

Support Distance Learning

You and your colleagues are being asked to learn and apply new skills at an incredible pace in order to provide academic continuity for students. These commonly asked questions and answers can quickly help you transition to online learning. In addition, Gale is offering [open digital access](#) to curriculum-aligned resources and support materials, including professional development eBooks, and much more. Plus, your friends at Gale are always available to [help!](#)

Q: I work with young elementary students. How can Gale help me with distance learning?

A: For **preschool or kindergarten students**, [Miss Humblebee's Academy](#) is the perfect fit! It's specifically geared toward children ages three to six and aimed at building kindergarten skills. This innovative solution includes:

- Lessons that promote phonemic learning.
- Hundreds of thematic-based, guided lessons with sound cues to support different learning styles and abilities.
- Content aligned to state and national curriculum standards.
- Customizable lesson plans and assessments that are easy to set up and use.
- Progress reports emailed to parents weekly.

Plus, with a combination of online and off-line learning options, kids can learn and play anywhere:

- Access the online program at school or at home.
- It's mobile friendly—use it on iPads, tablets, and smartphones.
- Children can practice with writing tools and learn away from the computer, with 20 percent of the curriculum available in print and practice worksheets. *This is important to note for teachers and families trying to limit screen time.*

For **K–5 students**, [Kids InfoBits](#) has the content you need. The database is continuously updated and provides interesting and important facts with connections to current and past events. Indexed, searchable content along with more than 16,600 images, 1,700 kid-friendly charts and graphs, and 600 high-quality educational videos are provided from resources like books, magazines, and news periodicals.

It's as informative as it is fun! [Kids InfoBits](#) contains content in popular subject categories, including animals, arts, geography, health, literature, people, social studies, and technology.

For **younger students**, teachers can easily send individual content from [Kids InfoBits](#), like articles, images, or videos. Quick tips include:

- Use the Highlights and Notes tool to help guide reading, define vocabulary, or ask critical-thinking questions.
- Select Read Aloud to have articles read to students who are learning to read.
- Choose Translate to translate and read articles aloud for English language learner (ELL) students and families.

Q: My district is using a learning management system (LMS) like Canvas or Schoology. Some of my teachers are experienced LMS users, but others have never used it before. How can Gale databases help with our transition to e-learning?

A: Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) is a standard for connecting external applications to an LMS. If an external resource is LTI certified, it can be integrated directly into any LMS that supports LTI. Gale's LTI 1.0 certification means you can access your Gale resources within any learning management system that supports LTI 1.0. More than 100 Gale resources are certified to work within LMS. Teachers and students can easily discover quality information to enhance lessons and instruction with Gale in your LMS. Plus, deep linking capabilities are available through Canvas and Schoology.

View LMS guides and setup instructions on our [Support page](#). Your [customer success manager](#) will also happily walk you through the steps.

Q: With the transition to virtual learning, teachers are struggling to find quality online content that's age appropriate and standards aligned. Are any of Gale's resources standards aligned?

A: Yes! The content within [Gale In Context](#) student databases aligns with state and national curriculum standards and supports visual and auditory learning. Plus, search functions assist readers by Lexile range and guide users to find content at five levels of complexity, based on Lexile range. These eye-catching, engaging, topical databases seamlessly integrate trusted content with curriculum-aligned materials that span core subjects and grades, including biography, Canada, environmental studies, global issues, high school, middle school, opposing viewpoints, science, U.S. history, and world history.

Q: Many of my students are special needs or English language learners (ELL). Do Gale databases support differentiation for these student populations, especially related to e-learning?

- A:** Gale databases incorporate many tools to help teachers and parents personalize learning and support ELL students. Examples include:
- On-demand voice and text translation into more than 30 languages.
 - Read Aloud can support visually impaired and auditory learners.
 - G Suite for Education and Microsoft Office 365 tools empower teachers to differentiate lessons using the same article, or different articles can be used based on content level.
 - Download articles for students that require print material.
 - High levels of accessibility for those with disabilities, such as low vision or blindness.
 - Search functions assist readers by Lexile range and guide users to find content at five levels of complexity, based on Lexile range.

Q: I'm in the process of creating new lessons that can be easily done remotely. How can I incorporate Gale databases into my lessons?

- A:** Some Gale databases offer **Browse by Topic**, which makes it easy for teachers to assign a research project based on a topic they or their students choose. Once on a topic page, users can read an overview article or choose one of the many types of content, including reference, primary sources, audio, videos, journal articles, etc.

An alternative to Browse by Topic is to use [Topic Finder](#). Users of [Gale In Context](#) can conduct a basic search and then select the Topic Finder link in the right hand sidebar. They'll be presented with a term wheel that provides a wealth of potential topics. Topic Finder can then be used to narrow to more specific results.

Viewing Topic Finder results allows users to visualize research connections they may not have considered. For example, after running Topic Finder, a user may uncover multiple topics that can be compared to one another.

To demonstrate what they learned during the research process, students can write a paper, essay, or blog post; create make a web page; make an informational YouTube video or podcast; use Google Draw to create a flyer; work together on a group Google Slides presentation, etc.

Q: As we transition to online/distance learning, I'm concerned that my students will need extra support with conducting research or completing a research project. Does Gale offer any research support material that I can share with my students?

A: Yes! In the Educator Resource section found at the bottom of the home pages of [Gale In Context](#), you have access to a research toolkit. Here you will find tip sheets and worksheets geared toward common middle and high school tasks, such as "How to Write a Thesis Statement," "How to Create Visual Representations of Data," and "How to Judge Information."

Also, for students struggling with narrowing down their topic, they can use [Topic Finder](#). Users of a [Gale In Context](#) database can conduct a basic search and then click on the Topic Finder link in the right hand sidebar. They'll be presented with a term wheel that provides a wealth of potential topics. Topic Finder can then be used to narrow to more specific results.

Viewing Topic Finder results allows users to visualize research connections they may not have considered. For example, after running Topic Finder, a user may uncover multiple topics that can be compared to one another.

Q: I always thought Gale databases were just for research in English or social studies classes. Now that all of my teachers are transitioning to online teaching, are any of the databases cross-curricular so that all of my teachers can use them?

A: Gale databases cover multiple curriculum areas, not just English language arts (ELA) or social studies. [Gale In Context](#) databases are eye-catching, engaging, topical databases that seamlessly integrate trusted content with curriculum-aligned materials that span core subjects and grades, including biography, Canada, environmental studies, global issues, high school, middle school, opposing viewpoints, science, U.S. history, and world history.

From a distance learning perspective, using Gale databases can help teachers from different content areas combine assignments to cover multiple standards from various disciplines. For example, ELA, social studies, science, and math teachers can work together to build one online lesson that covers writing an argumentative essay (ELA) about a current event (social studies) that involves science, where students must demonstrate some graphical data analysis (math). Some excellent Gale databases for this project include [Gale In Context Global Issues](#), *Opposing Viewpoints*, *High School*, *Middle School*, and *Science*.

Plus, combining classes into one assignment can help cut down on screen time!

Q: Most of the work done in my class is done via groups. How can Gale databases help us transition to distance learning and still use group projects?

A: Users can easily access G Suite for Education and Microsoft Office 365 tools to share, save, and download content—extending the reach of resources outside the library and classroom.

Q: My school already has access to one or two Gale databases. What's the benefit of adding additional databases to our resources?

A: Of the many benefits of having access to multiple Gale databases is that:

- Once you learn one Gale database, you learn them all! Better yet, there's not much to learn since the platforms are so intuitive.
- Resources can add depth to more specific content areas.
- Cross-curricular disciplines can collaborate and potentially combine classes into one assignment, which can help cut down on screen time!
- Adding [Gale In Context: For Educators](#) provides a specialized toolkit that lets educators collect, organize, customize, and share instructional materials sourced from their *Gale In Context* databases

Q: We've had access to Gale databases, and teachers are aware they're available. However, many of the teachers haven't had time to become an effective user of the resources and aren't comfortable incorporating them into their lessons. What tools are available for teachers and students to feel more comfortable using the resources?

A: Once you learn one Gale database, you learn them all! Better yet, there's not much to learn since the platforms are so intuitive. To make it even easier, we created a [virtual learning resource center](#), which includes on-demand webinars, short videos, printable tools, and more. There are even [quick tips for virtual learning](#) to share with colleagues. Plus, you can access standard resources for product support, training, and marketing.

Q: Do you have any other tips to help us go virtual?

A: In addition to the above, we partnered with other industry experts to open access to:

- a [Gale eBooks virtual learning professional development collection](#). This custom collection features nearly 20 titles from partners like Corwin Press and ISTE. Like Gale databases, *Gale eBooks* offers users simultaneous, cross-searchable access.

- [Tech & Learning's K–12 Remote Learning Playbook](#) by Dr. Kecia Ray, past president of ISTE and former district administrator for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. This resource can help you solidify your remote learning strategy during this crisis and beyond with easy-to-use templates and resource links, sample parent letters, and more.

Q: Some of my students only have access to the internet or Wi-Fi on their phones. Are they still able to access Gale resources?

A: Yes! Gale resources are mobile compatible and accessible 24/7 on any device.

Q: How do I let families know what's available?

A: Now that you understand how to [optimize existing resources](#) and take advantage of [additional open resources](#), help others do the same! [View](#) open resources that have new promotional materials, including social media posts.

Q: What if I have another question that's not answered here?

A: Your friends at Gale are here to help! Please contact your [customer success manager](#) or [education consultant](#), or [submit](#) your request.