

# Guided Tour

A guide to getting started  
with Britannica at home



# Britannica Digital Learning

Select learning for any level.



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.

*"Now that we have these resources, we're confident in the knowledge that our students are safe when they're using the internet for research. We have also seen that the differentiation tools, such as reading levels have really benefited our learners."*

**Lesley Harrison**  
**St Helen's School**

# Britannica Digital Learning



For 250 years, Britannica has collaborated with experts, scholars, educators, designers and specialists as well as our global team of editors who rigorously review all content to produce digital learning products that we believe are critical to providing a reliable, useful and enjoyable learning experience.

We work closely with schools, parents and educators, designing products for the modern-day classroom and home learning environments. Our resources can be accessed online from any device, meaning that we're able to provide support wherever students need it.

Our passion is – and always has been – bringing high quality, reliable and accessible learning resources to people all over the world..

# 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.

The screenshot shows the Britannica School Foundation homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, a search bar, and links for 'Students', 'Teachers', and 'Help'. Below the navigation bar, there is a language selection prompt in Spanish. The main content area features a large green banner with a blue sky and white clouds background. The banner contains a question: 'What Does It Mean?' followed by a paragraph about the Chinese zodiac cycle. Below the paragraph is a multiple-choice question: 'Choose the word that has the closest meaning to cycle.' with four options: 'pattern', 'celebration', 'collection', and 'tradition'. To the right of the text is an image of a colorful Chinese dragon. Below the banner is a horizontal line with a red dot indicating the current position. At the bottom, there is a row of six icons representing different content categories: 'ARTICLES' (flowers), 'MEDIA' (planet), 'WORLD ATLAS' (landscape), 'BIOGRAPHIES' (Einstein), 'ANIMAL KINGDOM' (lion), and 'FUNDAMENTALS FOR EARLY LEARNERS' (cartoon character). A 'Show More' link is visible on the right side of the row.

## 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 secondary school students, 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 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 navigation bar with the Britannica logo, a search bar, and links for 'Students', 'Teachers', and 'Help'. Below the navigation bar, there is a light green banner for the 'Daily Buzzword' section. The word 'agile' is highlighted in green, with its definition and usage examples. To the right of the banner is a vertical menu titled 'Explore Britannica' with icons for 'ARTICLES', 'IMAGES AND VIDEOS', 'BIOGRAPHIES', 'WORLD ATLAS', 'COMPARE COUNTRIES', 'TOUR EUROPE', 'MY CONTENT', and 'LESSON PLAN BROWSE'. Below the banner is a 'Can You Guess?' section with three image-based questions. At the bottom, there are two sections: 'Compare Countries' and 'Explore Biographies'.

**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.

**Explore Britannica**

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

**Can You Guess?**

- Which 15th-century Italian artist designed a batlike flying machine?
- Why is the Atlantic the saltiest ocean?
- What is amber?

**Compare Countries**

**Explore Biographies**

## 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 broaden your global awareness and understanding of other countries around the world through non-bias, factual information.

## Biographies

The perfect starting point 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 sixth-formers preparing for 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 scope to consider different perspectives.

The screenshot displays the Britannica School Advanced interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Britannica logo, a search bar, and links for Students, Teachers, and Help. Below the navigation bar, there is a header section with the text "Para acceder a los recursos en español, ingrese aquí." and "My Britannica" with links to My Content, Lesson Plan Browse, and Sign Out. The main content area features a quote by H.L. Mencken: "Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard." Below the quote, it says "H.L. Mencken (born September 12, 1880—died January 29, 1956)" and a button that says "GIVE ME ANOTHER QUOTE". Below the quote, there are four tabs: FLASH FACTS, ON THIS DAY, IN THEIR WORDS (which is highlighted), and SCIENCE IN PICTURES. Below the tabs, there are several icons for navigation: ARTICLE BROWSE, BIOGRAPHIES, COMPARE COUNTRIES, MEDIA BROWSE, WORLD ATLAS, TOUR EUROPE, and MY CONTENT. To the right of these icons is a section titled "EXPLORE BIOGRAPHIES" with a sub-header "Read more about the lives of the important, the influential, and the infamous." Below this, there are four dropdown menus: Era, Cultural Associati..., Known for, and Gender, followed by a "Go!" button. Below the navigation icons, there is a section titled "FLASH FACTS" with three cards: "What Causes the Northern Lights?", "Scientists Identify Four Species of Giraffes", and "What's the Difference Between Veins and Arteries?". To the right of the Flash Facts section is a section titled "RECOMMENDED PRIMARY SOURCES" with a sub-header "Find letters, speeches, and other primary".

## 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, you have direct access to letters, speeches and other primary source material to broaden their research further.

# Supporting Remote Learning

## Reading Levels

Change the level of an article dependent on your ability. Changing to a lower level means that the text will be shorter and vocabulary more simple.

## Multimedia

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

The screenshot shows the search results for "cells" on the Britannica School Intermediate website. At the top, there are navigation options for "Level 1", "Level 2", and "Level 3". A sidebar on the left contains icons for various content types: ARTICLES, IMAGES, VIDEOS, DICTIONARY, JOURNALS, WEB'S BEST SITES, PRIMARY SOURCES / E-BOOKS, YEAR IN REVIEW, and LESSON PLANS. The main content area displays search results for "cells", including a definition of a cell, a section for "plant (biology)" with sub-sections for "Complex tissues", "Plant Cells and Tissues", and "Sexual Reproduction", and a section for "stem cell (biology)". There are also "IMAGES RELATED TO THIS SEARCH" and a "SEE ALL IMAGES" link.

## Literacy Support

We have put tools in place to support you with reading. Use the Read Aloud tool to highlight the text whilst a neutral voice guides you through the text. Next, double click a word for the dictionary definition of that word!

The screenshot shows the article page for "cell" on the Britannica School Intermediate website. The article title is "cell" and it is categorized as an "Article". There are tabs for "Images & Videos", "Related", and "Teacher". The article reading level is set to "1". The article content includes an "Introduction" section with a diagram of a cell and text explaining that the cell is the smallest unit of living matter. It also includes a section for "Prokaryotes and Eukaryotes". At the top of the article, there are icons for various tools: a magnifying glass, a star, a printer, a speech bubble, a play button, and a plus sign.

## Translation Tool

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

# Challenging Yourself!

## Reading Levels

Challenge yourself by increasing the reading level of a text. This will mean that the content becomes more detailed and vocabulary more complex.

## Related

Expand your interest and develop your understanding by clicking on the related tab! Doing this will take them to further resources on a topic.

cell

Article Reading Level 1 2 3

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](#).)

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?

## Daily Buzzword

Expand your vocabulary through the Daily Buzzword feature. You can build your own vocabulary banks as a daily activity at home.

## Independent Study

The homepage provides you with constant information and tasks. Explore of these resources to help inspire their natural curiosity.

# Stay Safe Online

The screenshot shows the Britannica School Intermediate website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site name, a search bar, and links for 'Students', 'Teachers', and 'Help'. Below the navigation bar, there is a green banner for the 'Daily Buzzword' section, which features the word 'manacle' with its definition and usage. To the right of the banner is a sidebar titled 'Explore Britannica' with various icons and links for 'ARTICLES', 'IMAGES AND VIDEOS', 'BIOGRAPHIES', 'WORLD ATLAS', 'COMPARE COUNTRIES', 'TOUR EUROPE', and 'MY CONTENT'. Below the banner is a 'Can You Guess?' section with three images and corresponding questions. At the bottom, there are two more sections: 'Compare Countries' and 'Explore Biographies'.

## Safe

Britannica is an educational resource. Therefore, all information found within the site is non-bias and non-political. This means that you 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 you are accessing is 100% accurate and reliable.

# My Britannica

Set up your own personal My Britannica area to favourite 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 Content' page on the Britannica School website. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with the Britannica School logo, 'Intermediate' level, a search bar, and links for 'Students' and 'Help'. Below the navigation bar, the page title 'My Content' is displayed. On the left, a sidebar shows 'Welcome, Estout' and 'All Favourites' with 10 items. A green button says 'Create a new resource pack!' and a link says 'What are Resource Packs?'. Below this, there are sections for 'Environment' (10 items) and 'Britannica favourites' (0 items). The main content area is titled '★ Favourites and Resource Packs' and shows a pack named 'Environment'. It includes a search bar, a 'Rename Pack | Delete Pack | Email Pack | Share Pack' link, and a 'Filter by content type:' dropdown. The pack contains two articles: 'pollution' and 'deforestation'. Each article has a small image, a title, a '1' icon, and a text box for notes. The 'pollution' article text says: 'Pollution happens when the environment is contaminated, or dirtied, by waste, chemicals, and other harmful substances. There are three main forms of pollution: air, water, ...'. The 'deforestation' article text says: 'Deforestation is the clearing, or cutting-down, of forests. The word is normally used to describe the actions of humans in removing forests from the planet, rather than...'. The 'pollution' article's note box says: 'Read this article entitled Pollution. Write down five facts that you learn about pollution and suggest three ways that we reduce the threat that pollution is causing our planet.' The 'deforestation' article's note box says: 'Read this article about deforestation. Write a paragraph summarising the main points of the article. Include details of how the article makes you feel.'

## How can students use Resource Packs?

Resource Packs are a great way for you to organise revision for exams. Use the notes section to summarise what you have learnt from a resource. You can also use Resource Packs to organise research on a particular topic! You can then share their Resource Pack with teachers using the share or email button!

## How can parents/carers use Resource Packs?

We would encourage you to make a Resource Pack and pose questions your child using the notes section. This is a great tool for young people that are reluctant readers and who find independent research difficult.



To learn more about scheduling, contact us:  
[enquiries@eb.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eb.co.uk) | 020 7500 7800 | [Britannica.co.uk](http://Britannica.co.uk)