



LOW HANGING FRUIT

Travel the world from home! Or finish your country report.

By Allison Floyd

Bon voyage! Buen viaje! Bidaia ona! Whether you're collecting stamps for your passport, or destinations from your armchair, LiLI.org offers a variety of resources that can enhance your travels. And as country reports are a rite of passage for school kids, LiLI can help with research on the country of choice for a school report.

Pronunciator, our new language learning database, can help you get up to speed in 87 languages and the culture of your chosen destination. It also offers ProTours of European destination cities such as Madrid, Paris, Berlin, Venice, and Rome. To further help you soak up your chosen country's culture, Pronunciator offers feature films, streaming music with lyrics, poetry, plays, and culture notes. You can also practice conversing in live, online classes conducted by native speakers of the language you'd like to learn (with a limit of two times per week).

Gale Virtual Reference Library's Encyclopedia of Food and Culture (found under Nation and World) covers food and its place in human culture and society, and features in-depth articles about world cuisines, as well as photographs, illustrations, recipes, menus, maps, and timelines. GVRL's Fashion, Costume, and Culture (found under History) covers the cultural, religious, and social implications of various fashions and styles throughout the globe, examining them within the context of regional customs, rituals, and practices.

The visually stunning World Book Online suite of encyclopedias offers a wealth of country resources for all ages. World Book Kids, Student, and Advanced each offer interactive maps, atlases, and the ability to compare places to their respective demographics. The intrepid explorer will find country-specific quick facts, images, flags, videos, and more. World Book Online also offers a Spanish encyclopedia, Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos, which provides access to Spanish-language newspapers from Spain, Argentina, Mexico, and many other Spanish-speaking countries. On top of all this, World Book Online offers citations for its articles!

You can also use EBSCO's Publication Finder to find full-text issues of periodicals such as National Geographic Traveler. Publication Finder is available on the lili.org homepage (it's the second and final slide in the slideshow at the top, after the featured databases slide).

So, whether the bag you're packing is literal or figurative, remember that our gal LiLI is about as reliable a travel companion as you could hope for!



LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



My Country Report Notetaking Packet

A handy workbook for students to organize their thoughts and research for a country report.

<https://www.uplifteducation.org/cms/lib/TX01001293/Centricity/Domain/173/International%20Festival%20Packet.pdf>

10 Ways to Explore the World Without Leaving Home from Creative Family Fun.

Food, crafts, stories, games, and links to lots of additional resources for learning about different countries and cultures. This one has lots of ads, but also good ideas.

<https://creativefamilyfun.net/10-ways-to-explore-world-without/>

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Leave the Same Old Same Old

Spice things up by incorporating digital literacy and website building skills in the country report project by using a portfolio format for the final product! Think it's too much to get 30 kids going on this? Partner with your school librarian. Besides research, information literacy, and writing skills, students acquire design and curation abilities, and might even create content. Portfolio and website design sources like Weebly, PortfolioGen, or Google Sites, make this project more manageable than it might seem. [Check out this 5-best list](#) for information to choose the best option for your classroom.

DIGITAL TOOLS



Pronunciator

Pronunciator provides instruction for 87 foreign languages, and ESL for 51 non-English languages, along with Course Designer, which allows for the creation of custom courses by educators. Includes online conversation classes, feature films, streaming music, culture notes, and more!

Find Pronunciator and other great tools for educators at:

<http://lili.org/dbs/category/18>

