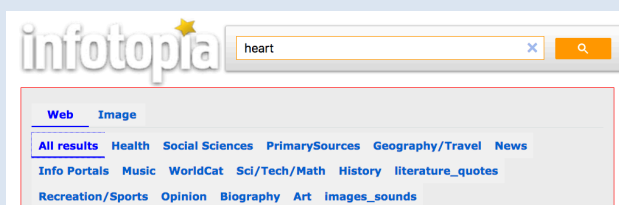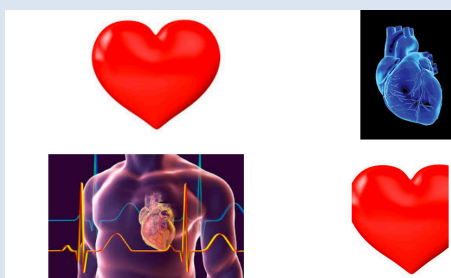## Tips to Improve Searching by Keyword (or Subject)

When you are searching for information on Infotopia, Kidtopia, Infotrek, Virtual LRC or **even Google**, check out your results page for the tabs at the top of the page. This will help you improve your search results, depending on your purpose.

For example, I did a search on "heart" and the tabs that appeared on Infotopia included the following.

When I clicked on **Health**, I found information about hearts in biology or medicine. However when I clicked on **News**, I found an article about the genetically modified pig heart transplant into a human. **Literature/Quotes** gave me quotes and literature about hearts.

Note that **Image** also appears as a tab at the top. This will give you images of your search term.

These tabs can be especially helpful in improving the speed of your search if you are only interested in the latest news, or if you are only interested in images, for example. If you are looking for only primary sources in history, the tabs can be very helpful.

Of course you can always include the word news, images, primary sources, or any other terms in your original search terms as well.

TeacherTopia.info

Have you tried **TeacherTopia.info** yet? If you are a new teacher or a substitute, TeacherTopia can help. It links to resources for K-12 subjects, ranging from science and social studies, to math and language arts, and more.

Another good place to look for ideas is our **online monthly newsletters**, with suggested activities and resources for grades PK-12.

https://www.teachertopia.info/
https://www.infotopia.info/newsletter.html

kidtopia

https://www.enchantedlearning.com/Aisfor.shtml

Do your elementary students need a picture dictionary? Our favorite is on Enchanted Learning. Just click on the letter of the alphabet in the table and you will find everything from **aardvark** to **zucchini**. Many of the entries link to a coloring page, a description, examples of the entry, and more.

Enchanted Learning is a wonderful website for young students. It includes pre-school activities, dictionaries, crafts, worksheets, monthly calendars, puzzles, coloring pages, and a great deal of information about animals, all on an age-appropriate level for PK-3.

There is a paid version of Enchanted Learning, but they still include wonderful resources on their free version.

Everything has to do with Geography!

World Factbook has always been a source for quick and easy information about countries around the world. Students can explore the world, its regions, and the oceans, and explore countries by searching or just checking from an alphabetical list. The country information includes photos, maps, flags, and more. In addition, students can find resources on geography, the people, the environment, the government, and much more, for each of 260 countries.
https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/

Another amazing resource that you may not have tried is **indexmundi**. Students can see data expressed in colorful maps comparing topics such as detailed demographics, economy, energy, telecommunications, and more. As an example, check out the population of each country, the production of oil, or the number of airports, just to name a few. (Which country has the most number of airports?)
https://www.indexmundi.com/map/

Censusscope.org also makes a great deal of information available for researchers. Students can investigate charts and trends from the latest census, and explore maps, rankings, and more from this resource.
https://www.censusscope.org/index.html

Another great resource for comparing countries around the world is **Nationmaster**. It is a compilation of data from hundreds of sources. Find tables, graphs, maps, and pie charts in a wide assortment of categories. Compare any two countries in a range of categories.
https://www.nationmaster.com/static/

Our search engines/web directories include:

https://www.infotopia.info

https://www.kidtopia.info

https://www.kidtopiagames.com

https://www.infotrek.info

https://www.virtualLRC.com

https://www.teachertopia.info

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Dr. Michael Bell and Carole Bell
(Retired) Librarians/Teachers

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