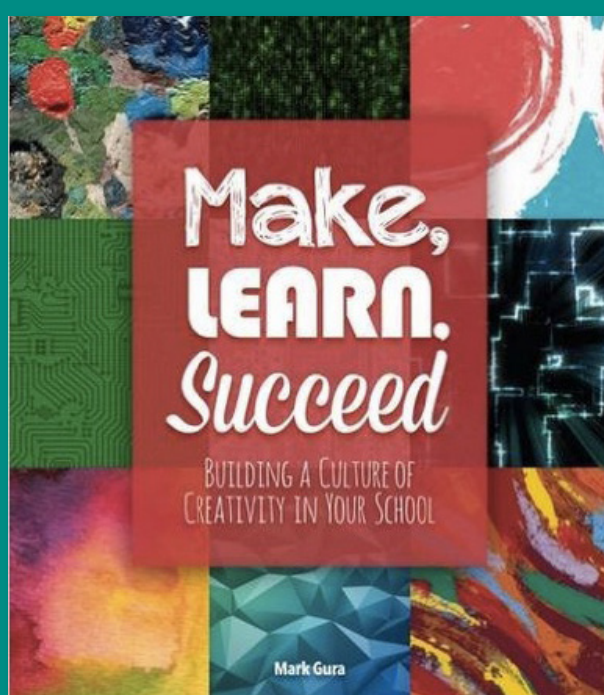


FEBRUARY 2017 GRANT WOOD AEA INFO@

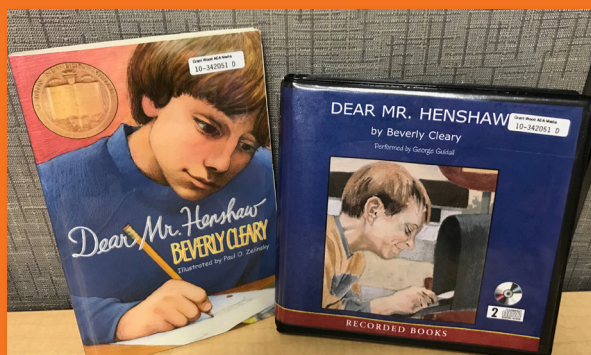
Monthly information for teacher-librarians
and media contacts

[Click here to read all full-length stories](#)



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURES

Preparing K-5 grade students for research using creativity.



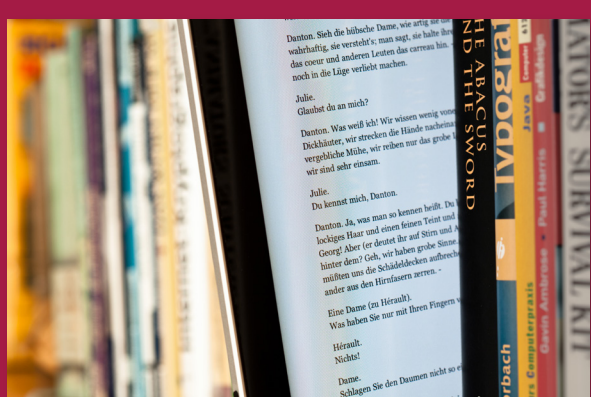
LESSON IDEA: USING RESEARCH IN THE CREATIVITY PROCESS

Deanna offers suggestions to incorporate creativity into the research process.



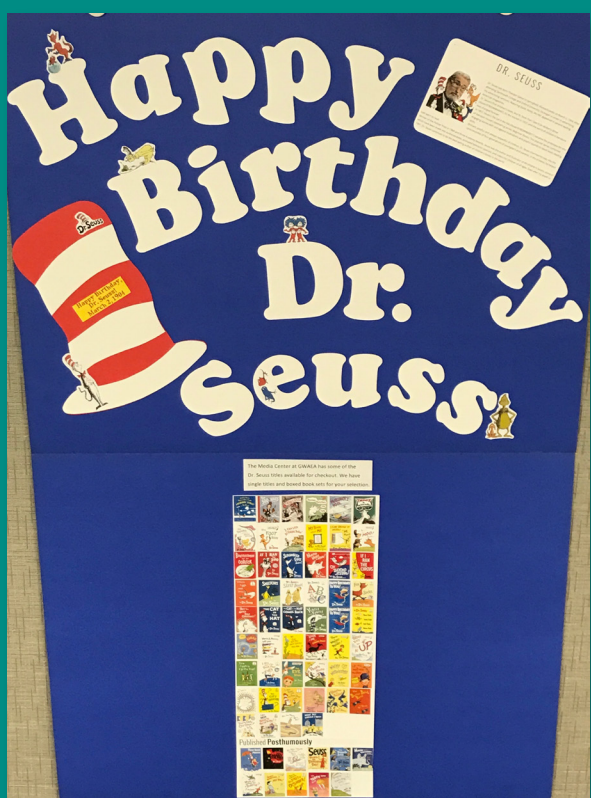
"THINK, MAKE, INNOVATE": WEARABLES: LED LIT BAGS

Join Jason and Amber for the 2nd season of the *Makerspace Challenge Show*.



BEGINNER WORKSHOP: PROFESSIONAL EBOOKS

There's still time to sign up for this short and practical workshop. Click [here](#) for Professional eBook workshop offerings.



IDEAS FROM THE WORK CENTER

Celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday with some ideas from The Work Center.



CYBERBULLYING ADVICE

Here are some resources to help keep kids safe online.



GRANT WOOD AEA MEDIA CENTER CLASSROOM COLLECTION

Over **7,000** resources.

CLASSROOM
COLLECTION
MATERIALS
CIRCULATE FOR
21 DAYS

SUBJECTS
COVERED
INCLUDE:



LITERACY



CLASSROOM COLLECTION IN A NUTSHELL

Click here to see the full infographic on the classroom collection, which is available in the Grant Wood AEA Media Center.



MACKINVIA EBOOKS: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

On-site training for MackinVIA was held at North Linn for their teacher leaders.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Our Monthly Feature



ONLINE RESOURCES FEATURE: BRITANNICA

Britannica...it's neither your grandparents' nor parents' encyclopedia.

Britannica[®]School

WHAT'S NEW IN THE MEDIA CENTER?



WHAT'S NEW IN THE GWAEA MEDIA CENTER?

Hope you're as excited as we are about the new resources in the GWAEA Media Center!

GRANOV
RESEARCH

Please enter the name of the person completing this survey

First Name:

Last Name:

LIBRARY SURVEY

Look for the 2017 Library Survey to be available in the beginning March.

GRANT WOOD AEA

Young Writers' Conference

A Celebration of Student Writing

Thursday, May 4, 2017 • 9:00am - 2:00pm
check-in begins at 8:30am

GUEST AUTHOR
Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Author of Snowflake Bentley (winner of the 1996 Caldecott Award), The Chair of High Tides, Alice Walker and the Tip to Dickens, Farmer VSB Allen and the Growing Table, and the soon to be released, Cressidley: A True Story. Learn more about Jacqueline at www.jacquelinemartin.com.

Grant Wood AEA is pleased to offer the Young Writers' Conference for 4th and 5th grade students! Accompanied by a teacher from their school, students will attend an author session, a workshop session, and a sharing session where students will share samples of their own writing. Concurrent learning sessions also available for teachers during the conference.

LOCATION: Grant Wood AEA
1200 West Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

FEE: \$15 per student
(granted for 100 students)

REGISTRATION: Registration materials available
February 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact: Grant Wood AEA
student program specialist
319-244-0775

GRANT WOOD AEA YOUNG WRITER'S WORKSHOP

Mark your calendar for May 4, 2017: GWAEA Young Writers' Conference.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURES

For many teacher librarians, their week includes working with students on research skills to prepare students for their futures.

How does one incorporate other 21st century skills such as collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity into the research process?

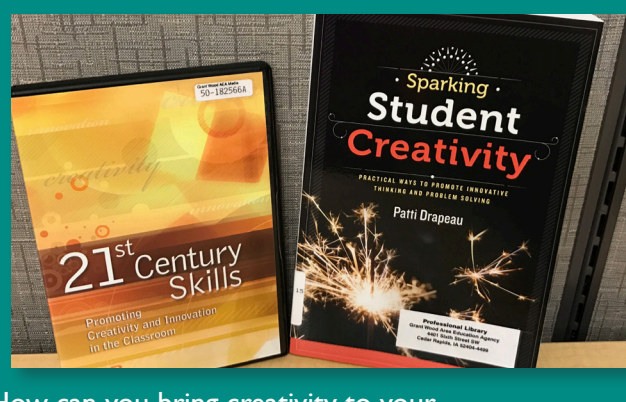
This month Deanna suggests ways to build creativity into the research process for students in grades K-5.

Creative thinking is the process which we use when we come up with a new idea. It is the merging of ideas which have not been merged before. Brainstorming is one form of creative thinking; it works by merging someone else's ideas with your own to create a new one. You are using the ideas of others as a stimulus for your own.

Why is creative thinking important? It:

- brings intrinsic pleasure and benefits;
- raises students' aspirations;
- improves student achievements and skills;
- unlocks imaginations; and,
- brings about lasting improvements in the quality of lives.

Creative competence can be developed and supported by thoughtful interventions.



How can you bring creativity to your classroom?

- Encourage thinkers to use a means of expression that matches his/her style of learning.
- Set aside time to be creative.
- Provide thinkers with creative tools as they explore an idea (e.g. iPads, crayons).
- Introduce unconventional learning materials (e.g. **TEDtalks for kids**)
- Encourage talking about and engaging in a topic.

"Bringing colorful wings to the invisible things that live in the hearts and minds of children," the Crayola® mantra.

Check out these resources to help you with lesson and activity ideas:

- **Promoting Creativity Professional Resources from GWAEA Media Collection**
- **Creativity in Practice – A P21 Exemplar Perspective from The Meadowbrook School**

LESSON IDEA: USING RESEARCH IN THE CREATIVITY PROCESS

The process of creativity is often thought of in four (4) stages: preparation, incubation, illumination and verification. Here are some ideas on how to incorporate research a lesson on circuits, using the four stages of creativity.

Idea: Students will read Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary. The main character, Leigh, builds an alarm system to protect his lunchbox from thieves. After identifying the problem, students will be challenged to plan, create and improve their own alarm circuit.

Students will research circuits using the online resource **Britannica** to gather facts and identify materials necessary to build a circuit.

Idea: Students will brainstorm ways to build a circuit. They will collaboratively discuss their ideas and at some point begin to design a circuit, which might include drawing a circuit. They will identify the weakness(es) of their circuit.

1. Preparation

- the thinker formulates the problem and collects the facts and materials necessary for finding new solutions.

2. Incubation

- the thinker unconsciously continues in the creative thinking process while engaged in other activities related to the process.

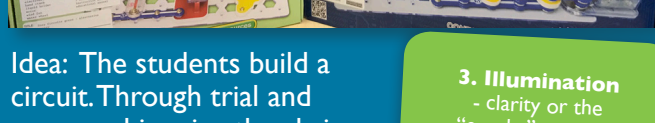
3. Illumination

- clarity or the "eureka" moment occurs - suddenly.

4. Verification

- the solution identified in the illumination phase is tested for correctness.

If the solution is not satisfactory, the thinker will go back to the preparation stage.



Idea: The students build a circuit. Through trial and error and inquiry, they bring their drawings to life.

Idea: Students will test their circuit. If the circuit doesn't work, they return to the preparation stage to refine their research.

Grant Wood AEA Media Center has a number of resources to help you plan and deliver a lesson on circuits which incorporates creativity into the research process. Some of those materials are:

- **Circuit Resources from GWAEA Media Collection**
- **Dear Mr. Henshaw by Beverly Cleary from GWAEA Media Center**

In addition, the following resource is available from Iowa Public Television:

- **Electric Circuits**

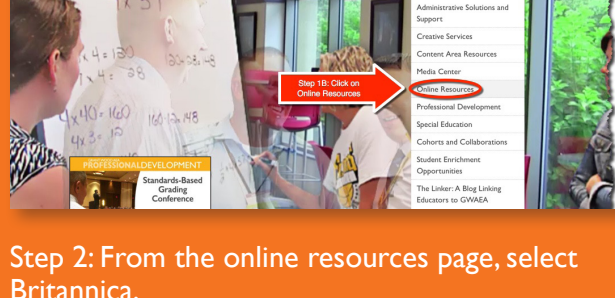
For more information on the topic of creativity and the research process, contact **Deanna Weber**.

ONLINE RESOURCES FEATURE: BRITANNICA

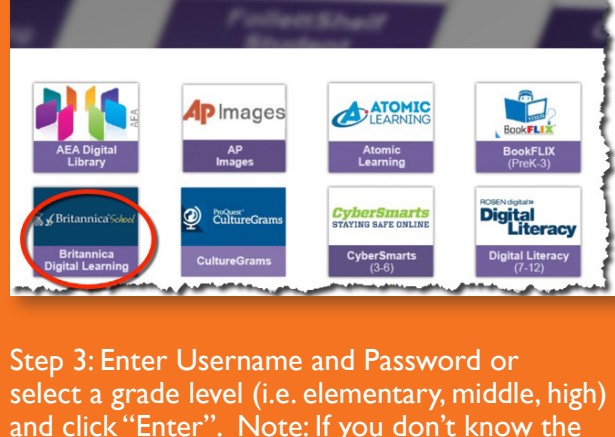
When considering to which resources students should be guided in the preparation stage of the creative process, think about Britannica, a resource that offers articles, images, video plus more!

In only a few short steps, you can get started with this tremendous resource:

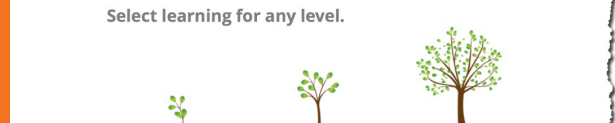
Step 1: Under the Educators tab on www.gwaea.org, selected Online Resources.



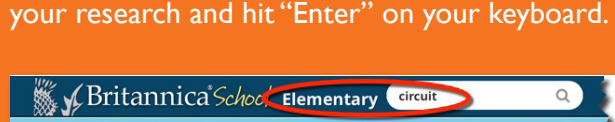
Step 2: From the online resources page, select Britannica.



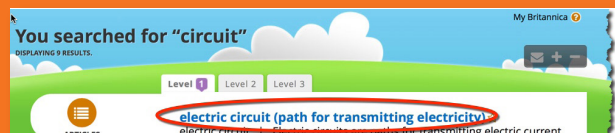
Step 3: Enter Username and Password or select a grade level (i.e. elementary, middle, high) and click "Enter". Note: If you don't know the username or password, check with your teacher librarian or contact the Grant Wood AEA Media Center at 319-399-6754 or 800-642-4107.



Step 4: Type in a search topic of interest to begin your research and hit "Enter" on your keyboard.

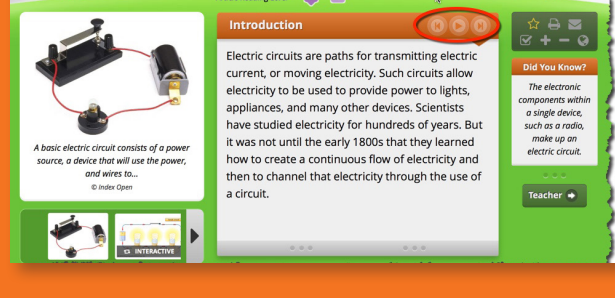


Step 5: When the article results are listed, click on the result (blue title, video or image) to begin your review of information.

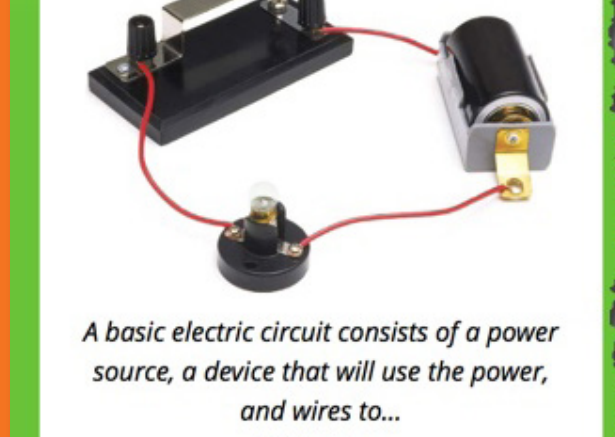


The following features are also available:

- text-to-speech feature



- images and/or graphics (for most searches)



If you have questions about Britannica or any of the Online Resources, please contact **Kathleen Goslinga**.



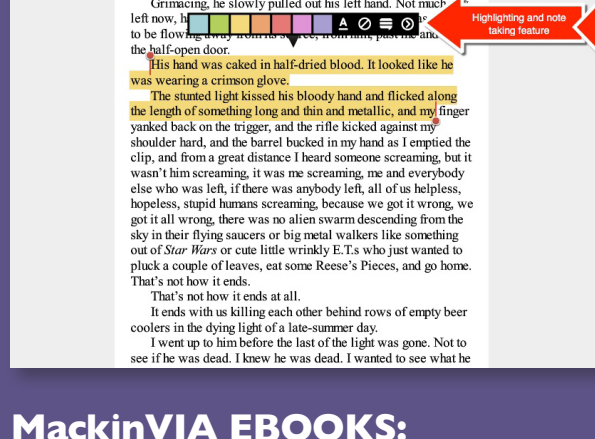
"THINK, MAKE, INNOVATE": SPHERO BATTLE BOTS

"Think, Make, Innovate" is the Grant Wood AEA Digital Learning Team's makerspace challenge show.

In the **6th episode** of their 2nd season, GWAEA Technology Consultants Jason Marshall and Amber Bridge work with students using the classic making skill of sewing. Students then enhance their projects with twinkler circuits, conductive thread and LEDs.

Check out the Grant Wood AEA Digital Learning Team's website for lesson plans and photos and videos of schools that have accepted this challenge.

Have Fun Making!



MackinVIA EBOOKS: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

Recently, Deanna Weber worked with teacher leaders at North Linn Community School District on MackinVIA eBooks.

Deanna provided guidance to teachers as they explored the MackinVIA reader app. In the process, they learned about the unique features that Mackin provides its users, including:

- individual user backpacks
- note taking tools
- highlighting options
- text-to-speech capabilities
- searching
- group set up

"Students can use the highlighting tools within MackinVIA to explore our new Write Tools process." Sue Russ, North Linn Development Director

One feature that is anticipated to be very helpful to the North Linn students and teachers is highlighting.

To find out more information or to schedule time for personalized training for MackinVIA, contact **Deanna Weber**.

