



CRITICAL THINKING & INFORMATION LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

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Biology

Biology Handbook: *Introduction to Netscape and Search Engines*

1. Double click on the Netscape icon
2. Wait for the words, **Document done** on the bottom left of the screen.
3. Find the BCC home page:

At the top of the screen, you will probably find the words starting with "http://". Delete the whole thing and type into the box, **http://www.bcc.ctc.edu/** and hit the return key.

Note: the **edu** ending indicates the site is an educational site.

Check out the site by clicking on what interests you! You can get your schedule and an unofficial transcript under "student resources".

4. Delete the words at the top and type in:

<http://prime.bcc.ctc.edu/homepages/biology/bio101.htm>

Click on the current quarter (e.g. summer 97)

Whose home page is this? _____

Click on the **Cool Stuff** button and look at some of the things on this page. In particular check out **Audesirk**. Follow a path from **Biology, Life on Earth** to **Table of Contents** to **Chapter 1** and find the **Current Hyperlinks** and check out the **Self Quiz!**

Try to find your way back to the Cool Stuf page. Did you find the '**Mr. Edible Starchy Tuber Head**'? This site is one to play with (when you have the time). As you can see, not everything on the Internet is serious.

5. Sometimes you can guess what the address is. For example, let's find Time Magazine. Delete the words at the top and type in **http://www.time.com/** and hit the **return key**.

note: the **com** ending indicates the site is a commercial site. Check out the site by clicking on what interests you!

What is the cover story? _____

What do you think would be the address of the Seattle Times? _____

Try to find it on the web.

6. Delete the words at the top and type in **http://www.epa.gov/**

What is this site?

What does gov mean?

What do you think is the address for the Food and Drug administration?

Try to find it on the web.

7. Both the Biology 101 Homepage and the Audesirk Homepage have buttons to help you search the net. You can also search the net from the Netscape Menu.

At the top of the screen locate the **Net Search** button and click on it.

There are buttons for several Search Engines: **Lycos, WebCrawler, Excite, Yahoo, Infoseek**

If it is not darkened, click on Yahoo.

Type in **dna** in the empty blank to the right of the word, Yahoo, written in red. **Hit the return key**. how many matches did you find? _____

Scroll to the bottom of the screen and let's try to do an advanced search. Imagine that you want to find articles which refer to dna and crick (Crick won a noble prize for the discovery of the structure of dna). Type in **dna+crick**. **Hit the return key**. This will narrow your search. How many matches did you find? _____

8. Try another search engine: Click on **Net Search** at the top of your screen. Select **Excite** and type in **dna**. **Hit the return key**. How many matches did you find? _____

Scroll to the bottom of the page and type in **dna+crick**. **Hit Return**. How many matches did you find? _____

Excite has directions for advanced searching. On the right side of your screen and down by "more search services", click on the button for **TIPS**. Advanced searching is described under general tips #6

9. Another search engine that is useful for scientific searches is AltaVista. Type in <http://www.altavista.digital.com/> and search for information on **dna**. How many articles did you find? ____ How about trying **dna+crick**? How many did you find? _____

10. Do you get the same references using different search engines?

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