

# Wikimedia for Lifelong Learning

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## What is Wikimedia?

“Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge. That's our commitment.”

Wikimedia promotes free knowledge for everyone through a collection of open online communities producing free and open content:

Some of the Wikimedia projects:	They are all:
<p><b>Wikipedia:</b> the free encyclopedia</p> <p><b>Wikimedia Commons:</b> digital media repository</p> <p><b>Wikisource:</b> primary source documents</p> <p><b>Wikiversity:</b> free learning materials &amp; activities</p> <p><b>Wikinews:</b> free-content news</p> <p><b>Wiktionary:</b> multilingual dictionary &amp; thesaurus</p> <p><b>Wikibooks:</b> free textbooks and manuals</p>	<p><b>Charitable:</b> No commercial influences, no adverts.</p> <p><b>Multilingual:</b> Serving as wide an audience as possible.</p> <p><b>Freely available,</b> under Creative Commons licences or the Public Domain, for adaptation and reuse in <i>your</i> educational materials</p> <p><b>Volunteer-run.</b></p>

**Wikimedia UK** is the national charity supporting Wikipedia and its sister projects. We work with educators, researchers, cultural institutions and the public at large to build and preserve open knowledge for sharing and reuse.

## Some figures

<p>More than <b>280</b> languages catered for</p> <p><b>Half a billion</b> visitors per month, aiming for one billion per month by 2015.</p> <p>More than <b>four million</b> English articles; <b>22 million</b> articles across all languages</p>	<p><b>Fifteen million</b> digital media files (photographs, diagrams, document scans, maps, video clips, audio clips)</p> <p><b>80,000</b> active contributors</p> <p>Wikipedia is <b>12</b> years old in January 2013</p>
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## Some educational activities

Photograph the landmarks in a town, upload to Wikimedia Commons and add the photographs to relevant articles.

Fact-check a Wikipedia article against printed reliable sources.

Look for monuments, blue plaques and other signs of historical importance in a locality.

Do the people and events have Wikipedia articles?

Create a diagram to illustrate the key concepts in an article. Upload and add it to the article.

Use the Book Tool to create a customised selection of articles relevant to the topics you are most interested in learning.

Explore the history of a controversial article, such as “2003 invasion of Iraq”. How did different contributors want the article to look? How was the title of the article decided?

How did the article evolve in response to events?

For a book group: discuss how the book could be used as a reference in Wikipedia: which articles is it relevant to? What content in the book counts as encyclopedic?

Examine some of the decisions the community has taken:

What is English Wikipedia’s position on images of the Prophet Mohammed? How was the decision arrived at?

Why was English Wikipedia blacked out for a day in January 2012? Who made that decision?

What are Rorschach inkblots? Why are they available to view on Wikipedia? Why has this upset some people? What are the arguments for and against including those images?

Explore an open space, such as a river, a coastal pathway or a mountain range. Take photographs and upload to Wikimedia Commons.

Look at a Good Article or Featured Article review process. What was the article like when submitted for review? What changes were made in response to the review? Why did the reviewer want those changes? Are there improvements the reviewer missed?

Create a “how to” article in Wikibooks for a skill you are learning.