



Overview

SciLinks® helps science educators harness the vast resources of the Internet by connecting key textbook subjects to NSTA-approved web pages that enrich student learning both inside and outside the science classroom. By linking to a brief call-out found in the margin, which lists the topic, a code, and a URL (www.scilinks.org), teachers and students can access vetted web pages that provide real-time information and new content on a host of science topics.

The service points to 24,000 vetted web pages, each of which was selected after a thorough review against eight rubrics (http://learningcenter.nsta.org/products/about_sciguide/rubrics.aspx) and then aligned to a specific topic and grade level. The topics are then featured as extensions in hundreds of textbooks and supplemental titles, as well as in selected NSTA publications.

Since its debut six years ago, SciLinks has registered more than 156,000 teachers and nearly 640,000 students at no cost to use the site, and countless more use it as “Guests.” NSTA’s premier Internet technology product supports the specific needs and interests of the different user groups—NSTA Members, Teachers/Parents, Students, and Guests – each of whom use SciLink tools unique to their needs.

For example, all registered teachers and members can use the **My Favorites** tool, where they may save their searches as Favorites for quick access whenever and wherever they log in. When their students log in, they will see a link that reads “Your Teacher’s Favorites.” Clicking on this link will reveal the topics the teacher wants them to view, and a list of vetted web pages for those topics is only one more click away.

Teachers also want to know that students are finding the SciLinks information helpful, so NSTA has developed the **“SciLinks Assignment”** tool. Registered teachers can assign codes or selected web pages to individual students or to the whole class. To ensure that students are reading and interacting with the content thoroughly, teachers can create a series of questions that tap the information students will find when they visit the selected pages. Students may enter their answers within SciLinks and return them to their teacher, who will then see students’ answers in a workbook for his/her classes.

NSTA members can use both SciLinked texts as well as the SciLinks **keyword search** to fine-tune an Internet search of web pages to a manageable number of vetted web pages. Submitting “simple machines” to a popular search engine yields 2.6 million possibilities; submitting the same key words to SciLinks yields 18 web pages. Of these, five are selected just for teachers (lessons plans, activities, etc.), while the remainder are useful to students (simulations, animations, and other interactive opportunities).

Publishers subscribe to feature the SciLinks service in their books, so readers of SciLinked texts are able to access the service for free. NSTA members are able to access the service at no extra cost by virtue of their membership in NSTA. SciLinks is a great service to use in your classroom, whether you found it through the printed page of a textbook or accessed it through the members-only keyword search. Please contact Tyson Brown at tbrown@nsta.org or 703.312.9395 if you would like to learn more about this time-saving service from the National Science Teachers Association.

Participating Publishers

- Harcourt
- Holt, Rinehart, and Winston
- Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company
- Pearson Prentice Hall
- Pearson Learning Group
- Pearson Scott Foresman
- WGBH
- Great Source
- Brooks/Cole
- McDougal Littell
- Current Publishing
- Wright Group (McGraw-Hill)