

Welcome to *Encyclopædia Britannica Online* (<http://search.eb.com/>).

To help you use the site more effectively we've created this short tour. It will guide you from the home page through a search results page and finally to an article page. Although the site contains additional types of pages, these three pages are the keys to understanding and using all the others.

Encyclopædia Britannica Online's Home Page

This is the page that you will see when you arrive at *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*. It is the entryway to all the resources available on the site.

Browsing

If your interests are broad and general, browsing can lead you to a variety of interesting encyclopedia articles presented in an organized manner.

Alpha Browse: Encyclopedia articles are displayed in a traditional alphabetical arrangement.

Subject Browse: Over a thousand articles are organized by topic, allowing you to follow an outline to the subject that interests you.

World Atlas: Maps and articles on nations, people, and places from around the globe are easily located with this feature.

Year in Review Browse: Notable events and people of the recent past are covered in Britannica's *Book of the Year*.

Timeline Browse: Trace selected topics through history with illustrations and key dates. Select an encyclopedia to begin learning more about the important events of the past.

Searching

Searching is a fast and efficient way to locate information. Just enter a word, phrase, or question, and click Go. You can use spell check to improve your results if you don't know the correct spelling of a word.

A Range of Different Sources

You have the option to select which sources to include in your search results by checking the box next to one or more of the sources. (To learn more about each one, see the search results page.) The default search provides results from all sources.

Dictionary and Thesaurus

You can also search *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* or *Thesaurus* from the home page by entering a word in the appropriate field. On other pages, you can double-click on a word to see its dictionary and thesaurus entries.

Other Features

Britannica's Heritage

You can explore some of the highlights of *Encyclopædia Britannica's* more than two hundred years of history.

Spotlights

These special editorial features provide in-depth, multimedia-rich tours through selected topics.

Search Results

After entering a word or phrase in the search box and clicking Go, the next page you see will look something like this one. It provides an overview of the different results that match your query, allowing you to select one of the sources or try another search.

The screenshot shows the search results for 'china' on the Encyclopædia Britannica Online website. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with 'Home', 'New', 'Workspace', 'Browse', and 'Help' buttons. A search bar is located below the navigation bar, with 'All Britannica Online' selected and 'china' entered. The search results are displayed in four columns: 'Encyclopædia Britannica', 'Britannica Student Encyclopedia', 'The Web's Best Sites', and 'Videos'. The 'Encyclopædia Britannica' column shows an article for 'China' with a small image. The 'Britannica Student Encyclopedia' column shows an article for 'China' with a map. The 'The Web's Best Sites' column shows a link to 'First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton remarks for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China'. The 'Videos' column shows a video thumbnail for 'China'.

Navigating the Site

After you leave the home page, you will use the elements in the header to navigate the site.

The buttons along the top function as a menu. You can return to the home page, visit your workspace, explore the various browse options, or find answers to questions about the site in the help section.

You will also find a search box that functions in the same way as the one of the home page. If you'd like to try another search, enter a query and click Go. Again, you can check your spelling or select one source to search, this time using a drop-down menu instead of checked boxes.

Workspace

You'll notice a blue arrow next to each encyclopedia article and Web site review. When you roll your mouse over the arrow a message reading "Save" will appear. You can save links to these items in your Workspace, which allows you to collect your research in a convenient location and then return later in the session to review it.

Search Results

Encyclopædia Britannica Online offers several different sources of information, displayed in separate columns.

Encyclopædia Britannica: One of the most authoritative information sources in the world with over 73,000 articles

Britannica Student Encyclopedia: The authoritative content of the encyclopedia, adapted for middle and high school students.

Britannica Elementary Encyclopedia: A further simplification of the encyclopedia to make it appropriate for elementary school students.

The Web's Best Sites: Over 200,000 Web sites reviewed and rated, by our editors, allowing you to expand your study across the Internet.

Videos & Media: More than 2,000 videos made available through a partnership with VastVideo.

Magazines: A selection of magazines and journals to offer another angle on topics of interest.

When you identify a source that interests you, click on the title to view the encyclopedia article with its corresponding media, Web site, or video.

Don't forget that you can always search *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* and *Thesaurus* by double clicking on a word.

Article Page

When you choose to view an *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *Britannica Student Encyclopedia* or *Britannica Elementary Encyclopedia* article you will then see a page that looks like this one. You can dive into the interesting and informative content that is Britannica's strength, and we've included some features that will make exploring all the richness of the content even easier.

The screenshot shows the Britannica Online interface for the article on China. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, News, Workspace, Browse, and Help. Below this is a search bar with the text 'All Britannica Online' and a search box containing 'china'. A sidebar on the left titled 'Use the links below to search for additional information on China.' contains links to 'Encyclopædia Britannica', 'Britannica Student Encyclopedia', 'Britannica Internet Guide', and 'Video & Media'. The main content area displays the article title 'China' and a table of contents. A callout box titled 'Navigating the Site' points to the search bar, and another callout box titled 'Exploring an Article' points to the table of contents. A third callout box titled 'The Article' points to the main text of the article.

Navigating the Site

The header will be exactly the same as the one you saw on the search results page. Use it to move to the different areas of the site quickly or to try another search.

Exploring an Article

Various types of media and supporting materials accompany many of the articles. You may want to go directly to one of those items using what we call the "Topic Map." For example, you may be primarily interested in images of France. The "Topic Map" will allow you to quickly locate all the images that accompany the article on France.

You can share a link to an article with a friend via e-mail. If you'd like to print an article, you can switch to a printer-friendly format. Also, if you plan to refer to the article in your own work, we provide a correctly formatted citation.

Try Searching Other Sources

If you'd like to view results from other sources for the same search, you do not have to enter it in the search box again. Simply click on the links on the left side of the page to see additional articles, Web sites, or videos related to your query.

The Article

The text of the article appears in the center of the page. Longer articles are divided into separate pages; you'll find a link to the next page at the bottom of the page. All the media is arranged to the left of the text. To see a larger version of the image, click on it.

Many of the encyclopedia articles were written by experts in the field. If an article is signed, you'll find the author's name at the bottom. A click on the name will take you to information about the author.

A table of contents is also located at the bottom of the page. This can be a very efficient way to move through some of the longer articles. If you are interested in a certain aspect of a topic, you may be able to use the table of contents to go directly to the relevant section.

Also, remember that you can always double-click on a word to look it up in *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* and *Thesaurus*.