

Spend Some of Your Summer with Share My Lesson

As the school year comes to a close, we know that many of you will be reflecting on how things went, taking a well-deserved vacation, and then getting right back in the groove to prepare for the fall. Whenever you're ready, Share My Lesson offers access to thousands of free resources and a community of colleagues. Just follow these steps, and you'll be well on your way:



1. Register on ShareMyLesson.com

If you aren't registered on Share My Lesson, you should be! More than a half-million people who work with students are registered on the site, sharing resources with each other. Registering is quick and easy. Just go to ShareMyLesson.com, click on the red "Join Us" button, and fill out the form.

2. Search for resources

Once you're registered, start browsing. You'll find various resources covering all subjects and grades. If it is your first visit to the site, you might find it helpful to start with the Teacher Care Packages (www.bit.ly/PXdonf), which showcase users' favorite resources. Care Packages include links to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), resources that are aligned to each of the standards, and lesson plans for teaching specific celebrations, heritage months, and historic events. Care Packages are regularly updated to reflect new additions. Be sure to bookmark this page and visit it often!

Interested in resources about the Common Core? In addition to CCSS-aligned classroom materials, Share My Lesson houses a wealth of professional development materials for teachers looking to learn more about these standards. You'll find the standards themselves, sample assessment questions, webinars (www.bit.ly/Sh7fEF) with education researchers and experts, sample parent letters (www.bit.ly/1kB4vuL), and more. To see the full range of available materials, check out the Common Core Information Center (www.bit.ly/1kB4KpQ).

3. Share your resources

Do you have a favorite lesson or worksheet? Share it on Share My Lesson. It's easy: log on to Share My Lesson, click on "Teaching Resources," click on "Add a Resource" at the top of the page, fill out the form, upload your resource, and hit "Save." It is really that simple.

Summer break is a great time to take a close look at the materials you've prepared and get them ready for others to use as well. One AFT member likened the sharing process to getting ready for an open house. You find yourself wanting to make your resource more attractive and/or user-friendly for the next person who wants to download and use it.

FUN SUMMER CHECKLIST

Travel
Read some books
Relax

✓ Explore Share My Lesson!

Catch up on movies
Buy more sunscreen
Make popsicles
Go hiking
Do some gardening

4. Become a Share My Lesson ambassador

Members across the country are signing up to be ambassadors of Share My Lesson. Ambassadors spread the word about this terrific website through social media, blog posts, and conference presentations, and they review resources for alignment to the Common Core and help with the development of new sections of the website (two recent additions cover early childhood education and STEM education).

Much of this development work occurs through weekend events where members brainstorm ideas for the website, share lessons, learn how to assess whether a lesson plan aligns with the Common Core, and review and rate resources.

Attendees have said that these events are both fun and professionally engaging;

many have noted they are among the best professional development they've ever received. Read about one member's experience on the AFT's new "Voices from the Classroom" blog at www.bit.ly/RbdZTk.

Interested in becoming a Share My Lesson ambassador? Just send an email to share@aft.org.

Sixty-six teachers attended the February 2014 Share My Lesson marathon in Denver, Colorado. Larry Bello and Carlos Vargas, from the Perth Amboy Federation, are shown on the right; Bobbi Jo Rademacher, from the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, is shown below.



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