Introduction: Over the course of a school day, students are faced with many questions they might not know the answer to. Successful students do not necessarily know the answer to every question they are asked, but they do know where to find the information to answer these questions. This lesson will encourage students to be more aware of the reference tools available to them.

Suggested Grade Level: 3–6

Time Allocation: 15–20 minutes

Objectives:
• The student will participate in an interactive classroom activity.
• The student will gain knowledge of specific tools used for research.

Materials:
• Reference Tools Vocabulary Challenge Activity Cards (run off on cardstock and cut in strips)
• Optional: Examples of various reference tools for student exploration

Procedure:
1. Prepare the materials prior to class. The activity cards work best if the words and definitions are run off on different colored paper.
2. Introduce the lesson by telling the students that they will be participating in an activity that involves reference tools. Define reference tools as “resources that provide access to specific and reliable information.”
3. Ask the students to point out the reference tools they see throughout the library.
4. Distribute the activity cards, giving half the students the words and the other half the definitions. Inform the students that each hint on the cards is unique to a matching pair.
5. Instruct the students to get out of their seats and find the match to their card. They should indicate success by completing some action, such as holding the cards over their heads or sitting on the floor.
6. Check for understanding by having the students read their words and definitions to the class.
Looking for Information
Kyle Keeley, the main character in the book *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library*, knows that smart people do not necessarily know everything, but they do know where to look to find the information they are seeking. He discovers that knowing the right reference to use is very helpful in solving the puzzles and problem, and will allow him to win a very exciting contest.

Your goal is to match the reference tool with the correct definition. You are to find the person who has the other half of your card as quickly as possible. The hints provided will help you make sure your match is correct. Be prepared to share your reference tool and its definition with the class.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference Tool</th>
<th>Definition (with hint)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Almanac</td>
<td>An annual publication containing statistics, data, and general information. (Matches with a 7-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Tool</td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlas</td>
<td>A book of maps. (matches with a 5-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography</td>
<td>The story of a specific person's life. (matches with a 9-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictionary</td>
<td>A book containing an alphabetical list of words and their meanings. (matches with a 10-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encyclopedias</td>
<td>Books, organized alphabetically, containing information on many subjects. (matches with a 13-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>A place to access information using a computer and the World Wide Web. (matches with a 8-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globe</td>
<td>A model of Earth. (matches with a 5-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar Book</td>
<td>A text containing rules of a written language. (matches with a two word reference tool; the second word has 4 letters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>Periodical publications focused on a specific topic or interest. (matches with a 9-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers</td>
<td>Current events publications. (matches with a 10-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesaurus</td>
<td>A book of words, a lexicon. (matches with a 9-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timetable</td>
<td>A graphic that displays history chronologically. (matches with a 9-letter word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Record Book</td>
<td>A periodical that records unique achievements. (matches with a 3-word reference tool)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Creative Problem Solving: Mr. Lemoncello designed the new library in fictitious Alexandriaville, Ohio. With his $500 million budget he could afford to include magnificent architecture, amazing technology, and a fantastic materials collection. Challenge the students to design a library of their dreams. They should consider research rooms, recreational options, and quiet reading areas.

Reading: Students who enjoyed the puzzles and over-the-top characters in Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library may also find these books entertaining.

- Floors by Patrick Carman. Scholastic, 2011.

Web Resources: Chris Grabenstein’s excellent website contains a wealth of information and includes discussion questions, book activities, and a vocabulary study.

Author’s Website:

Study Guide:
Dewey Decimal System Category Challenge

Introduction: Students will be challenged to complete this activity, which features problem solving as part of a review of the Dewey Decimal Classification System.

Suggested Grade Level: 3–6

Time Allocation: 15–20 minutes

Objectives:
- The student will categorize words in groups.
- The student will review the Dewey Decimal Classification System.

Materials:
- Visual: The Dewey Decimal System
- Activity Sheet: Category Challenge
- Writing Tools

Procedure:
1. Prepare the materials prior to class.
2. Display the the Dewey Decimal System visual and quickly review its contents with the students. This visual, or a similar Dewey Decimal System chart, should be available for student reference.
3. Distribute the activity sheets and writing tools. Review the directions with the students. They may work independently or in pairs.
An American named Melvil Dewey devised the Dewey Decimal System in the late 1800s. This numerical system organizes nonfiction books in the library into ten basic groups or categories of knowledge.

- **000-099** – General Works (Encyclopedias, Reference Books, Media) Books with many subjects in one book
- **100-199** – Philosophy (Psychology, Behavior, Paranormal Phenomena) Books about the supernatural and feelings
- **200-299** – Religion (World Religion, Mythology) Books about religions, Greek and Roman myths
- **300-399** – Social Science (Government, Law, Manners, Folklore, Fairytales) Books about government, laws, folklore, and holidays
- **400-499** – Language (Dictionaries, Grammar, Foreign Language) Books about foreign languages, sign language, and grammar
- **500-599** – Pure Science or Natural Science (Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology) Books about math, space, and wild animals
- **600-699** – Applied Science or Technology (How-to Books, Inventions, Health) Books about health, cars, space flight, cooking, and domestic animals
- **700-799** – Arts and Recreation (Music, Crafts, Sports, Hobbies) Books about drawing, sports, music, and jokes
- **800-899** – Literature (Poetry, Plays, Short Stories, Jokes) Books with poems, plays, and short stories
- **900-999** – History (Travel, Geography, Biography) Books about countries, traveling, and historical events
**Directions**: Each line contains a word that does not belong. Cross out that word and select a word from the word bank that fits better with the words in the group. Write that word in the blank.

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Atlas</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Zeus</td>
<td>Poseidon</td>
<td>Lexicon</td>
<td>Hermes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Helen Keller</td>
<td>Snow White</td>
<td>Sleeping Beauty</td>
<td>Rapunzel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Manuscript</td>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Ankylosaurs</td>
<td>Stegosaurus</td>
<td>Tyrannosaurus</td>
<td>Thesaurus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Bigfoot</td>
<td>Yeti</td>
<td>Loch Ness Monster</td>
<td>Glossary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Sculpt</td>
<td>Illustrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Appendix</td>
<td>Limerick</td>
<td>Sonnet</td>
<td>Ballad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Black Cat</td>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>Friday the Thirteenth</td>
<td>Rabbit’s Foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Truck</td>
<td>Train</td>
<td>Tome</td>
<td>Boat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Word Bank**

- Asia
- Airplane
- Draw
- Cinderella
- Haiku
- Horse Shoe
- Athena
- Triceratops
- Spanish
- Abominable Snowman

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**Dewey Decimal System Category Challenge: Part I**

Web Resource · Library Lessons · Aug/Sept 2014 · LIBRARYSPARKS
Directions: Use the ten category groups from Part I. Write the number from the group that best matches each Dewey Decimal System group on the line.

A. ____000s General Works [Encyclopedias, Reference Books, Unexplained Mysteries]
B. ____100s Philosophy [Philosophy, Psychology, Paranormal Phenomena, Superstitions]
C. ____200s Religion [Church History, Mythology, All Religions]
D. ____300s Social Sciences [Manners, Law, Folktales, Fairytales]
E. ____400s Language [Dictionaries, Foreign Languages]
F. ____500s Natural Science [Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Dinosaurs]
G. ____600s Technology & Applied Science [Inventions, Automobiles, Cooking, Health]
H. ____700s Fine Arts [Art, Music, Crafts, Sports, Hobbies]
I. ____800s Literature [Poetry, Plays, Short Stories]
J. ____900s History [Geography, Biography, Travel]

Extra Credit: Select one of the Dewey Decimal System categories. Create a list of four more things that fit in that category.

Dewey Decimal System Category ____________________________
1.
2.
3.
4.
Suggested Grade Level: 2–5

Time Allocation: 15–25 minutes

Objectives:
- The student will create and use a tool to help with selecting a nonfiction book title.
- The student will record the selected book’s title and author.

Materials:
- Activity: Dewey Decimal Spinner
- Visual: The Dewey Decimal System
- Paperclips and pencils
- Index cards
- Flashlight
- Nonfiction book from library’s collection
- Shelf Markers

Procedure:
1. Prepare and collect the materials prior to class. Duplicate enough activity sheets for each student or student group.
2. Display the Dewey Decimal System visual. Review the ten categories by reading through the contents. As the various categories are reviewed, use the flashlight as a pointer to draw the students’ attention to the location of each of the subjects in the library.
3. Hold up a nonfiction book, showing the spine to the students. Review where they can find the book’s title, author, and call number.
4. Distribute the activity sheets, paperclips, pencils, shelf markers, and index cards. (Recycled paper strips may also be used.)
5. Inform the students that they will be using the spinner to direct them to sections of the library.
6. Demonstrate how the spinner works; then go to the section of the library that contains the Dewey Decimal number selected. Look at the book titles, choose one, and remove it from the shelf, inserting a shelf marker in its place. Then write down the book’s title, call number, and author on the index card. Return the book to the shelf.
7. Instruct the students to follow your example. They are to spin, go to the correct location, record the information, return to their seats, and repeat. Note: This lesson may be extended or shortened, depending on the time available.
8. Encourage the students to share with the class the titles of some of the interesting books they have discovered.
**Dewey Decimal Spinner**

**Time Allocation:** Place one end of a paperclip in the center of the spinner. Position the pencil point in the center of the circle, inside the end of the paperclip. Flick the paperclip with a finger to spin.

- **General Works:** 000-099
- **Philosophy:** 100-199
- **Religion:** 200-299
- **Social Science:** 300-399
- **Language:** 400-499
- **Natural Science:** 500-599
- **Applied Science:** 600-699
- **Arts & Recreation:** 700-799
- **Literature:** 800-899
- **History:** 900-999

**You’ll need these items too!**