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Cover Image: Nicola Sinclair
Your Guide to Encyclopædia Britannica

*Britannica Online* is an exciting, powerful and multi-faceted internet encyclopaedia which Shetland Library subscribes to and which all SIC intranet users can access from their desk computer. It contains information kept up to date with yearly review documents & quarterly updates of new content.

Use this powerful resource to search or browse for information in encyclopedias, magazines, videos, and Web sites, and enhance the information literacy of your worklife.

*Encyclopædia Britannica* offers two ways to access this wealth of information:

1. You can search all the content at once to see results for students of every level.
2. You can choose a library appropriate for your level:
   - Encyclopædia Britannica for adults
   - Britannica Student for content for ages 10-14
   - Britannica Junior for primary school students.

You can search the chosen encyclopedia as well as magazines, Web sites, and videos. You can also explore a dictionary and thesaurus, atlases, timelines, and other features -- all at the appropriate level.

**Accessing Britannica Online**

To access the Encyclopædia Britannica, go to the Shetland Library homepage, and access either by selecting *Britannica* option on the left of the screen. Alternatively, to immediately access one of the three aged *Britannicas*, access through the 24 Hour Library. On the 24 Hour Lib hub, choose Online Reference Library.

Then, on that page, select one of the three age-appropriate options for Britannica.

Original Sources, an option on both of these pages, is also by Britannica, and we will see a little of it later.
Britannica Homepage

The Britannica homepage provides access to the three age-appropriate databases: Adult, Student, and Junior. The language and nature of content is suited to the intended audience, with junior dominated by interactivity, and student & adult by an increasing depth and breadth of content.

One can access content directly by typing a subject into the Search The Full Library Edition box, which will include all versions of Britannica.

- This is a broad search & results will be taken from each resource, for example ‘dinosaur’ will return three columns, with entries from Adult, Student & Junior respectively.
- In addition, downloadable pdfs, weblinks, images & videos can all be accessed from the Search All, with results accessible on the results screen.
- Search All provides an encompassment of Britannica information, is easy, but doesn’t illustrate to users perhaps the depth available on this resource.
Differing from the simple splatter-gun approach of Search All, the different versions of Britannica provide easier ways to find and secure the right information, not simply just through simple searches, but also via specialist features suited to the age range.

For the purposes of this training session, we shall begin with Adult.
Britannica Adult is the fullest version, age appropriate for 15 and above.

In addition to its search bar, the homepage of Adult (and indeed Student & Junior) has numerous ways of accessing resources. Britannica hosts multimedia (pictures, films & audio), journal pieces, interactive maps & atlases, interaction with Excel from statistical sheets, and more – all accessible from this page.
Searching with Britannica

Let's type in a subject, ‘solar system’, into the search bar and press enter or click on go.

The results page, is like the general search page, varied and deep. In the centre is a list of relevant articles, arranged first by title, and then relevance of the text of each.

In addition to the articles, on the right hand side, there is the ability to access journals and links to recommended websites & primary sources, which we shall discuss below, as well as relevant multi-media.
An article: Solar System

The article about the subject can be quite brief or very long. Unlike a wikipedia page, Britannica breaks the subject up under headings across several pages – and the contents for this article, on the left of the screen, allow easy access to any of the pages within, up to and including the bibliography. This means that library users & staff can find recommended books for customers within a resource article quickly & efficiently.

Britannica is also about much more than the words of the article itself.

- **Pictures** can pop out if you hover over them, as the second image on the page does. Pretty much all articles have images, and even if they do not pop out – one click, and you will be taken to a larger image, which itself can be expanded.
Tables of information can also be accessed from orange buttons dotted throughout an article. There is one at the bottom of the page. You can see how many Tables, images and other content in the top left of the screen.
Tabs

At the top of the page there are blue-coloured tabs: **Save to Workspace, Print Page, Print Article, E-mail Article & Cite Article**

These very exciting options to enhance your use of Britannica can again be found on all versions.

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**Save to Workspace: Your Personal Folder**

The **Workspace** is a feature that makes Britannica stand out as a private and public resource, as it gives users their own account in which to save information for their own private use and also to create shared group folders.

You can use the Save to Workspace feature to create a customized page for a research project. You can store any article, images or other Britannica content to a Workspace, and therefore be able to retrieve it at any time.
You can create a workspace like an email account:

1. **Create a name for the Workspace**, in which all your content will be stored.
2. **Decide on a Project name** – the folder of your workspace in which you will store content.
3. **Give it a password**, so as to allow other users to search for and be able to access the Workspace’s content. You can give an email to ensure protection against password loss.

You can save as much information as possible, including articles, images, videos and so on. Also any content that is updated – for example an article – will also be updated within the Workspace.

To find a Workspace, click upon Workspace at the top of the screen.

Click on See a Shared Workspace, and look for ‘Library Training’

You will see our Workspace, and be able to select one of our example projects. As you can see, Workspaces are great for group work, as you are all part of the Library Training Workgroup.
Expand Your Research

At the top right of the article there is a box entitled *Expand Your Research*, with three options.

**Journals & Magazines** provides electronic articles that can provide further knowledge and analysis in addition to the main article. You may notice that there is an option to filter by the *Lexile* score, and below each article is a Lexile score. This is a Reading Level scale, breaking up reading from 7+ to 18+, and if you click on Lexile at the top you will see the scoring meaning translated to ages. A score of 1210 would be suitable for 16 year olds and above.

**The World's Best Websites** provides you with links to reliable and trustworthy websites. For Solar System, this includes NASA, National Geographic, Astronomy Magazine and so on, linking users to the most reputable of internet content for all articles. This helps users avoid the less reputable subjects that come up using a Google search or the errors that are found on Wikipedia articles often.

The other Research option, **Additional Reading**, provides a reading list to follow up on the article’s content, covering books, journals, websites & other sources.
Dictionary

If you feel you are unsure of the meaning of a word in the article, double click on it, and a new window will open up, containing a dictionary article upon that word. Also, if you would like to, you can hear the word spoken by clicking upon the red speaker symbol after the word in bold.
If you return to the home page of Encyclopædia Britannica Adult, and click upon the **Discover Our World** option, you will be taken to an interactive map of the world.

If you click on a continent, for example, South America, you will be taken to a similar map of it. Then you can click upon a country, for example Brazil, and you will be taken to page describing it. This **Quick Facts** page will provide a summary of information about, for example, Brazil, including its capital, head
of state, language, population, land area & so on. You can print this page, email it or link to the subject country’s full Encyclopædia article.

This is an excellent service for finding out quick facts about countries, or alternatively, for finding out about new countries.
Video on Britannica

Encyclopædia Britannica has an extensive video library. This encompasses both long (‘extended play’) and short clips, some documentary style with narration, others purely video footage.

If you click on Video Clips, you will see that they are split by subject matter:

Video Clips

Short media clips providing quick topic overviews. Please select a category below. You may also use the links to your left.

- **English**
  - Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening

- **Mathematics**
  - Geometry and Measurement

- **Science**
  - Earth and Space, Physical Science, and Life Science

- **Social Studies**
  - Geography, History, Government, Cultures, and Holidays

[Also see our Extended Play Videos collection](#)

Clicking on one subject, for example, Science, takes you to another page where, again, topics have been separated. If you click on Fish, you will see various videos. We chose ‘Coral Reef Animals: The Parrotfish’, a video explaining about the eponymous fish.
Extended Play Videos are separated by different subjects, and the videos can last up to an hour:

**Extended Play Videos**

Full-length videos providing in-depth coverage. Please select a category below.

- **SCIENCE**
  Examine insects and spiders, discover the forests of the world, and explore our changing Earth and vast universe.

- **GEOGRAPHY**
  Go beyond our borders to explore the countries of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Americas.

- **WORLD STUDIES**
  Return to the ancient world to experience early civilizations and move through time, exploring important events around the world and the global economy.

- **ARTS**
  Explore the works of Leonardo da Vinci and other great master artists.

Also see our Video Clips collection

Britannica videos can be emailed, saved to a Workspace or, excitingly, can be linked to your website – for example, your blog. Many people use Britannica to search for a video for their website, rather than for study. The website is keen to be seen to be a provider of high quality products for social activities as well as more studious people.
Features & Browsing on Britannica

World Data

World Data, an exciting feature that allows you to see a range of statistics about one or more countries, compare countries on specific statistics or indeed all, and in general make reports & essays more reputable with excellent and up-to-date statistics, slotted into the text or as a complete document in an appendix.

For example if we select South Africa from the drop down menu, and hit go, we will be presented with a pdf document. Information is presented in categories: demographics, vital statistics, national economy, trade, transport & communication, education & health (including the no. of teachers, doctors & so on), and military.

Country Comparisons

One can also compare countries, by clicking on Current Comparisons. Select any number of countries, clicking add for each. Then underneath select the statistics you wish to compare. You can then click Create a Table or Create a Chart, creating each in a new window.

With a table, you have the option to switch the rows and columns. In addition to printing and being able to email your results, you can also convert the table to an Excel Spreadsheet and save it to your computer. This intuitive tool allows easy conversion of information to your documents & webpages. Charts are similar, and allow you to convert the numeric data to a spreadsheet.

You can also compare countries with Chronological Comparisons, comparing data from the last 90 years of different countries. You can select as many countries as you like, but you can only select one type of statistic. You can either create a table or a chart, and, again, you can convert this data to Excel.
Year in Review

Access the annual reviews of events, people & change as compiled by Britannica, dating back to 1993. Contains much of Britannica’s content relating to Nobel prizes, disasters, popular culture, drama, contemporary events and so on.

As part of this feature, there are special reports which are much like journalist pieces:

The Great Recession of 2008-09

by Joel Havemann

When 2009 dawned, no one knew whether the global financial crisis that had burst into full bloom in the previous autumn would develop into the second Great Depression. Twelve months later, what many called the Great Recession showed signs of coming to an end, and the worst appeared to have been averted. On the whole, private economists applauded the U.S. government’s response to the crisis at hand, but some of the remedies enacted there and in other countries seemed poised to haunt the world economy in years to come.

Even if the financial crisis did not send the world back to the 1930s, it turned economic...
Spotlights – Britannica’s Feature Sites

Spotlights are Britannica’s feature content mini-sites, designed to delve in depth into particular subjects & to support education & personal interest in these subjects. These cover very different topics, and include the Nobel prizes, literature, world conflict, & science. Content includes articles, videos, images, sound and more.

These Spotlight sites can be very impressive, and attempt to be fully interactive e-zines (electronic magazines):
Other Spotlights are more like databases that account for all content related to a subject within Britannica, but laid out in a different format and with an easy to understand index.

Britannica’s Guide to Shakespeare

Few authors can match William Shakespeare for broad appeal and sheer endurance. For centuries he has entertained readers and theatre-goers, helping us see our commonalities and revealing our humanness. His tender scenes of reconciliation, such as that between Lear and Cordelia, continue to break hearts in the 21st century, though they were written centuries ago. The themes of his love stories, such as Romeo and Juliet, are as fresh and universal today as they must have been when he wrote them. Teenagers still memorize his lines. Words he coined are an intrinsic part of the English vocabulary. His works are translated worldwide. So why does Shakespeare stand out so far among his contemporaries? What makes his speech so compelling? Where did he obtain his depth of understanding? His wit? Who was he exactly?

We invite you to examine the Bard with us. Just use the links on the left to find out more.
Reflections on the Holocaust

Encyclopaedia Britannica is proud to present a new feature on one of history’s darkest chapters, the Holocaust. Central to this feature is an overview article by Britannica’s Holocaust adviser, Dr. Michael Berenbaum, the former director of the Holocaust Research Institute at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, former president of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, and author of The World Must Know and Witness to the Holocaust, among other books. This feature is divided into five parts, covering everything from the origins of the Holocaust in the mind of Adolf Hitler to the legacy of the horror in art and memory. Long-debated controversies are discussed, such as why the Allies chose not to bomb Hitler’s death camps, as well as the actions of the Roman Catholic Church, and of Pope Pius XII in particular, during the years of the Holocaust. There are also extensive photographs and videos (warning: some of them are graphic), an extended bibliography, and discussion questions tied to each of the five parts and written especially for teachers and classroom use.

OTHER FEATURES IN BRIEF

Media Collection

A new feature from Britannica, providing access to the full image & video collection of Britannica, broken up by subjects in a helpful & easy-to-use manner.

Gateway to the Classics

Provides access to books & documents written by important writers from history, from the spiritual to the literary to the political to the scientific. A good counterpart to Original Sources, also produced by Britannica and to which we subscribe, as usually we can find some different texts on each.

Biography

Read biographies of numerous world figures, categorised A-Z.
Notable Quotations

Quotations from famous figures, which can be accessed either by an A-Z of individuals on Britannica, or by a broad host of A-Z subjects.

Timelines

Access historical timelines illustrating the development of a host of subjects, natural and human.

Classics (Classic Voices)

During its over 200 year history, Encyclopædia Britannica has featured articles by numerous illustrious authors. A collection of some of the most interesting are now available.
Britannica Student Edition

The student edition of Britannica has many of the same features as the adult one, but is written with an eye towards secondary students and has an appropriate level of content. For example whereas the adult version has news on the main page from the New York Times & BBC News, the student version has CBBC News.
World Atlas

A tool good for Student Edition, as well as Adult, is World Atlas:

Linked into Googlemaps, a user can zoom into the map, and use satellite view or 2D map as well as terrain. Country information is seen on the right, and can be used to link into Encyclopædia articles. Depending upon the version of the Encyclopædia, you will go to the appropriately levelled entry.

This is a great tool, ideal for school children researching countries, regions or other map/geography based tools.
**Biography**

Another tool shared between versions, but more prescient, perhaps, for school children’s needs is **Biography** search, allowing project research and providing citations & bibliographies for many, many subjects from history and the present.

Subjects are found in an A-Z list, or by searching at the top of the screen:

**Joseph Conrad on Britannica Student**

(1857–1924). At the age of 20, Polish-born Joseph Conrad could speak no English yet in his lifetime he wrote outstanding novels and stories in that language. His tales of seafaring life depicted the concerns of all people: hazards in nature, the need for loyalty, and the danger in greed.

He was born Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski to a Polish family on Dec. 3, 1857, in what is now Ukraine. He was orphaned in 1869 and was brought up by his uncle, who hoped that he would become a lawyer. But Conrad wanted to be a sailor. In October 1874 he moved to Marseille, France, and went to sea at age 17. In July 1876 he sailed as steward on the St-Antoine. It is likely that he took part in the smuggling of weapons, as later described in his novel *An Alpine*. It is known that in 1878 he was recovering from a mysterious chest wound that his uncle claimed was self-inflicted. Conrad, however, encouraged people to think he had suffered the injury in a duel.

In April 1878 he was sufficiently recovered to be a deckhand on the British freighter *Amsterdam*, and for the next 16 years he served in the British merchant navy. In 1896 he became eligible to be a ship’s captain and also received British citizenship. His sea travels often took him to the Far East, and his experiences provided him with material for the novels and stories he would later write.

Back in London in 1899, he began his first novel, *Almayer’s Folly*, but interrupted this work to visit Africa—a dream he had had since childhood. He returned a changed man on the *Forty-Niner*, and heard his home town
Britannica Junior, for younger children, is a fun and different resource from its older-orientated companions. It is tooled towards children, containing games and lots of other interactive content. All Junior articles can be heard out loud too, by clicking on the speaker icon next to the next. This is great for aiding learner readers, and for learning how to say difficult words.
FEATURES on Britannica Junior: Animal Kingdom

Britannica Junior also has features, which allow easy grasping of a subject through associated articles & content. The first feature at present is Animal Kingdom, an easy to understand page that breaks up the animal kingdom into different groups, such as Arthropods, Birds, Fish, Mammals, Prehistoric Life, and so on. Each is an umbrella article with links to the specific animals. In addition you can explore animals by where they live, linking to other umbrella articles.
Easy Learning

Related Links

What is a endangered species? > What is a food chain? > What is a habitat?
> What is ecology? > What is a biome?

Did You Know... That a group of hippos is called a bloat of hippopotamuses?

Learning Topics, in the purple Related Links box, allow access to issues, such as What is a Food Chain?

A Britannica Junior article: Food Chain

food chain

The term food chain describes the order in which organisms, or living things, depend on each other for food. Every ecosystem, or community of living things, has one or more food chains.

Most food chains start with organisms that can make their own food: plants, algae, and some bacteria.

Each paragraph can be read aloud by Britannica by clicking the speaker symbol beside each.

If you would like to not have the option of speaking, you can click the orange Hide Audio Tool box at the top of the right hand side of the page.
As with older versions, children can save articles to their Workspaces, email them or print them. In addition they can access links to images & media, journal entries suitable for their level and other, safe, authoritative websites.

Learning Games

At the bottom of the page are three Learning Materials, that is, educational games. These provide fun ways to either learn about animals or reinforce what they have already learned – being thinking games, they encourage logical thought based on simple situations – would an eel live in Forest, Lake or the Desert?
Feature: Geography Explorer

Geography Explorer is another interactive game, accessibly from the Features section of the Junior Homepage.

Children help Jog draw a map by dragging names of places to where they should be on the map:

We start with the continents, then the oceans & seas, then the mountains, the rivers, and subsequently famous places. Stylised like a colouring in book, then completed with postcards, the exercise is good fun to play. After completing the game, which has a timer and scoreboard, the user can click upon the places to learn about each.

The selection includes unusual examples such as the Great Dividing Range, the Atlas Mountains, the Volga & Darling rivers, and places like Great Zimbabwe and Machu Picchu – ensuring that parents, as well as children, will learn together about world class places, their history & importance.
OTHER FEATURES IN BRIEF

Compare Countries

There is a simplified version of Compare Countries, which allows children to see the major differences – size, population, languages, capitals & so on – of countries.

World Atlas

A simplified version of Britannica’s World Atlas, and makes it easy to find regions, oceans & countries.
Original Sources

Original Sources is an online library of important documents from throughout history, right up to the present day. Its purpose is as follows:

- To select information from the vast reservoir of writing and knowledge about humanity, the world, and the universe of which we are a part, written by original thinkers and experts throughout the ages.

- To provide insights into the work of great and original minds—people who made breakthroughs in human knowledge or thought.

- To provide an extensive collection of original source documents in history, politics and government, philosophy, religion, science, and the social sciences. Similarly, to provide extensive examples of the original work of great literary figures writing in English or in other languages.

- To provide a quotation finder and concordance enabling students to discover the origins or usage of key phrases and words.

- To meet the research needs of students and teachers in middle school, junior high school, high school, college, and university by providing broad access to primary source material on every computer in the institution’s network.

- To provide an everyday, up-to-date primary source research tool for librarians, teachers, and the general public.

- To supplement educational libraries with great books and documents that can be used in teaching subjects such as language, literacy, and history in elementary through high schools.

To access Original Sources, select it either from left-hand list of any Shetland Library webpage, or from the Online Reference Library of the 24 Hour Library section, beneath Encyclopaedia Britannica.
The gateway page is as follows, click to enter the site beyond.

![Gateway Page](image)

At the homepage, you will see subject classification of documents, as well as a search option in the upper right of the screen:
Clicking on a title will take you to a set of folders. Science & Mathematics will take you to a set of folders on scientific subjects:

Table of Contents

- OriginalSources
  - Science and Mathematics

- General Science
- Physical Science
- Life Science
- Applied Science
- Mathematics

Clicking on the folder icon will take you to potentially a new set of folders, as in the following on Applied Science:

Table of Contents

- OriginalSources
  - Science and Mathematics
    - Applied Science

- Engineering
- Medicine

Usually users will eventually be met with a folder with an author’s details:

Table of Contents

- OriginalSources
  - Science and Mathematics
    - Applied Science
      - Engineering
    - Advances in Technology

- Carvalho, David Nunes, 1848-1925
- Casson, Herbert Newton
- Dyer, Frank Lewis, 1870-1941
- Humphrey, S. D. (Samuel Dwight), 1823-1883
- Munro, J., 1849-1930
- Nasmyth, James, 1808-1890
- Smiles, Samuel, 1812-1904
- Snelling, Henry Hunt, 1816-1897
- Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894
Selecting one of these will take one to a title list, in which will be the sections of the title; for example Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Records of a Family of Engineers*:

### Table of Contents

- [OriginalSources](#)
  - Science and Mathematics
    - Applied Science
    - Engineering
    - Advances in Technology
  - Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894
    - Records of a Family of Engineers

#### INTRODUCTION

#### CHAPTER I DOMESTIC ANNALS

#### CHAPTER II THE SERVICE OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

#### CHAPTER III THE BUILDING OF THE BELL ROCK

Clicking on a chapter icon will take you to the section:

![Chapter II](image)

**CHAPTER II THE SERVICE OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS (cont.-2)**

My grandfather, as will appear from the following extracts, was much a seaman, and had a habit of expressing himself on paper with an almost seafaring emphasis. Personally, with his preserved voice, routine composure, and accent and original pronunciation, he was well qualified to inspire a solitary tenure in the service.

"Had that the keepers have, by some means or other, got into the way of keeping too much with rotten-stone and oil. I take the principal keeper to TASK on this subject, and to bring him a clean towel and clean one of the brown frames, which leaves the towel in an obvious state. This towel I put up in a sheet of paper, seal, and take with me to confront Mr. Murdock, who has just left the station. "This letter—written on the name of complaint—to be a work on the light-room book-plate, and to be put in the Inspector's hand when he comes round. "It is the most painful thing that can occur for me to have a correspondence of this kind with any of the keepers, and when I come to the Lighthouse, instead of having the satisfaction to meet them with approbation, it is distressing when one is obliged to put on a most anxious countenance and demeanor, but from such capricious negligence as you have shown there is no avoiding it. I hold it as a fixed maxim that, when a man or a family put on a steady appearance in their house, stairs, and latrines, I desire these reflectors, burners, windvanes, and light in general, if attended to, and therefore, I must insist on cleanliness throughly. "I find you very deficient in the duty of the high tower. You then place your appointment at Principal Keeper in jeopardy; and think it necessary to an old servant of the Board, to put you upon your guard once for all. When I come to your station, you will not tell me what you found it and not one word to the effect that the state of the keepers at the high tower was disgraceful, as I pointed out to you on the spot. They went a score of steps up, and the light was out, and the clock was broken in the course of its operation, and I demand an explanation of such state of things. "The voice of the Commissioners dimming you are exposed to the public, and must be a matter of regret to you that you have been so much engaged in unprofitable, and that the Board regards considerably the disrepute of the Lightkeeper, upon being referred to, rather added to their unfounded opinions. "Do not go back into the dwelling-house, but secrete only the lightkeepers for the disfigurement that seems to return among them. "The family of the two lightkeepers here, again you will have a reconciliation for the present. "Thus one is a very HUMIDUS state here. There is no painting, and the effect of doors so treat or otherwise displayed. Robert's wife GUERTES and M'Gregor's wife, and Robert is so desirous of having that he says he is a good man. "I told him that he was a good fellow, and that you were, the only one was for him and M'Gregor to go down to the point like Sir G. Grant and Lord Sommerset. "I cannot say that I have experienced a more unpleasant meeting than that of the lightkeepers this morning, or ever saw a stranger example of solitude or heavy.
SUMMARY

*Encyclopaedia Britannica* is one of the world’s most renowned reference texts, and now encompasses an extensive catalogue of multi-media information as well as up-to-date content on everything users used to look to it for. Shetland Library provides you with around the clock access to it, via its 24 Hour Library facility.

Read millions of entries, ranging from simple introductions to mini-thesis on various subjects written by leaders in their subject matter. See thousands of otherwise inaccessible images and videos. Link content to external websites and provide access to all with this treasured information.

*Original Sources* has over 350,000 documents enclosed, and covers the known spread of human literature. It has original documents in all fields, from ancient Egyptian war records to Welsh nationalist writings to the rise of modern psychology as written by its leading practitioners. As noted above, users can find handy quotes, back up arguments with primary source material and develop a better understanding of historical events, systems and peoples.

These resources are part of the 24 Hour Library – Shetland Library’s service that hooks you up with the right information whenever you need it, in subscription websites, a host of Weblinks and other connections you will benefit from.