

Archived Information

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Improving Teacher Knowledge

The *Illuminations* site on the *MarcoPolo* Website

Goal:

To provide teachers nationwide with Internet resources to improve the teaching and learning of mathematics for all students

Summary:

Illuminations is part of the MarcoPolo Web site. MarcoPolo: Internet Content for the Classroom is a consortium of national education organizations, state education agencies, and the MarcoPolo Education Foundation dedicated to providing the highest-quality Internet content and professional development to teachers and students throughout the United States. First launched in 1997 as a collection of standards-based, discipline-specific educational Web sites for K-12 teachers, MarcoPolo features:

- Seven content Web sites with lesson plans, student interactive content, downloadable worksheets, links to panel-reviewed Web sites and additional resources created by the nation's leading education organizations. The sites are: Illuminations (mathematics), ArtsEdge (the arts), EdSiteMent (humanities), EconEdLink (economics), Read-Write-Think (reading and language arts), Science Net Links (science), and Xpeditions (geography).
- A scalable professional development program that has trained over 150,000 teachers with world-class trainers and materials
- A network of 50 states plus the District of Columbia dedicated to rolling out MarcoPolo to all teachers and aligning the content to state education standards
- Leading-edge diagnostic measurement and technology that enables state-of-the-art tracking and reporting to ensure that teachers' Internet integration needs are being met across the country

Purpose:

- Provide Internet resources that will help improve the teaching and learning of mathematics for all students.
- Provide Internet resources that "illuminate" the NCTM Standards (1989, 2000).
- Provide professional development for teachers of mathematics.
- Provide Standards-based resources for classroom use.
- Help communicate the vision of Standards-based mathematics teaching and learning.

Accomplishment/Results:

The Illuminations site contains hundreds of lesson plans, interactive applets, and selected Web resources to aid teachers in aligning their instruction to their state and local mathematics standards.

Plans for the Next 12 Months:

The site will be expanded to include additional lessons and resources. Funds are being sought to continue site development into the future. NCTM is committed to keep the site (in its current state) available to all teachers over the long term.

Additional information is available at www.illuminations.nctm.org