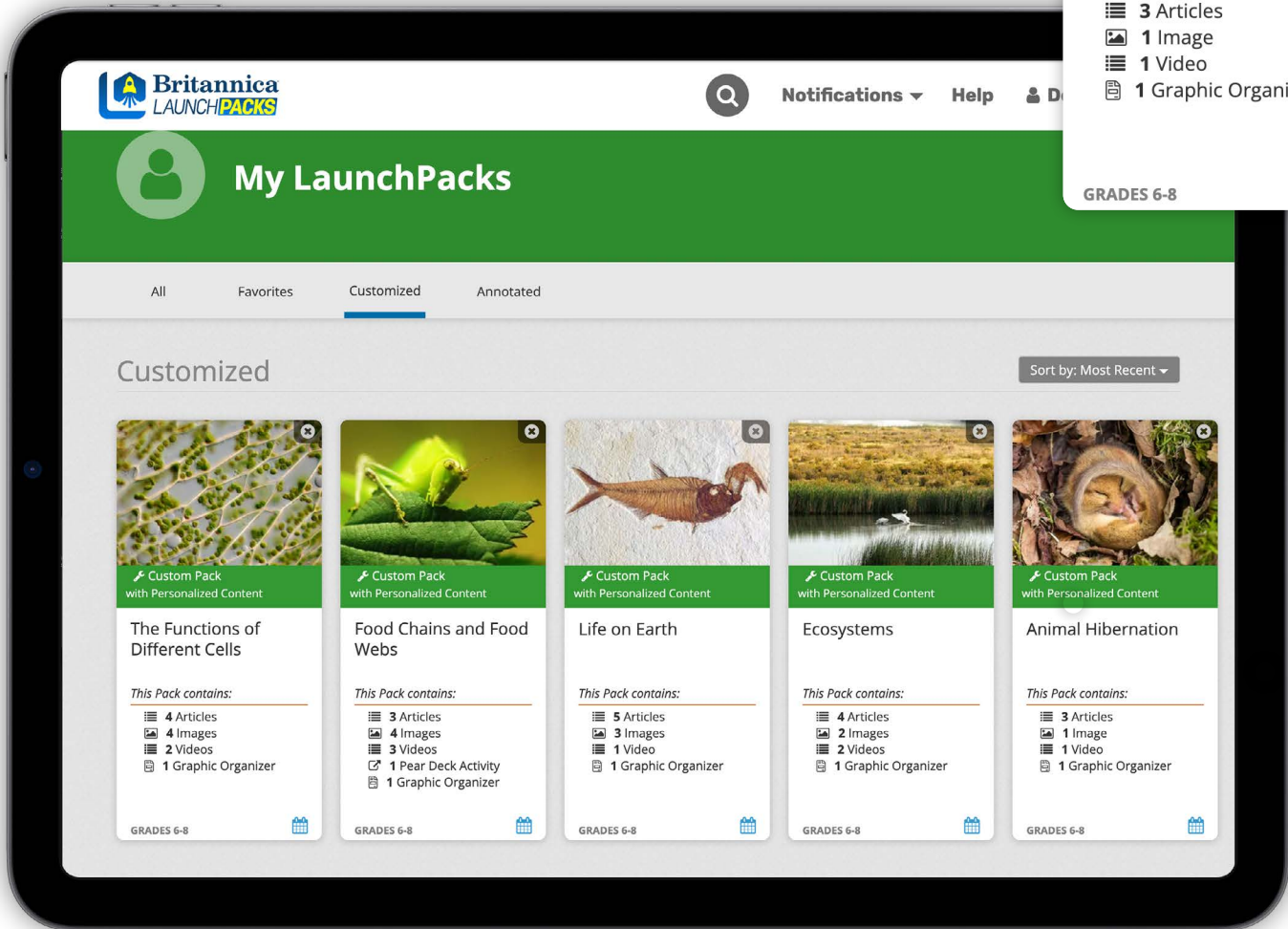
Custom Pack
with Personalized Content

Animal Hibernation

This Pack contains:

- 3 Articles
- 1 Image
- 1 Video
- 1 Graphic Organizer

GRADES 6-8



Britannica LAUNCHPACKS

Notifications Help

My LaunchPacks

All Favorites Customized Annotated

Customized Sort by: Most Recent

- The Functions of Different Cells**
This Pack contains:
 - 4 Articles
 - 4 Images
 - 2 Videos
 - 1 Graphic OrganizerGRADES 6-8
- Food Chains and Food Webs**
This Pack contains:
 - 3 Articles
 - 4 Images
 - 3 Videos
 - 1 Pear Deck Activity
 - 1 Graphic OrganizerGRADES 6-8
- Life on Earth**
This Pack contains:
 - 5 Articles
 - 3 Images
 - 1 Video
 - 1 Graphic OrganizerGRADES 6-8
- Ecosystems**
This Pack contains:
 - 4 Articles
 - 2 Images
 - 2 Videos
 - 1 Graphic OrganizerGRADES 6-8
- Animal Hibernation**
This Pack contains:
 - 3 Articles
 - 1 Image
 - 1 Video
 - 1 Graphic OrganizerGRADES 6-8

Schedule a Pack

You can schedule Packs to appear in your personal calendar to remind you to review them later or when you plan on using them with your class. You can access your calendar via the Schedule link in the My Britannica menu at the top of the page. You must be signed in with your educator personal account to use this feature.



Conservation ★

This Pack contains:

- 5 Articles
- 2 Images
- 1 Video
- 1 Primary Source

GRADES 9-12



Blizzards

This Pack contains:

- 4 Articles
- 4 Images
- 1 Website

GRADES 6-8



Air Pollution and Greenhouse Gases

This Pack contains:

- 4 Articles
- 2 Images

GRADES 3-5



Export Your Schedule

Export your calendar in ICS format to add it to your preferred personal calendar.

Create a Collection

Adding two or more LaunchPacks to the same date will create a collection.



Schedule a LaunchPack

Click the calendar icon on any Pack. In the pop-up that appears, drag-and-drop it to your schedule. You will receive a reminder in your Notifications menu as the date approaches.

Schedule

ADD TO SCHEDULE (DRAG & DROP)



Amphibians

GRADES 9-12

EDIT SCHEDULE

[View your full schedule](#) to make changes.

[Learn more with our video tutorial.](#)

Today

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

My Packs Recommended Packs

Create a Class

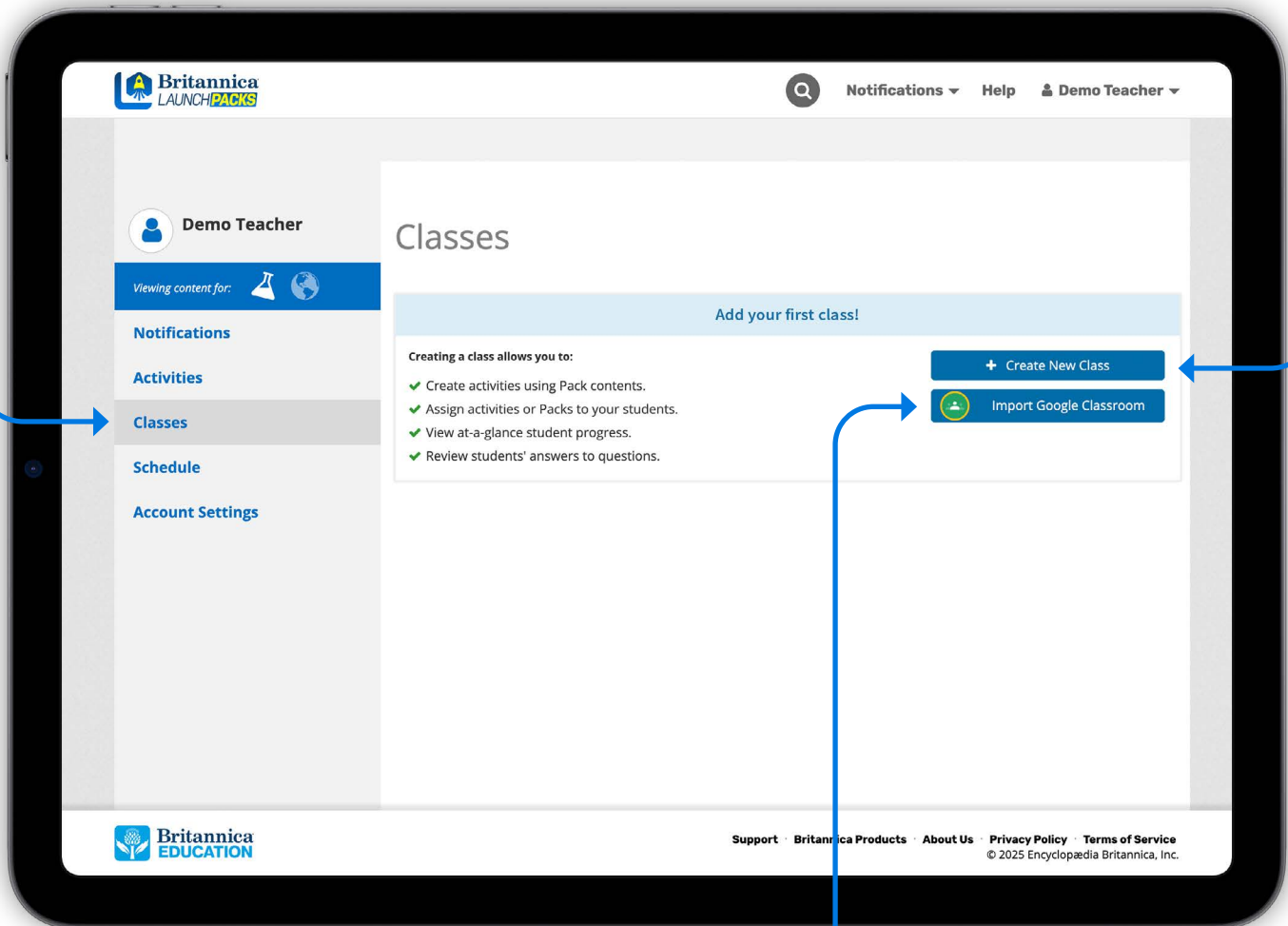
Educators can create a class for each class they teach or for groups of learners with similar learning needs and styles. You must be signed in with your educator personal account to use this feature.

Create a New Class

To create a new class, go to **Classes** in your account menu. Choose the button on the right side that matches your preference

Option 1: Manually Create a Class

Follow the prompts to name your class, give it a description, and choose an avatar. Then, invite students to join your class via a class code, direct link, or email.



Option 2: Import a Google Classroom

Add your entire roster by signing into your Google Classroom account and picking the classroom you want to import.

Add & Assign Activities

Activities are a way to enable students to engage with the contents of a Pack, allowing them to build important skills while learning about important topics. Educators can monitor student progress and see where students may need more support.

In order to add and assign activities, users need to be signed in with an **educator personal account**. In order to complete activities, users need to be signed in with a **student personal account** and belong to the class to which the activity is assigned.

Educators can view or edit existing activities at any time via the Activities link in the My Britannica menu at the top of the page.



Ancient Egypt: Achievements
GRADES 6-8 | See this Pack for GRADES 9-12

LaunchPack Customize **Activities** ★ Favorite 🖨️ Print ⋮ More

Create an Activity

Open the Pack you want to create an activity for and click the **Activities** tab at the top of the page. You can choose from two different activity types.

Learning Strategies

Open-ended, skill-building exercises develop subject-area literacy based on a single resource within a Pack. Choose from four strategies.

Add a Learning Strategy

Students focus on applying a learning strategy to **one resource** in the Pack.



Main Idea

Students determine the main, or central, idea of a text and how it is conveyed through supporting details.
Use Context Clues, Make Inferences



Summary

Students provide an objective summary of a text.
Determine Main Idea, Make Inferences, Use Context Clues



Main Idea and Summary

Students determine the main, or central, idea of a text and its relationship to supporting details. They also provide an objective summary of the text.
Use Context Clues, Make Inferences



Journal

Students record their thoughts and observations about the text's topic.
Interpret, Make Observations, Connect, Question

Add a Question Set

Students explore the **entire pack** and answer a series of questions.

Starter Sets

- ➕ Making Predictions
- 🔍 Compare and Contrast
- 🗨️ Understanding Perspectives

Question Categories

- ❓ Critical Thinking
- ❓ Reflection
- ➕ Add custom questions

Add Questions

Question Sets

These questions challenge students to explore the contents of a whole Pack. Choose from starter sets or start from scratch based on your needs.

Create a Learning Strategy

Learning strategies are applied to an individual article or article excerpt in the Packs. You can add multiple strategies to the same article or add strategies to multiple articles. When completing the activities, students will focus on one strategy and one article at a time.

Strategy Types

Start by selecting from four options: Main Idea, Summary, Main Idea and Summary, or Journal. You can create more than one learning strategy per resource.

Choose a Resource

Follow the prompts to choose which article resource you want to apply the learning strategy to. You can assign an article's full text or an excerpt.

Edit the Instructions

Edit or save the default instructions in the Activity Setup box on the right side of the page.

Finalize the Activity

Click **Create Activity** when you are finished editing.

Activity Setup

Main Idea

Instructions for Students

First, read the text. Then, identify the main idea—the most important point the writer conveys. Finally, identify the details that support the main idea throughout the text. The supporting details might be examples, anecdotes, facts or statistics, or statements from experts.

[Edit](#)

Create Activity

[Cancel Activity](#)







After an activity is created, you can see a student preview or add additional learning strategies to the article. Return to the Pack to add learning strategies to other articles in the Pack. When you are ready, click **Assign** to send the activity to your students. Select a start and end date and specify which class should receive the assignment.

Create a Question Set


Question sets are applied to an entire Pack, allowing students to engage with articles and media while answering open-ended questions that focus on critical skills.

Let's Get Started


Starter Sets [→ All sets](#)

-  **Identify and Define**
Skills: Express, Rephrase, Identify, Imagine, Interpret,...
-  **Main Idea**
Skills: Identify, Support, Tell, Recall, Explain, Select,...
-  **Making Predictions**
Skills: Extend, Identify, List, Predict, Propose, Discover,...
-  **Compare and Contrast**
Skills: Extend, Choose, Recall, Recognize, Contrast,...
-  **KWLQ**
Skills: Report, Identify, Show, List, Recognize, Record,...
-  **Understanding Perspectives**
Skills: Distinguish, Identify, Interpret, Assess, Choose,...

Questions by Category [→ All categories](#)

-  **Critical Thinking, Vocabulary, Inquiry, Reflection, Comprehension, Making Connections**

Custom Questions

-  **Add Custom Question**

Choose from Three Options

Starter Sets: Created by Britannica experts, these open-ended questions can be applied to many topics. Choose a whole set, select your preferred questions, and make any grade level adjustments or wording edits.

Questions by Category: Add individual skill-based questions so students can practice critical thinking, vocabulary, inquiry, reflection, comprehension, or making connections.

Custom Questions: Write your own questions to perfectly customize the activity to the needs of your class.

Customize Pack Contents

At any time, you can also edit a Pack's contents as you would outside of the question set builder, allowing you to control the content that your students can access when answering your questions.

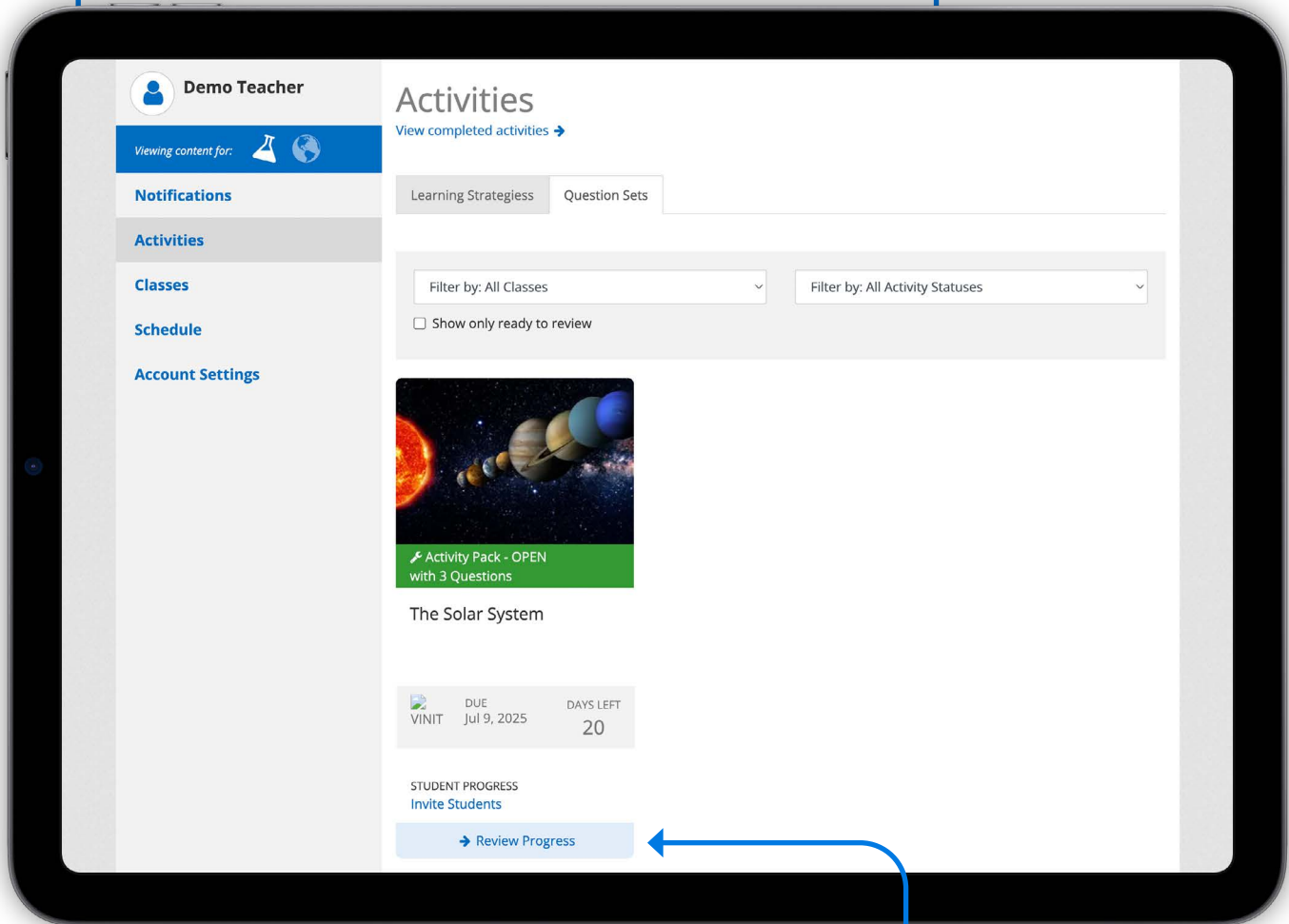
View a student preview or click **Save and Review** when you are finished editing your questions. When you are ready, click **Assign** to send the activity to your students or **Schedule** to make it available at a future date. Select a start and end date and specify which class should receive the assignment. You can also add instructions for the activity or include a prior knowledge question.

Review Student Progress

Monitor student progress from your Activities dashboard. You must be signed in with your educator personal account to use this feature. From here, you will see all the Activity Packs you have created along with important information. You can change between Learning Strategy Packs or Question Set Packs using the tabs at the top. You can also filter by class and status.

Progress Bar

Monitor student responses by individual student or by question.



Review Responses

Monitor student responses by individual student or by question.

Teach Britannica: Resources for Educators

Teach Britannica is an educator’s companion, offering ready-to-use resources that support instruction and enrich classroom learning across all activities in Britannica LaunchPacks. Through this dedicated hub, educators can access tools like graphic organizers, instructional strategies, and lesson minis—all designed to make teaching easier and more impactful.

LESSON MINI PRINT

Seasons and Cycles

Grade: K-2 Topic: Science Unit: Seasons

Overview

In this lesson mini, students learn about seasons and their effects on daily life. They observe and record local weather conditions, exploring how these change over time. Students also make observations at different times of year and relate the amount of daylight to each season.

Ideas for Implementation

- Science
- Library media
- Literacy
- Learning centers

Lesson Minis

Personalize learning and boost engagement using these modular minis—ideal for **lesson planning, sub plans, and real-world extension activities.**

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGY PRINT

Active Reading Through Writing

Grade: 6-8, 9-12, UNIV

Type: Read Actively / Develop Language (MLL)

30-40 MINUTES

When: Before, during, and after reading

Materials: Active Reading Through Writing graphic organizer, preselected text, whiteboard or display, writing utensil

Description

The Active Reading Through Writing strategy encourages students to engage with texts through writing before, during, and after reading to enhance comprehension and critical thinking skills while activating prior knowledge. In addition, this strategy develops students’ analytical abilities, reflection skills, and deeper understanding of the material. The strategy prepares students for reading by activating background knowledge. Students process new information during or after reading to support synthesis and connections between texts.

Instructional Strategies

Access seven categories of **evidence-based methods** for effective education, such as **Acquire Vocabulary** and **Organize Thinking**, which are essential for learning goals of any classroom.

Bell Ringers & Exit Tickets | Instructional Strategies | **Graphic Organizers**

- A Jar Full of Gratitude (Grade: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12)
- Biography (Grade: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, UNIV)
- Exploring Perspectives (Grade: 6-8, 9-12, UNIV)
- Inquiry in Action (Grade: 6-8, 9-12, UNIV)

Graphic Organizers

Visual tools such as **diagrams, charts, and structured visuals** support student understanding of relationships, processes, and concepts, **making complex ideas easier to grasp.**

Bell Ringers & Exit Tickets | Instructional Strategies | Graphic Organizers

BELL RINGER USE: All

EXIT TICKET USE: All

- Find Someone Who (Grade: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12)
- Pro and Con Debate (Grade: 6-8, 9-12)
- #KeyIdeas (Grade: 6-8, 9-12)
- 3-2-1 Reflection (Grade: 3-5, 6-8, 9-12)

Bell Ringers & Exit Tickets

Start strong and finish with impact! These engaging activities **spark thinking, assess understanding, and create seamless classroom transitions**, all in less than 10 minutes.



Interested?

Visit teachbritannica.com/launch-packs to access free resources and tools for your classroom!



Need help? Contact us for product and technical support:

edsupport@eb.com

(800) 621-3900

britannicaeducation.com