

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR GETTING STARTED IN iEARN FORUMS AND PROJECTS

The steps are outlined in more detail at:
http://www.iearn.org/professional/prof_connections.html

1) Welcome to iEARN:

A good place to start is the “Teachers Forum” (for adults) or the Youth Forum (for youth) → for more information on how to get there: look at the hand-out titled *Getting Started in the iEARN Forums and Databases*

For teachers ([newsgroup: apc.iearn.teachers](mailto:apc.iearn.teachers))

→ This forum is a place for teachers to meet and talk, make announcements and updates. It is also a place to share initial project ideas in order to find other people who might want to help develop a project. As part of their introduction into iEARN, new teachers are encouraged to post a message to introduce themselves, and describe briefly themselves and any special interests they or their class have.

For youth ([newsgroup: apc.iearn.youth](mailto:apc.iearn.youth))

→ In this forum, young people can meet each other, share ideas and topics of interest, and consider ways they can work together.

2) Where to learn about projects:

There are several resources that will help you find out which projects are currently taking place on iEARN and how to get started in project work:

- **iEARN project pages** → <http://www.iearn.org/projects>
- **Annual “iEARN Project Book”** → you will receive a print version of this year’s *Project Book* in Armenian, but you can also go online to find it:
<http://www.iearn.org/projects/projectbook.html>
- **iEARN’s “Project” and “Member” databases** → in iEARN's searchable databases, you can find out more about projects and people who are part of the iEARN community – the “project” and “member” databases are online:
<http://amity.iearn.org/signin.lasso>.
Please update your own record! As a registered iEARN participant, you can access both of these databases using your email address as an ID, and a password.
- **“iEARN in Action” online newswashes** → every two weeks an online newsletter is sent to all iEARN participants via email. It describes new projects and people looking for collaborators, gives updates on continuing projects, and is a place to make general announcements. To receive the *iEARN in Action* newswash, write to subscribe@us.iearn.org requesting to be added to the newswash distribution list.

3) **Becoming involved in a project:**

We encourage all iEARN teachers and students to participate in existing projects before initiating a project of their own. To get involved in an existing project, just follow these five steps:

- **Identify a project** of interest;
- **find out** if the **project** is **still active** → for this, you can use any of the four resources listed under 2) above – if the project is still active:
- go to the forum where the project is held, read the full project description, and **learn more about the project's activities** – you could also write to the facilitator of the project;
- then – through the forum where the project is held – **introduce yourself**, your class/school and the reasons why you are interested in this particular project;
- **respond** to recent postings/topics on the forum – !remember, all students want and need responses to their messages → we recommend that your students post 2 responses for every new message they post.

! A more detailed version of these steps is outlined in the hand-out titled *What do I Need to Do to Join an iEARN Project?*

4) **Developing a new project:**

Once you have made contacts in iEARN and are familiar with how the projects are conducted on the forums, you may also decide to develop a new project. If you have an idea you would like to share with others, you can announce your idea by posting it to the Teachers' Forum (→ look under 1) above). This is to generate discussion and possible collaboration on the actual design of the project, and to see if there are other people interested in the topic. Once you find other people who are interested in joining the project, fill out the Project Idea Template Form, which can be found at http://www.iearn.org/professional/prof_connections.html. Here you will also find additional suggestions for getting started.

