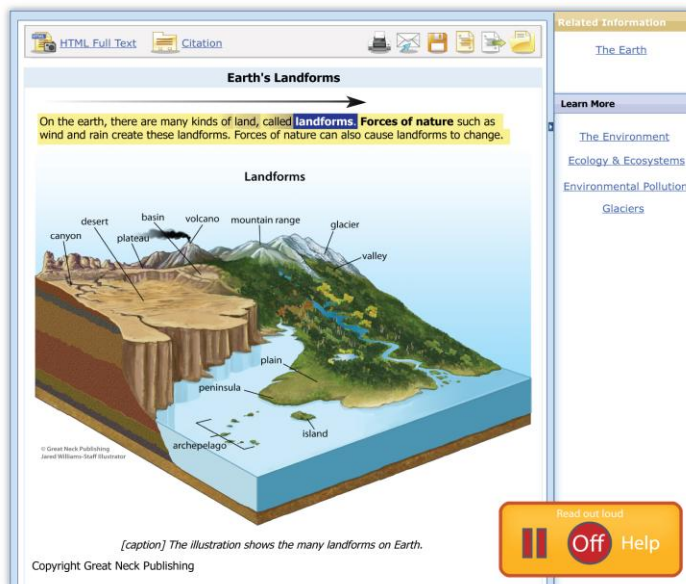


English Language Learners Listening While They Learn with *English Language Learner (ELL) Reference Center™* From EBSCO Publishing
~ *New Database Features Text-to-Speech and Customized Content Designed to Build Background Knowledge and Develop Study Skills in Non-Native Speakers* ~

IPSWICH, Mass. —November 17, 2009 —[EBSCO Publishing](#) (EBSCO) has introduced a new resource designed to help English language learners succeed academically and in everyday life. [English Language Learner\(ELL\) Reference Center™](#) (*ELL Reference Center*) provides assistance as users conduct research, build their background knowledge and develop study skills. *ELL Reference Center* includes a unique text-to-speech feature to reinforce the written content. The database is a multi-purpose information resource designed for secondary students and young adults who are new to the English language.

EBSCO has developed *ELL Reference Center* in partnership with [Course Crafters, Inc.](#), a respected developer and author of English Language Learner (ELL) materials since 1993. Course Crafters is a specialized education company that works with school districts and educational publishers to address the needs and challenges of English language learners.



ELL Reference Center provides users with an intuitive, easy-to-use interface, as well as reference materials that are created specifically for ELL students and the educators that work with them. New text-to-speech functionality allows users to hear proper pronunciation as it highlights the words they are reading to improve understanding and comprehension.

Customized content is designed to support English language learners' English-language proficiency and comprehension—including literacy, researching, note-taking and academic writing.

ELL Reference Center will include beginner, intermediate and advanced reading levels as determined by experts. The levels are based on word usage, sentence structure and sentence length plus grammar and the familiarity of the phrasing. These levels may be used to help ELLs and educators find ability-appropriate content. All articles in *ELL Reference Center* also have Lexile® reading scores that are used to align the content to the appropriate grade ranges. The Lexile scores are grouped in the result list to guide the users and educators to appropriate material.

ELL Reference Center content includes:

- **Intuitive interface** that guides the researcher to foundation records that are aligned to key curriculum areas of study, including Science, History and Literature.
- **Nonfiction articles and reference texts** searchable by keyword, literacy level and English-language proficiency
- **Search tools and supports** designed specifically for English language learners
- **Images and illustrations** to aid comprehension
- **Step-by-step guides** to support English language learners' comprehension, researching, note-taking and academic writing (i.e., research guides)
- **Audio/Text-to-speech support** that reinforces reading words with hearing words and vice versa

ELL Reference Center content covers a wide range of subject areas including science, history, civics, literature and life skills and is written at an age-appropriate interest level. The database uses vocabulary and simplified structure helpful to non-native speakers. Article coverage includes the core curriculum topics in grades 5-12, as well as other high interest topics. *ELL Reference Center* consists of articles, images and additional resources in science, social studies and history plus literature articles that include plot summaries from international literature and literary terms. *ELL Reference Center* also includes biographies in all subject areas and content related to life skills that will assist ELLs in understanding U.S. culture and school/life survival skills.

About EBSCO Publishing

EBSCO Publishing is the world's premier database aggregator, offering a suite of nearly 300 full-text and secondary research databases. Through a library of tens of thousands of full-text journals, magazines, books, monographs, reports and various other publication types from renowned publishers, EBSCO serves the content needs of all researchers (Academic, Medical, K-12, Public Library, Corporate, Government, etc.). The company's product lines include proprietary databases such as *Academic Search*[™], *Business Source*[®], *CINAHL*[®], *DynaMed*[™], *Literary Reference Center*[™], *MasterFILE*[™], *NoveList*[®], *SocINDEX*[™] and *SPORTDiscus*[™] as well as dozens of leading licensed databases such as *ATLA Religion Database*[™], *EconLit*, *INSPEC*[®], *MEDLINE*[®], *MLA International Bibliography*, *The Philosopher's Index*[™], *PsycARTICLES*[®] and *PsycINFO*[®]. Databases are powered by *EBSCOhost*[®], the most-used for-fee electronic resource in libraries around the world. For more information, visit the EBSCO Publishing Web site at: www.ebscohost.com, or contact: information@ebscohost.com. EBSCO Publishing is a division of EBSCO Industries Inc., one of the largest privately held companies in the United States.

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For more information, please contact:

Kathleen McEvoy
Public Relations Manager
(800) 653-2726 ext. 2594
kmcevoy@ebscohost.com