
Illuminations is an excellent resource for math teachers. The website was created and maintained by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). In many school districts, mathematics teachers are encouraged to join NCTM, especially in high school, which keeps them up to date with the standards of our content and various approaches to teaching the content. They are a well-known organization that provides teachers with tools to succeed. The information is completely accurate and they cover mathematic content from Pre-K all the way to 12th grade which makes it a great source for my 7th-12th grade content area. It does not say when the website was created but they do reference a popular magazine, Mathematics Teacher, and show different techniques used back in 1993. NCTM is a credible organization and with the recent changes in education and the addition of the common core, it is clear they have recently updated their website to include the common core teaching standards. As a mathematics resource there is no bias approach to solving the content included but instead just easier methods used in classrooms to help the students. The website never encourages the viewer to use their method but only offers their information as an option. I would definitely say this information is reliable for classroom use. The website definitely serves as an amazing tool. For this evaluation I searched for an example of teaching Logic in a Geometry (9-12) class and the detail was perfect to introduce to the class and it used visuals that could really help the class grasp the concept.

Illuminations serves as a tool for a diverse set of students. While searching for resources in teaching Logic in high school Geometry they offered different techniques for different learners. All students learn in different ways but, in mathematics especially they need to see various forms of the topic to really retain the information. The resource provided for this topic included a visual diagram, including Venn
Diagrams which even can create a blend to what the students have learned in their English and Social Studies classes. What I really love about this website is when you click on a different resource it gives you the lesson, how to teach this approach, what standards it covers, all the related materials needed, assessments and additional questions. While it is an amazing resource, it should be used as a tool and should not be completely relied on by the teacher. If the teacher uses this as a tool and still incorporates their own style with their students then the students should be successful in this topic and the majority of topics to be covered.


Math is Fun is a website math teachers can refer to enhance their curriculum in the lower levels of adolescent mathematics. The website is maintained by Rod Pierce, with contributions from “many” others but after doing a quick Google search of his name I did not find anything that made him an expert in this field but I did find another math website that he maintains. Pierce claims that, “Typically each page is reviewed by at least three qualified people, plus millions of people view the site and they tell us if they don’t agree”. Unfortunately there is no mention of who these qualified people are, or what makes them qualified to evaluate the pages. However, after looking through the website and especially searching the topic of conjugates for an Algebra 1 classroom all of the information has been accurate and reliable. The website does claim to have been updated August 30, 2014 so the information is up to date since it was created April 19, 2000. Even more so, they provide a link to what has been updated and added to the site so the viewer can keep up access to new tools. The information provided comes off as straight forward with no bias as of how someone should teach conjugates to student but rather just provides a way in which they could use the information to help. Students need to know how to find the conjugate and how to use it for later units including rationalizing denominators which Math Is Fun
really gives a good connection between the two. Learning the conjugate usually is not too hard but the understanding of why it is necessary to know is more of the concern in this unit which is covered in depth on this site.

The site is very straightforward in describing what the conjugate is. It does not offer diverse ways of teaching it but because it is such a straightforward topic hopefully all students will be able to retain this information. I do love how the website adds not only examples of what the conjugate is but examples of why we need the conjugate or why students should become familiar with the conjugate. The conjugate is used when rationalizing denominators and to save time when using “FOIL”. Applying why the need to know the material and providing examples really assist students in their later success. I have found many different techniques to help the students on these websites and while they claim to cover material up to 12th grade, I personally think it is a better tool for 7-10. There is mention of calculus topics but I do not think they are as in depth as needed. The website is really a strong tool for the Algebra and Geometry topics and I would recommend it to others as a tool.


Math Bits is a website generated to provide resources for all secondary mathematic topics. The creators if the website Frederick and Donna Roberts (Roberts and Roberts) when searching their names the only link is to Math Bits. It does not appear that they have any authority in that respect but all of their information provided is accurate. Compared to other websites and from my knowledge of mathematics I have not found any of their information to be incorrect. The site was created in 1998 and has been updated in 2014. With the common core curriculum changes that currently exist, the site has adapted and made the appropriate changes to help teachers who are currently teaching to the standards. The Roberts’ take a non-biased approach to sharing their information and they provide the viewer with a great deal of information with different options to incorporate into their classroom. Teachers could even
assign work directly from the page with the appropriate directions for students. With the topic of “Using your Graphing Calculator” for a 9th grade classroom, every objective is met. Since this would be for a 9th grade Algebra 1 course it is important that all of the main criteria are touched upon for these students. There is a great deal of information this website provides whether it be review sheets, overviews, games to help them memorize where everything is and other classroom activities the TI 83+/TI 84+ Calculator would really be understood at the appropriate level for a new student beginning their regular use of the calculator. The website provides detail that goes even further in explaining how to use the calculator as a tool in the upper levels of mathematics but for the purpose of this lesson we could stop at the beginner levels.

The website Math Bits can help various learners with their broad range of material being offered. Upon searching through this site, there are all sorts of different tools that can be useful. There is the more straightforward informative section that is just an overview of where certain buttons are and how to find things and what you need to do to solve an operation. Then it goes further with worksheets that direct the student centered learning and allow the chance for students to discover how to use their calculator on their own. Any type of learner would master how this calculator works and what you can use it for from this website. It acts as a tool to always refer to when teaching a calculator based lesson for later units in Algebra 2 and Trigonometry as well. The graphing calculator can be especially overwhelming to a 9th grade student who has only worked with a scientific calculator in the past so it is important to give the tools for success and to provide them with the best knowledge of how to use this calculator. This is the base of information they will need throughout their high school career and later in the college level. The more familiar students are with this calculator the better they will do in their classes and on their regents’ exams. The website also gives information for lesson plans and activities from almost any different topic a secondary mathematics teacher would cover. I would definitely recommend this website to any one for their wide range of activities but especially for their in depth
coverage of using the graphing calculator.


Kuta Software is a website providing teachers with better tools for better learning. The website is maintained by the Kuta Software LLC group which is a group of experienced math teachers in Maryland that are dedicated in providing support to other math teachers. They are a credible group of educators that are well known in the mathematics community. All of their information is accurate and the worksheets they provide also come with an answer key that shows the correct steps and answers. This website is up to date as it has been updated in 2014. They even do more to show the viewer what updates have been made. There are some tools that are available for purchase and subscription but there is some sections, including all of their worksheets, that are free and the website does not repeatedly look for the viewer to subscribe and make payments. Even though Kuta Software has their own textbooks and tools for purchase they never force their product. In their About Us sections they go on to say, “It is you, the teacher, who makes the difference in the classroom. Whatever your style, method, or philosophy, you need good math problems to give to your students. Our products will help you create exactly the problems you need. This power frees you to teach your own way, to adapt to your individual classes and students, and to continue trying new things”. The creators genuinely want to provide great tools but do not wish to change the philosophy of the teacher at any point. It is completely the role of the teacher to teach but to give these worksheets as practice. This website is great for providing examples and worksheets for secondary teachers complete with answer keys however, the answer keys do not go into a great deal of depth of how they got the answers. When looking for how to solve one-sided inequalities for an Algebra 1 course there were plenty of examples complete with number lines to help the students. It is still the teachers responsibility to teach the material and to only use the website as a tool. If someone were to purchase the other tools created by Kuta Software I would assume the would explain more of how they got their answers and actually explain what needs to be
done but since I did not purchase any of their other materials I cannot say for sure.

This website covers many of the topics covered in high school mathematics. However, instead of doing everything to reach various learners it still leaves that as the role of the teacher. This just provides the teacher with the tools to reinforce the learning. In mathematics, it is important for teachers to provide students with opportunities to try different examples on their own and sometimes it could be difficult to find or create appropriate examples for the students. I especially liked the Kuta Software provides educators with examples that are helpful and relevant so that the students can feel comfortable attempting the work on their own. The more practice they have with mathematics the better they will be so these worksheets are especially helpful in my Algebra 1 Lab course. Since every other day I have a double period with these students I try to teach the same lesson as the standard Algebra 1 students that I only see one period a day but I have extra time to reinforce the basics with them. Having this website to refer to with so many extra examples is definitely helpful. During that lab period the students can attempt and check their own work. For the additional examples this is definitely a website I would recommend.


Wolfram Math World is a resource for math teachers that was first created as a website in 1995 and for over a decade Eric Weisstein has maintained its content. Weisstein is an expert in the field of mathematics and the site even provides a link to a bio on his accomplishments. After reading up on his personal accomplishments, it is safe to say he is more than capable to run the website. Compared to other websites it is completely accurate with all of its’ information with over 13,000 entries of mathematic topics/tips. Wolfram Math World is updated daily, last updated on Friday, September 19, 2014. There are tons of resources to take advantage of through this website and there are strategies based off the release of the common core to keep the math classrooms moving smoothly. Never once
does this website push its methods onto the viewer but instead it just provides facts of the topics being researched. It just states the facts about mathematics and provides different points of view of the material. While looking up information on Conditional Probability for a Geometry classroom it provided facts about the topic. It states how you could prove it to be true, where the information came from, and what other topics are similar to this one. However, I would not recommend any high school student searching through this website on their own. Those who have provided facts were mathematicians so the language used throughout the site is upper level and certain students would not know what the creator meant until being taught what different symbols mean. People often forget that mathematics is like learning a new language with all of the symbols that are used for representations. While the topics are covered in depth for the trained eye, the teacher would still have to use this website only as a tool and bring this information into the classroom in a student friendly manner.

This website offers many different resources as well as being an excellent resource itself. For teachers, it recommends different tricks or techniques to assist the students in learning but never claims to know the best method for the students because every student learns differently. Within all of the material it is encoded in mathematic terms that would appear foreign to a beginner in mathematics but it is completely accurate and the teacher can find plenty of excellent resources to reach a variety of students. I particularly like that majority of the information is submitted from other experts in the site after being reviewed by Weisstein and all of the original links are provided. This website makes it possible for the viewer to find an extensive amount of tools to teaching the content. I would definitely recommend this website to other teachers but I also think they should use it as a tool for themselves then incorporate the appropriate information to there students. Encouraging the students to explore this website on their own may intimidate them from the vast information discussed at an upper level. It is important the teacher still remembers this website is a tool to refer to, not a replacement for their teaching.