



Newsletter for English Teachers

About the USA – Virtual Classroom

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NATO Summit and 60th Anniversary

In April NATO will be celebrating its sixtieth anniversary. Germany and France are jointly hosting the celebrations. The NATO summit meeting will be held in Baden-Baden and Kehl on the German side of the border and in Strasbourg on the French side. The Summit will focus on the 60th anniversary. The 26 existing member states will be welcoming Albania and Croatia as new members. The meetings will be chaired by the NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Nicolas Sarkozy, the President of the French Republic, and Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, will co-host the meetings.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO; French: Organisation du Traité de l'Atlantique Nord or "OTAN") is a military alliance, established by the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949. In accordance with that Treaty, the fundamental role of NATO is to safeguard the freedom and security of its member countries by political and military means. Today, NATO plays an increasingly broader role in crisis management and peacekeeping. ([NATO](#))

Teaching Resource: [History.com Encyclopedia: NATO](#)
Photo Gallery: [NATO: 60 Years of Fostering Peace and Security](#) (America.gov)

G20 Summit – April 2

President Obama will attend the G20 Summit in London on April 2 before traveling to the NATO Summit. The London Summit brings together leaders of the world's advanced and emerging economies, and representatives of international financial institutions to work cooperatively to restore stability and stimulate global economic growth.

The G-20 is an informal forum that promotes open and constructive discussion between industrial and emerging-market countries since 1999. The G-20 was created as a response both to the financial crises of the late 1990s and to a growing recognition that key emerging-market countries were not adequately included in the core of global economic discussion and governance. The G-20 is made up of the finance ministers and central bank governors of 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the U.S., and also the EU who is represented by the rotating Council presidency and the European Central Bank. ([What is the G20?](#))

"The main topic of the G20 meeting will be which direction to take in order to resolve a deepening global recession. [...] World Bank President Robert Zoellick said action is needed to deal with a growing crisis that is hurting people in developing countries, and that investments in safety nets, infrastructure and small- and medium-size companies are needed to avoid social and political unrest. [...]" [America.gov](#)

America.gov Articles

- [Now Is the Time for Global Action on Economy, Obama Says](#): "G20 leaders must take bold, coordinated steps" (March 24)
- [NATO Faces Growing Challenges as 60th Anniversary Approaches](#): Afghanistan, Russia main substantive focus of a summit (March 23)
- [G20 Ministers Pledge to Continue Action on Recession](#): Treasury Sec. Geithner says global crisis requires global response (March 16)



(©NATO)

Links

- [60 Years of NATO page](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions - NATO](#)
- [German Government NATO Summit page](#)
- [State.gov: NATO page](#)
- [United States Mission to NATO](#)
- [America.gov: Peacemaking](#)
- [U.S. Embassy Berlin: NATO Summit](#)



NATO: [NATO Channel TV](#). Videos on topics from Afghanistan to Piracy; lectures, interviews, footage from important events in NATO's history.



Links

- [London Summit Site](#)
- [G-20 Site](#)
- [America.gov: Economics and Trade](#)
- [Learn about the U.S. Department of the Treasury](#)
- [Economic Indicators.Gov](#) (Economics and Statistics Division, U.S. Dep. of Commerce; lists key economic indicators)

The Future of Nato. Roland Flamini, *CQ Global Researcher, January 2009*: Nato "is not your grandfather's alliance. Since the 1990s, nearly a dozen former Soviet states and Soviet-bloc nations have joined NATO, easing their transition to democracy. NATO also has expanded its operations beyond Europe to Afghanistan, which may become the 60-year-old alliance's ultimate testing ground." [Please ask the IRC for a copy](#)



© America.gov

Earth Day

Earth Day, April 22, is the annual celebration of the environment and a time to assess the work still needed to protect the natural gifts of our planet. Earth Day has no central organizing force behind it though several nongovernmental organizations work to keep track of the thousands of local events in schools and parks that mark the day. Earth Day is observed around the world, although nowhere is it a national holiday. In the United States, it affirms that environmental awareness is part of the country's consciousness and that the idea of protecting the environment - once the province of a few conservationists - has moved from the extreme to the mainstream of American thought.

Links

- EarthDay.gov
- America.gov: Protecting our Natural Resources
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

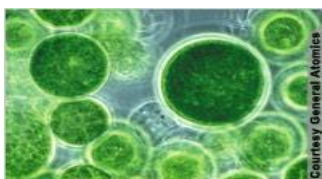
Lesson Plans by the NYT Learning Network

- **It's Easy Being Green:** Exploring Simple Ways to Dramatically Reduce Energy Usage - Students will read about simple things people can do to make their homes more energy efficient.
- **Bag of Tricks:** Developing Strategies for Inducing Behavioral Change Regarding the Use of Plastic Bags - Students first consider effective strategies for changing specific human behaviors, then design ways to influence people to reduce their use and consumption of plastic bags.
- **We've Got the Power:** Researching the Effectiveness of Renewable Energy Sources - Students will research various sources of renewable energy. They will discover how each source can be used to generate electricity, the potential benefits and drawbacks of each and which source might best power their home or school.

A Timeline of Environmental Treaties: This list of key environmental treaties shows how nations are working together, politically and scientifically, to safeguard our planet and respond to a global threat.

"To truly transform our economy, protect our security, and save our planet from the ravages of climate change, we need to ultimately make clean, renewable energy the profitable kind of energy."

President Obama, February 24, 2009



© America.gov

Oil extracted from rapidly producing algae offers great potential as an inexpensive source of jet fuel.

[U.S. Companies Focus on Extracting Oil from Algae](#)

Teaching Resource

Time for Kids: Don't Waste a Drop - Why We Need to Save Energy. Includes comprehension quizzes, a mini lesson, teacher's guide and worksheets. ("TIME For Kids is a weekly classroom news magazine that motivates kids to read! Issues cover a wide range of real-world. TIME For Kids builds reading and writing skills and is easily integrated across your curriculum.")



... is an online library of more than 1,000 free media resources from the best in public television. Please see the section on [Earth and Space Science](#).

President Obama declared Climate Change a National Priority

"On January 26, President Obama signed two related presidential memorandums. In what he called "a down payment on a broader and sustained effort to reduce our dependence on foreign oil," Obama directed the Department of Transportation to establish higher fuel efficiency standards for carmakers' 2011 model year. The second memo directed the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider a petition by California to set more stringent limits for greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles than those set by the federal government. (See "[Obama Sets Bold New Principles for U.S. Energy, Climate Policies](#).")

Secretary of Energy Steven Chu: Dr. Steven Chu was sworn in as the Secretary of Energy on January 21, 2009. Prior to his assignment at [Department of Energy](#), Dr. Chu served as the head of the Berkeley National Laboratory. He is a specialist in carbon-neutral energy sources and won the 1997 Nobel Prize in physics. "Dr. Chu has devoted his recent scientific career to the search for new solutions to our energy challenges and stopping global climate change - a mission he continues with even greater urgency as Secretary of Energy." ([read bio](#))

Special Envoy for Climate Change: In late January, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton introduced Todd Stern as the nation's new special envoy for climate change. "With the appointment today of a special envoy," Clinton said, "we are sending an unequivocal message that the United States will be energetic, focused, strategic and serious about addressing global climate change and the corollary issue of clean energy." Stern serves as a principal adviser on international climate policy and strategy and as the administration's chief climate negotiator. He will lead U.S. efforts in U.N. negotiations and will be a lead participant in developing climate and clean energy policy. "Containing climate change will require nothing less than transforming the global economy from a high-carbon [dioxide] to a low-carbon energy base," Stern said." ([America.gov Article](#))

Todd Stern met with German Government officials on March 27 and [presented](#) the U.S. at the March 29 meeting of the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn](#). Please find further information on Todd Stern's visit here: [U.S. Mission Germany website](#).

Did you know?

Since 2001, the U.S. has invested more than \$44 billion in programs for climate change and energy security, including more than \$22 billion for technology research, development & demonstration. ([America.gov](#))

WhiteHouse.gov:
The President's [agenda on energy & the environment](#)

Literature: World Book and Copyright Day – April 23

World Book and Copyright Day celebrates the contribution of books and authors to global culture. It also underlines the connection between copyright and books.

On this day, UNESCO seeks to promote reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property through copyright around the world. April 23 is a symbolic date for world literature. On this date in the year 1616, Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died. It is also the date of birth or death of other prominent authors such as Maurice Druon, K. Laxness, Vladimir Nabokov, Josep Pla and Manuel Mejía Vallejo. It was therefore a natural choice of date for a world-wide tribute to books and authors. Everyone, and in particular young people, are encouraged to discover the pleasure of reading and recognize the irreplaceable contributions of those who have furthered the social and cultural progress of humanity. The idea for this celebration originated in Catalonia where on April 23, which is also Saint George's Day, a rose is traditionally given as a gift for each book sold. [UNESCO](#)

Copyright "is a legal term describing the economic rights given to creators of literary and artistic works, including the right to reproduce the work, to make copies, and to perform or display the work publicly. Copyrights offer essentially the only protection for music, films, novels, poems, architecture, and other works of cultural value. As artists and creators have developed new forms of expression, these categories have expanded to include them. Computer programs and sound recordings are now protected, too. The Berne Convention, the 1886 international agreement under which signatory states recognize each other's copyrighted works, mandates that the period of copyright protection cover the life of the author plus 50 years. Under the Berne Convention, literary, artistic, and other qualifying works are protected by copyright as soon as they exist. No formal registration is needed to protect them in the countries party to that convention." [America.gov](#)

How to correctly cite sources (Indiana University):

- **APA** (American Psychological Association)
- **MLA** (Modern Language Association)
- **Chicago** (Chicago Citation Style)

Links

- [10 Big Myths About Copyright Explained](#) (Brad Templeton)
- [Is It Plagiarism Yet?](#) (Writing Lab, Purdue University)
- [Plagiarism: What It Is & How To Recognize and Avoid It](#) (Indiana University)

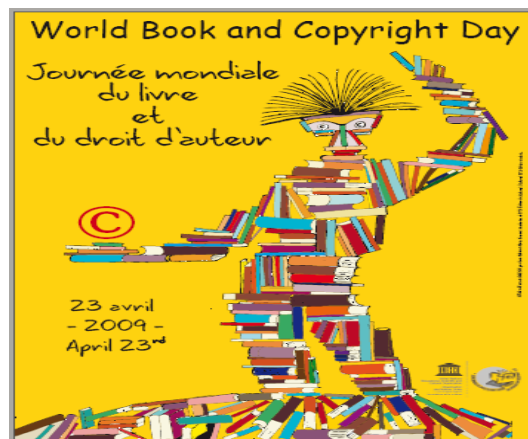
Lesson Plan: [Writing History: From Students to Scholars](#) (PBS Newshour Extra) - Definition of plagiarism and how to avoid plagiarism.

World Intellectual Property Day (WIPO) – April 26

"Most people are aware of intellectual property (IP) - of copyright, patents, industrial designs and trademarks. But many still view these as business or legal concepts with little relevance to their own lives. To address this gap, WIPO's Member States decided in 2000 to designate an annual World Intellectual Property Day. They chose April 26, the date on which the Convention establishing [WIPO](#) originally entered into force in 1970."

The focus of [World Intellectual Property Day](#) 2009 is on promoting green innovation as the key to a secure future. "On World IP Day 2009, the World Intellectual Property Organization highlights the contribution of a balanced intellectual property system to stimulating the creation, diffusion and application of clean technologies; to promoting green design, aimed at creating products that are eco-friendly from conception to disposal; to green branding, helping consumers make informed choices and giving companies a competitive edge." ([Message from Francis Gurry](#), Director General of WIPO)

Publication: [Focus On: Intellectual Property Rights](#). Essays by government, academic, and industry experts introduce intellectual property rights issues and key concepts -- patents, trade-marks, copyrights, trade secrets, and new forms of IP. Articles also explain why countries need effective intellectual property systems, and what governments in each region are doing to enforce IPR. Includes a glossary of IP terms, a list of print and Internet IP resources, resource list for children and young adults. (PDF, Jan. 2006)



© UNESCO: [World Book and Copyright Day](#)

Links

- [UNESCO: World Book and Copyright Day](#)
- [Bureau of Economic, Energy, Business Affairs: Intellectual Property Enforcement](#)
- [America.gov: Intellectual Property page](#)

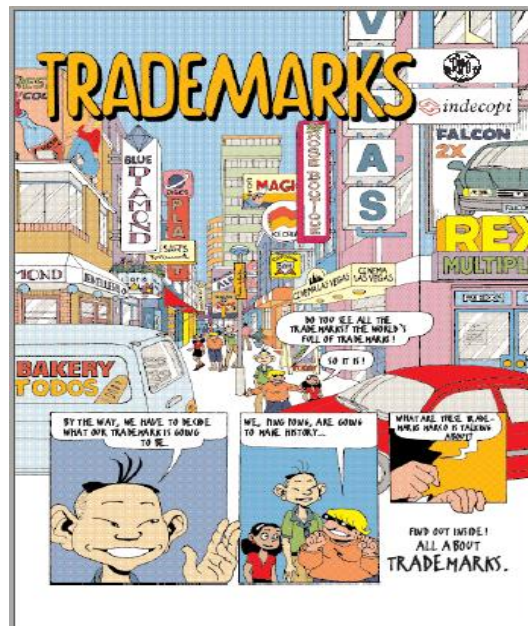


(© WIPO)

[WIPO Magazine Special Issue: Green Innovation](#)

WIPO offers short and eye-catching comic books - these cover basic information on

[Copyright](#) -- [Trademarks](#) -- [Patents](#)



(© WIPO: [Trademarks](#))



The Provincial Reconstruction Team in Khost built the Haider Khail's Girls High School in the district of Tani for \$142,000. (©AP/America.gov)

In Focus: NATO in Afghanistan

Obama Announces New Strategy for Afghanistan, Pakistan - Heavy emphasis on training additional Afghan security forces

At a briefing March 27 in Washington, President Barack Obama announced a new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan that aims to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida and the Taliban. "The future of Afghanistan is an international security challenge of the highest order, not simply an American problem," President Obama said. "We will shift the emphasis of our mission to training and increasing the size of the Afghan security forces, so that they can eventually take the lead in securing their country [...] For the first time, this will fully resource our effort to train and support the Afghan army and police." [More](#)

Learn More: [South and Central Asia: Partnering for Peace and Prosperity](#)

Related article: [Analysis: Afghanistan Needs the World's Help](#)

Photo Gallery: [Partnering for a Better Life in Afghanistan](#)

Provincial Reconstruction Teams are key to the work being done in Afghanistan. (Source: America.gov)



© U.S. Mission to NATO

NATO in Afghanistan: Security and Development

"As NATO enters its sixth year of operations in Afghanistan, there are many signs of progress in helping Afghanistan rebuild. It is clear, too, that difficult challenges remain in overcoming the insurgency and restoring peace and security throughout Afghanistan. Leaders have recognized that to overcome those challenges, it will take a comprehensive approach. Today, in addition to leading the 62,000 troops from 42 nations in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), NATO's role is also focused on civilian support. Together with other agencies, NATO is assisting the Afghan government in improving governance, rebuilding the country's infrastructure, and maintaining security." (© [U.S. Mission to NATO](#))

Webcast Energy Efficiency April 15, 15:00

Dale Medearis is the senior environmental planner for the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. He spent nearly 20 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of International Affairs coordinating international urban environmental and western European programs.

[Enter the Event](#)

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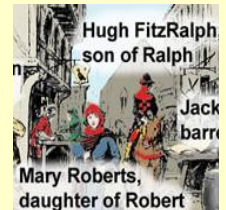


Hosted by the U.S. Department of State on Facebook.

Introducing

[What's In A Name?](#) (edSITEment.
National Endowment for the Humanities)

Students will learn about the origins of four major types of British surnames. They will consult lists to discover the meanings of specific names and later demonstrate their knowledge of surnames through various group activities. They will then compare the origins of British to certain types of non-British surnames. In a final activity, students will research the origins and meanings of their own family names.



Lessons:

- [What's in a name? How did surnames come to be?](#)
- [British Surnames Derived from Places](#)
- [British Surnames Derived from Occupations or Professions](#)
- [Non-British Surnames](#)



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About the USA is a digital collection of background resources on American society, culture, and political processes. In addition to featuring selected websites, it provides access to documents in full text format (E-Texts) on topics ranging from the history of German-American relations, government and politics to travel, holidays and sports.

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