



# The Mini Page

Issue 39, 2021

Founded by Betty Debnam

**Next Week:**  
Fire prevention

## Fact Finding



### Mini Fact:

Many websites will show when they were last updated. You may find this at the bottom of the page.

Do you think you'll be writing a research paper in school this year? Researching your homework topics might seem like a lot of work, but it can be really fun, too.

The key is to know where to start and how to keep going. If you find something that interests you, you'll have a good time exploring it.

While your first idea might be to search on the internet, don't forget about libraries and librarians. These professional researchers have a lot of tips to help you get to the bottom of a subject you're exploring.

### Ask a librarian

You could go to your school librarian or to your public library. Your public library probably has a special children's section. The librarian there can help you track down facts.

Libraries have many sources that you might not have at home. There might be whole sections full of books on your topic.

Most libraries subscribe to special electronic sources, too. Librarians have already checked out these sources. They know these sites can probably be trusted to state the facts and are appropriate for kids.



Librarians are trained to help people research subjects, and they love doing it.

### Searching online

If you're researching on a site such as Google, remember that the more words you put about the subject into the search box, the easier it will be to sort through the sites.

For example, if you type in "flight," you will probably get millions of sites. If you type in "Wright Brothers" you will still get thousands of sites. But if you type in "Wright Brothers' first flight," or "Wright Brothers' bicycle shop," you will have a better chance of finding what you are looking for right away.

Search engines especially for kids, such as [cybersleuth-kids.com](http://cybersleuth-kids.com) and [en.childrenslibrary.org](http://en.childrenslibrary.org), can be helpful, too. These search engines have been checked out by experts. Parents can know they are safe for kids to use.

### Check it twice

Even when the source is trustworthy, information could still be wrong. Knowledge changes all the time. If you're looking at an older site, the information may be outdated.

For example, we know a lot more about dinosaurs than we did even 10 years ago.

### Be inquisitive

Always ask questions. Researchers such as scientists, historians or police detectives are always looking for clues to help them solve a problem or puzzle.



### Finding a topic

What are you interested in? If you love sports but don't care about cooking, it probably won't be much fun to research a famous chef.

Ask yourself what you want to know about a subject. You might need to narrow the subject down to one thing. Or you might need to broaden your idea.

For instance, you may love soccer — that's a broad topic! But you could dig into who invented soccer cleats, or how the game began.



### Be a skeptic

Some topics can be tricky. For example, you might be intrigued by politics. But it's important when researching politicians or government agencies to pay attention to your sources of information.

A website that's dedicated to raising money for Democrats might be a bit **biased**, or favoring Democrats' points of view.

Try to find out who wrote the information. Often this can be found at the end of the page.



## Resources



### On the Web:

- [youtu.be/h5HM8GjQwP8](http://youtu.be/h5HM8GjQwP8)

### At the library:

- "Writing a Research Paper" by Colleen Hord
- "Just the Facts: Writing Your Own Research Report" by Nancy Loewen

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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of research are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ASK, BIASED, BROAD, FACTS, HELP, HOMEWORK, IDEA, INTEREST, INTERNET, LIBRARY, NARROW, PAPER, RESEARCH, SITES, SOURCE, SUBJECT, TOPIC, TRUSTWORTHY, UPDATED, WEBSITE.

Q D T S I T E S H D E S A I B  
I R B Y Z Z C I P O T M L B U  
N T K R Y T E N R E T N I E P  
T C R A D E T I S B E W T S D  
E E O R A S O U R C E M I T A  
R J W B O R E S E A R C H C T  
E B E I R O A U P L E H N A E  
S U M L B E Z P A P E R S F D  
T S O H D N A R R O W K T U J  
F M H I T R U S T W O R T H Y

## Cook's Corner

### Brown Rice Casserole

#### You'll need:

- 2 1/2 to 3 cups cooked instant brown rice
- 1 (15-ounce) can sweet peas, drained
- 8 ounces processed cheese, cubed (reduced-fat optional)

- 1 (4-ounce) can mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- cooking spray
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

#### What to do:

1. Cook instant rice according to directions.
2. In a large bowl, combine rice, sweet peas, cheese and mushrooms.
3. Spray 1 1/2-quart baking dish with cooking spray. Transfer combined ingredients to baking dish.
4. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. During the last 5 minutes of cooking, sprinkle almonds on top. Serves 6 to 8.

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## Mini Jokes



**Randy:** Where does a computer mouse live?  
**Renee:** In its mouse pad!

## Eco Note



Ferocious baboons are scaring farmers in western Kenya, and reports say weapons such as clubs and spears cannot keep them at bay. The Nation news service reports that some of the primates have invaded homes to scavenge for food without fear of humans. This has forced some farmers to gather packs of dogs to protect their crops and other property. "My dogs sometimes sustain serious injuries," Nicanor Odongo told the newspaper. Officials say they are making plans to relocate the aggressive animals to a game park.

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### For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about schools in your area.

**Teachers:** Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



1. Place of collections of books, films & recordings (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

2. Occurring, appearing or used every day (5-letter adjective)

□ □ □ □ □

3. To pay attention in order to hear (6-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □

4. To work at often to learn or improve (8-letter verb)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Molly went to the \_\_\_\_\_ to study lizards and reptiles.
2. Mark does \_\_\_\_\_ exercises for 15 minutes each morning.
3. Juana does \_\_\_\_\_ carefully to her math teacher.
4. Matt will \_\_\_\_\_ hitting baseballs every day for his team.

### ROOTONYM®

by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Library, Daily, Listen, Practice.

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