

## **IRIS NSTA Website Review Summary**

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During the website review, teachers attending the NSTA national conference who were visiting the IRIS booth were asked if they teach earthquakes and if they were willing to participate in a review of part of the IRIS website. A total of 10 teachers completed the website review.

Teachers were asked the following:

1. Beginning with the Education tab, choose a learning resource (except first and last ones)
2. Find a resource for something you need to teach (to test the effectiveness of the filtering and searching features)
3. Do you see and use any of the related resources provided on the tabs on the resource page? (We consider the related resources tabs to be an important part of the system and want to find out how well it is being used.)
4. Please pick three animations that they like and would use (to test browse feature)

General activity to watch for:

1. Did they see that they could restrict the result by filtering on 1 or more categories?
2. If they didn't use it, and it was pointed out, did they think they would use it in the future?

### **Website Review Summary**

Were they able to find resources?

- All of the educators (10/10) were able to find a resource on a topic they would be teaching

Did they use the filtering options? If not, did they think they would?

- The educators looked over the initial choices and chose from Lessons/Demonstrations, Educational Software/Webtools, Animations, Videos, Posters, or Facts Sheets
- To get to their first resource, none of the educators used any additional filter options
- When asked to filter and/or search the available resources, 60% of the educators (6/10) were able to identify the navigation on the left side of the page as the location for refining their search
- When asked to search the resources 40% of the educators (4/10) were able to find the search box and use terms that enabled them to refine their search

After clicking on a resource, were they able to play the video or animation (if there was one, or explore other features)?

- After findings a resource, half of the educators (5/10) were able to find animations associated with the resource

What did they think of the resources they found?

- In general, the educators were interested in or excited about the resource they found and in most cases read the description and explored the resource further

Did they use the related resources tabs on a resource page? If so, what? how? with what reaction?

- 60% (6/10) of the educators were able to find without additional directing the related resources associated with the resource they found
- One educator reported they were not sure they would have found them
- Other educators were quick to find the additional resources and navigate to them using the links provided

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings from this evaluation, we offer the following recommendations:

- The options on the home page menu seem sufficient for the initial search
- The educators were excited about the resources available and made comments about how they would definitely use the site in the future
- The two main difficulties for the educators were refining their search and locating the related resources
  - It is recommended that the search box be moved to the top of the left hand “Search for Individual Terms” area
  - Highlight the lefthand search area to make it more noticeable
  - Highlight the “Related Resource” feature to make it easier to locate and increase its usage
  - The “bread crumbs” at the top left should build as the educator navigates through the resources allowing them to return to their original search or to return to prior search results

### **Individual Interview Summaries**

The following is a summary of each of the 10 teachers’ responses and activities during their review process. A screen recording was captured for 9/10 educators.

#### **Teacher 1 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade Montrose County science teacher**

Chose lesson based on the information that it is on the interior of the Earth and that is a question they often have

Refining the information

Was looking for the search function – not able to find it

Directed her to the search box – asked her to refine her search to find a particular topic

Was asked if she felt there was anything that was missing

Felt there could be information about the intended audience from the animations

She then was able to follow the link on the resource to determine more information

Search bar was difficult to find making it hard to see at first

She indicated that the key points are welcome and that they were “Nice and brief”

Also felt that the additional resource links were nice to the related stuff

#### **Teacher 2 – Earth science/chemistry HS, Miami, no textbook, uses CK-12 (no recording)**

Chose lessons/demos

Starts scrolling down through resources. “I teach arrival times between types of waves - P and S waves. It’s hard for them to understand.”

Clicked on text for narration – thought it was background – didn’t notice it was narration.

Was unsure how to get the video to play, then clicked on the thumbnail with a shrug and got it

Chose preview. “I like that! That’s cool shows it in a 3-day sequence.”

Optional file – something to give to them – this is great

Chose Brittle vs Ductile rocks – “I love this stuff – would watch it myself, then do demo for the kids.”

“Things seem very easy to find. I like the worksheets.”

Used the delimiting tools upon prompting

Looked at Asperities, Alaska: Tectonics and Earthquakes, and Alaska: The Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964

Didn’t use the tabs until prompted – then liked them – went to Teachable Moments because Michael had told him about them just before I met him

### **Teacher 3 - 9<sup>th</sup> Earth science, senior dual credit geology (recorded)**

“Wow, there’s a lot of stuff here” This is great – you guys make all this yourself?

Chose Animation – 1 Component.

“Oh, nice – optional files – and it’s linked – that’s nice – oh they’re all linked.”

“Oh, look, the beach balls. I just introduced to my geology class.”

Viewed narration for Seismic wave behavior but did not realize it was narration. When asked why not, she said it should be part of the title

Clicked on related lessons. “This is good – I like how it’s “linky” so you can go down the rabbit hole.”

3<sup>rd</sup> animation – Liquefaction – “This is not just an animation, it’s helping “

Liked search function. Comment, “It’s usually at the top right.”

### **Teacher 4 – 7<sup>th</sup> grade (recorded)**

Does a unit called Shake. Rattle and Roll

Animations

Alaska- tectonics and earthquakes

Read description – read key question, I teach all the different types of boundaries, depth of earthquakes is kinda cool, like subduction, use discovery ed stuff on this –this seems a lot more specific

Closed caption

S’mores lab – marshmallow cream is the mantle, graham cracker at earth Hershey bar is. plate

Does it run on tablets?  
Seismic tomography

Guided him to check novice – Big Hunk  
Determining and measure earths' interior  
WE have discovery ed, explanatories are really useful – they can explore on their own  
Have chrome books and iPad – exploring on their own – stay pretty engaged, even games are great

**Teacher 5: earth science, 10<sup>th</sup> NY Scarsdale (recorded)**

Searched Haiti – found the search box, want to see resource – don't need the lesson, want to see how well it will illustrate from the kids, turned up volume (first person to do that!) So I did learn something showed like slip and now subduction. Okay, so want to read now, probably just play it live  
Fact sheet – how often do earthquakes occur? – would use this  
Lessons, demos - #D seismic data -am doing more geologic emphasis  
Assessing Bara – graphic, preview worksheet – that's cool, maybe could do that –honors group could do this, work out some real data

**Teacher 6: 6<sup>th</sup> PR (recorded)**

Brittle vs. Ductile, played video, then used nav upper right to choose animations, then video, then - Layers of the Earth video

Seismograms not working

Showed her the search function – plate tectonics, Plotting earthquake epicenters –showed her instructor build – oh perfect I like it because I have a similar worksheet but it is not as complete, not as deep  
Tsunami – they always ask about them because we are an island so they are worried

**Teachers 7 - Geology – HS – Mount Clair (recorded)**

Navigated to the lesson  
Was able to find the related resources  
Animation associated with the lesson – video helped her to understand the concept and get a new idea.  
Testing animation features – Found the navigation for animations and was able to see three that she liked directly  
Only suggestion was to add search functionality – then found it and was glad it was there

**Teacher 8 - Earth Science – 9<sup>th</sup> – CA (recorded)**

Searching for a lesson plan  
Lesson is a topic that I teach  
Able to find the resources

Refining search or finding something specific

Able to find the search functionality at the end and was excited to use the site more with her students to find lessons and resources

**Teacher 9 - Chem, Earth, Physics – HS (recorded)**

Animation first

Difficulty finding some way to refine the search

Clicked on the “how to use this page” link and watched the video

Video was helpful – immediately after the video went to the resource limiting functions

Looking for the resources linked to the lesson – able to find them on the upper right

Was able to make the animation play

Anything that is missing or would make the site more useful – Just the animations alone make the site a great resource

**Teachers 10 - 6<sup>th</sup> grade – earth and space science (recorded)**

Resource for something that you teach – was able to find a resource and

Refining the resource search went very well and was able to find a resource quickly and easily

Related resources were direct and easy to use

Anything that is missing – surprised that there was not more resources that she had seen before

– From the front page would be nice to be able to type in something like “plate Tectonics” to see what resources were available