

## Lesson Skill: Reference materials

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**Strand** Research

**SOL** 3.7, 3.11

4.9

5.9

### Materials

- Reference materials (e.g., atlas, encyclopedia, almanac)
- Internet access
- Sample Reference Materials Scavenger Hunt (attached)

### Lesson

1. Provide students with Internet access and reference materials.
2. Ask students how they go about finding answers to their questions. Have them share what they know about various reference materials, and lead into a discussion about the purpose of the Internet and resources such as an atlas, an almanac, and an encyclopedia.
3. Have students work with a partner and use multiple resources to complete a scavenger hunt consisting of 15 questions that are based on the essential knowledge from a content area Curriculum Framework. They should use all of the reference materials at least two to three times, each time identifying the source for answers.
4. Once students complete the scavenger hunt, discuss the different reference materials, asking the following questions:
  - Which reference material did you find the easiest to use?
  - For what purpose do you use an atlas? An almanac? An encyclopedia? An Internet search engine?

### Strategies for Differentiation

- Students may work in small groups rather than with a partner.
- Preteach key words found in the Reference Materials Scavenger Hunt, such as *nickname*.
- Provide pictures to illustrate the reference materials, i.e., map picture for atlas.

# Sample Reference Materials Scavenger Hunt

Answer the following questions about Virginia, using the appropriate reference material. You need to use every reference made available to you.

QUESTION	ANSWER	REFERENCE MATERIAL USED
1. What is one of the five regions of Virginia?		
2. What are two border states of Virginia?		
3. What is the state flower of Virginia?		
4. What is the population of Virginia?		
5. Where was the last battle of the Revolutionary War?		
6. What is important about Jamestown, VA?		
7. What is the name of a river in Virginia?		
8. How is Thomas Jefferson important to Virginia history?		
9. Near what Virginia city is the Great Dismal Swamp located?		
10. What is the capital of Virginia?		
11. Who is in charge of the executive branch of the government in Virginia?		
12. Who wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights?		
13. What peninsula is between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean in Virginia?		
14. Why is Appomattox Courthouse important?		
15. What is a nickname for Virginia?		