

COMPUTING · GRADES 3–5

Searching Smart

Find what you need on the web

Three search habits

1) **PICK KEYWORDS** — not whole questions. 'tallest mountain in Africa' beats 'what is the name of the tallest mountain that is found in the continent of Africa'. 2) **READ THE URL** — Wikipedia, .gov, .edu and major news sites are usually reliable. Random blogs, less so. 3) **CHECK A SECOND SOURCE** — if a fact matters, verify it from a different site.

Pick the better search

1. You want to know the population of France. (a) 'tell me population france' or (b) 'population of France'? Why?
2. You want to find pictures of polar bears in Alaska. (a) 'pictures of bears' or (b) 'polar bears Alaska photos'?
3. You're looking for safe websites about ancient Rome for a homework project. What words might help narrow it down?

Is this site reliable?

- Is the URL from a known source (.gov, .edu, BBC, Wikipedia, major newspaper)?
- Does the site have a recent date — not from years ago for current topics?
- Does the author seem to know the subject? Are they named?
- Does it have references / sources of its own?
- Are there obvious spelling mistakes? (a red flag)
- Does the site try to sell something? (be cautious)



■ Does another reliable site say the same thing?

