

HELPFUL WEBSITES

NOTE ON BROWSING THE WEB:

You may wish to try browsing on your own to find sites not listed below. Yahoo provides much better results than Google when you enter either “Nutcracker” or “Ukraine.”

Home Schoolers: If you allow your students to go on the web, be sure to **monitor your students’ browsing**; Googling “Ukraine” may bring up several sites advertising women seeking marriage. Yahoo brings up some of these sites also, just not as many. Yahoo!igans.com is very kid-friendly and informative.

KENNEDY CENTER RESOURCES ON THE WEB

This rich resource deserves separate billing. For some really creative and innovative lesson plans integrating literature and the arts, check out Kennedy Center’s ArtEdge website at <http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/teach/les.cfm>. Lesson plans are complete, including lists of resources to use in teaching each lesson. This is an incredible resource:

1. **Use the search menu** on the left-hand side of the screen; you can **search by subject or by grade level**-it makes navigating this extensive site so much easier.
2. Be sure to browse the **“How-To”** sections for teachers; there are lots of helpful ideas here.
3. .And don’t miss **“Cue Sheets”** at [CuesheetLib@www.k-c.org/education/cuesheets/home/cfm](http://www.k-c.org/education/cuesheets/home/cfm) for many more ideas on using children’s books and stories for arts education as well as meeting goals in language arts.

Nutcracker and ballet websites:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nutcracker>: nice images of nutcrackers; explanation of function of cracking nuts; links to pages on the ballet of the same name.

<http://www.kids.nutcrackermuseum.com>: from the Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum in Washington state. Lots of nutcracker images, photos of elementary-aged children working on nutcracker art projects, lesson plans on history and manufacturing of nutcrackers. A fun, off-beat site.

<http://www.bostonballet.org/nutcracker/nutcrackerkids/default.aspx>: Nutcracker- (and holiday) related word puzzles, etc. Download pencil and paper activities.

[http://www.nationalballet.ca/Education AndOutreach/pdf/Nutcracker_activity_%20book.pdf](http://www.nationalballet.ca/Education%20And%20Outreach/pdf/Nutcracker_activity_%20book.pdf): National Ballet of Canada’s website with word searches, mazes, and coloring pages. Download instant activities.

http://www.sfballet.org/download/pdf/Nutcracker_Study_Guide.pdf: San Francisco Ballet’s informative website.

Websites with information on Ukraine (home of Donetsk dancers appearing in Ballet Theater of Lancaster’s production):

<http://pages.prodigy.net/l.hodges/ukraine.htm>: This site is a teacher's dream, with links to pages on places to visit in Ukraine, recipes and folk arts, costumes, and the **bandura**, a traditional Ukrainian musical instrument. Most links are to other pages on this site with lots of illustrations and pictures. An amazing and informative site authored by Linda Hodges, who has traveled in Ukraine and assembled lots of information on the country and its people. There are even links to sites providing directions for **pysanky eggs**; this complicated folk art must be adapted for younger students. Nice illustrations of traditional symbols and their meanings.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donetsk>: some information on the city of Donetsk in Ukraine, home of the Donetsk Ballet, appearing with Ballet Theater of Lancaster in *The Nutcracker*. Links to other sites, including one on the Welsh founder of the city, John Hughes.

<http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/reference/index.html>: Yahoo's kid-friendly site with links to information on numerous countries. Enter "Ukraine" to find links to pictures of its flag, a map, and other information.

[http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/Around the World/](http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/Around_the_World/): Another kid-friendly page with links to various topics listed in the directory; **Myth and Folklore** takes you to sites on Ukrainian holiday traditions, including a discussion on the date of Christmas in Ukraine and how people celebrate this holiday.

http://www.janbrett.com/newsnotes/mitten_newsnotes2.htm: the author's website on her well-known book, based on a Ukrainian folktale. Interesting and informative, very kid-friendly.

RECIPES

Note on recipes: A search on Yahoo on "Ukrainian Recipes" brings up lots of sites; unfortunately, many are based in Canada and Europe and use metric measures for ingredients. Also, the emphasis on beets, horseradish, and blood sausages probably doesn't hold much appeal for kids. Lots of recipes for sweet yeast breads, which take time to complete. Pyrogies with sweet fillings (substitute other varieties of dried fruit for prunes) may be your best bet for exploring the foods of Ukraine with children.

<http://www2.windsorca/~hlyanka/ukrecipes.html> provides lots of links; "Georgia's Recipe Heaven," and #9 and #17 looked best; you may want to explore some of the other links, depending on your preferences and those of your students.

http://www.ukrainetoday.com/culture/food/food_shtml: Scroll down to "Ukrainian Heritage Festival Feast" for descriptions of Ukrainian dishes and recipes more kid-friendly than most.

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