

FOSSweb and Technology



Home About FOSS Teaching Tools Materials Management Connecting with FOSS

Welcome to FOSSweb The Full Option Science System™ website

Explore resources for educators and engaging activities for students and families. To get started, log in or visit as a guest.



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In order for us to provide you with relevant content, please tell us who you are and where you are located.

Who are you?
Where are you?
What grade are you in?

What is FOSS?

FOSS is a research-based science curriculum for grades K–8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Berkeley.
[Learn more >](#)

What is FOSSweb?

FOSSweb is the official site of the active-learning science program, FOSS. FOSSweb provides support for teachers and enrichment for students.
[Latest program updates >](#)

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INTRODUCTION

FOSS is committed to providing a rich, accessible technology experience for all FOSS users. FOSSweb is the Internet access to FOSS digital resources (www.FOSSweb.com). It provides enrichment for students and support for teachers, administrators, and families who are actively involved in implementing and enjoying FOSS materials.

- Teachers can seek tips for enhancing specific modules; locate appropriate print, video, and web-based resources; discover classroom management ideas; watch teacher-preparation videos; and find information concerning plant and animal care.
- Students will enjoy the module-specific activities on FOSSweb. They can further their science investigations virtually and exercise new skills and knowledge by using the interactive simulations and media. Students can bring FOSS into their homes and share experiences with their families.
- Families can view and download information about FOSS modules, including module summaries, vocabulary, home/school connections, and other resources.

This chapter provides an overview of FOSSweb for teachers, information to help you set up your FOSSweb account, technical requirements for FOSSweb, and information on troubleshooting.



► NOTE

The FOSS digital resources are available online on FOSSweb. You can always access the most up-to-date technology information, including help and troubleshooting, on FOSSweb. The latest version of this chapter is also available as a PDF file on FOSSweb.

► NOTE

See the Requirements for Accessing FOSSweb section for more information on creating a FOSSweb account.

► NOTE

Access to some of these resources requires an account. Those resources are indicated with an asterisk, *.

FOSSWEB FOR ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS

FOSSweb provides educators and families background on the FOSS Program, resources for materials management, general teaching tools for FOSS, purchasing links, contact information for the FOSS Project, and technical support. You do not need an account to view this general FOSS Program information. In addition to the general information, FOSSweb provides digital access to module and materials information, PDF versions of the *Teacher Resources* component of the *Teacher Toolkit*, and digital-only resources that supplement the print and kit materials for each module.

To access all the teacher resources and to set up customized pages for using FOSS, you must register and log in to FOSSweb. You can easily register and log in to your FOSSweb account from the FOSSweb homepage. Once logged in, you can customize your homepage and set up easy access to the digital components of the modules you teach. Teachers with a FOSSweb account can also create class pages with notes and assignments for each class.

A FOSSweb account is required for teachers, administrators, students, and families who wish to access customized FOSSweb content. Account login codes identify the user level so that sensitive information and data, such as assessment masters, are available only to teachers and administrators.

Here are some of the resources to support teachers using FOSS. Access to some of these resources requires an account (indicated below with an asterisk, *). It is recommended that you access FOSSweb before beginning to teach your first FOSS module, as you will need to register for and set up a teacher user account.

Module Information

- **Resources by investigation.*** The resource list links to student sheets, assessment masters, teacher masters, and multimedia for each investigation in a module.
- **Module summary.** The summary describes each investigation in a module, including major concepts developed.
- **Module updates.** Important updates cover teacher materials, student equipment, and safety considerations.
- **Module teaching notes.** These notes include teaching suggestions and enhancements to the module, sent in by experienced FOSS users.

- **Home/school connection.** These masters include an introductory letter home (with ideas to reinforce the concepts being taught) and the home/school connection sheets.
- **Teacher-preparation video.*** The video presents information to help you prepare for a module, including detailed investigation information, equipment setup and use, safety, and what students do and learn through each part of the investigation.
- **Investigations eGuide.*** The eGuide is the complete FOSS *Investigations Guide* component of the *Teacher Toolkit* in an electronic web-based format. If your district rotates modules among several teachers, this option allows all teachers easy access to the *Investigations Guide* at all times.

Materials

- **Module kit contents.** This list, organized by drawer, shows the materials included in the FOSS kit for the module.
- **Plant and animal care.** This section includes information on caring for organisms used in the investigations.
- **Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).** These sheets have information from materials manufacturers on the safe handling and disposal of materials.
- **Equipment photo cards.*** The cards provide labeled photos of equipment supplied in each FOSS kit.

Teacher Resources

FOSSweb provides PDF files of several chapters from *Teacher Resources*. The files (Science Notebooks, Science-Centered Language Development, Taking FOSS Outdoors, FOSSweb and Technology, Notebook Masters*, Teacher Masters*, and Assessment Masters*) can be printed for classroom use.

Digital-Only Resources

Some of the resources on FOSSweb are not found in the printed *Teacher Toolkit* and are found only on FOSSweb. Some of these resources can be used by students at home or by you as part of classroom instruction. Other resources are designed primarily for you during instruction.

- **Multimedia activities.** The multimedia simulations and activities were designed to support student learning. They include virtual investigations and student tutorials that you can use to support students who have difficulties with the materials or who have been absent.

► NOTE

Masters are available online in English and Spanish. Notebook masters are available in different formats—notebook-size half sheets and full-size sheets for projecting or printing.

► NOTE

The focus questions are formatted to be printed on 1" × 25/8" mailing labels

► NOTE

For more information about FOSS premium content, including pricing and ordering, contact your local Delta sales representative by visiting www.DeltaEducation.com or by calling 1-800-258-1302.

- **Virtual investigations.*** There is a set of two or three virtual investigations available for each FOSS module for grades 3–6. All the investigations require students to record data and answer concluding questions in their notebooks. In some cases, the notebook sheet used in the classroom investigation is also used for the virtual investigation.
- **Student media library.** A variety of media enhance student learning. Formats include photos, videos, an audio version of each student book, and frequently asked science questions. These resources are also available to students when they log in with a student account.
- **Recommended books and websites.** This list includes FOSS-recommended books and websites that relate to the module and are appropriate for students as well as books for teachers.
- **Vocabulary.** The word list has science-related vocabulary and definitions used in the module.
- **Focus questions.** The focus questions for each investigation are formatted for classroom projection and for printing out so that students can glue each focus question into their science notebooks. The questions can also be printed on labels.
- **Interactive whiteboard resources.*** You can use these slide shows and other resources for grades 3–6 with an interactive whiteboard.
- **Streaming video.*** Some video clips are part of the instruction in the investigation, and others extend concepts presented in a module.
- **FOSSmap and online assessments.*** An online assessment system allows students to take benchmark assessments (I-Checks and Survey/Posttest) online. You can review those assessments online. Tutorial sessions based on assessment performance are also accessible for grades 3–6.

Premium Content

In addition to the free resources available on FOSSweb, Delta Education also offers access to premium content from any Internet-enabled computer.

- **Student eBooks.*** Student eBooks provide access to *FOSS Science Resources*. The eBooks look identical to print resources, with easy-to-turn pages, a chapter menu for easy navigation, audio clips for all text, and highlighted vocabulary words with pop-up definitions. The eBooks ensure that all students receive extra reading support.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSING FOSSWEB

To get started, you'll need a computer with Internet access and some additional plug-ins. Once you're online, you'll create a FOSSweb account. All information in this section is updated on FOSSweb as needed.

Creating a FOSSweb Teacher Account

By creating a FOSSweb user account, you can personalize FOSSweb for easy access to the modules you are teaching. When you log in, you can access Resources by Investigation for each module through My FOSS Modules. This makes it simple to select the investigation and part you are teaching and view all the digital resources connected to that part.

Students and families can also access module resources from FOSSweb. You can set up class pages where students will be able to access notes from you about assignments and multimedia.

Setting up an account. Set up an account on FOSSweb so that you can access the site when you begin teaching a module. FOSSweb registration information, including an access code is included with the purchase of your kit. Go to FOSSweb to register your access code—complete registration instructions are available there. If you cannot find your FOSSweb registration information and access code, contact your school administrator, your district science coordinator, or the purchasing agent for your school or district.

Logging in to FOSSweb. Once your account is set up, go to FOSSweb and log in. Take the opportunity to set up your profile and customize your homepage so that your modules are included in your list in My FOSS Modules.

Familiarize yourself with the layout of the site and the additional resources available by using your account login. From your module page, you will be able to access teacher masters, assessment masters, notebook sheets, multimedia, and other digital resources described earlier in this chapter. Explore Resources by Investigation, as this will help you plan. It lists the multimedia, notebook sheets, teacher masters, and readings for each investigation part.

Setting up class pages and student accounts. To enable your students to log in to FOSSweb to access the multimedia and see class assignments, set up a class page and generate a user name and password for the class. To do so, log in to FOSSweb and go to your homepage. Under My Class Pages, follow the instructions to create a new class page and to leave notes for students.

FOSSweb Technical Requirements

To use FOSSweb, your computer must meet minimum system requirements and have a compatible browser and recent versions of Flash® Player, QuickTime™, and Adobe® Reader. The system requirements are subject to change. It is strongly recommended that you visit FOSSweb to review the most recent minimum system requirements.

When using FOSSweb, you can check your browser to confirm that it has the minimum requirements to support the multimedia. You can do so by accessing the Tech Specs and Info page on FOSSweb.

Preparing your browser. FOSSweb requires a supported browser for Windows or Mac OS with a current version of the Flash Player plug-in, the QuickTime plug-in, and Adobe Reader or an equivalent PDF reader program. You may need administrator privileges on your computer in order to install the required programs and/or help from your school's technology coordinator.

By accessing the Tech Specs page on FOSSweb, you can check compatibility for each computer you will use to access FOSSweb, including your classroom computer, computers in a school computer lab, or a home computer. The information on FOSSweb contains the most up-to-date technical requirements.

Support for plug-ins and reader. Flash Player and Adobe Reader are available on www.Adobe.com as free downloads. QuickTime is available for free from www.apple.com. FOSS does not support these programs. Please go to the program's website for troubleshooting information.

Other Multimedia Considerations

Firewall or proxy settings. If your school has a firewall or proxy server, contact your IT administrator to add explicit exceptions in your proxy server and firewall for the following servers: FOSSweb.com and streamingmediahosting.com.

Classroom technology setup. FOSS has a number of digital resources and makes every effort to accommodate users with different levels of access to technology. The digital resources can be used in a variety of ways and can be adapted to a number of classroom setups.

Teachers with classroom computers and an LCD projector, interactive whiteboard, or a large screen will be able to show multimedia to the class. If you have access to a computer lab, or enough computers in your classroom for students to work in small groups, you can set up time for students to use the FOSSweb digital resources during the school day. Teachers who have access to only a single computer will find a variety of beneficial resources on FOSSweb that can be used to assist with teacher preparation and materials management.

Displaying multimedia content. Throughout each module, you may occasionally want to project multimedia components for instruction through your computer. To do this, you will need a computer with Internet access and either an LCD projector with a large screen, an interactive whiteboard, or a document camera arranged for the class to see.

You might want to display the notebook and teacher masters to the class. In Resources by Investigation, you'll have the option of downloading the masters to project or to copy. Choose "to project" if you plan on projecting to the class. These masters are optimized for a projection system and allow you to type onto them while they are displayed. The "to copy" versions are sized to minimize paper use when photocopying for the class.

If this projection technology is not available to you, consider making transparencies of the notebook and teacher masters for use with an overhead projector when the Getting Ready section indicates a need to project these sheets.

► NOTE

FOSSweb activities are designed for a minimum screen size of 1024 × 768. It is recommended that you adjust your screen resolution to 1024 × 768 or higher.

TROUBLESHOOTING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you experience trouble with FOSSweb, you can troubleshoot in a variety of ways.

1. Test your browser to make sure you have the correct plug-in and browser versions. Even if you have the necessary plug-ins installed on your computer, they may not be recent enough to run FOSSweb correctly. Go to FOSSweb, and select the Tech Specs page to review the most recent system requirements and check your browser.
2. Check the FAQs on FOSSweb for additional information that may help resolve the problem.
3. Try emptying the cache from your browser and/or quitting and relaunching.
4. Restart your computer, and make sure all computer hardware turns on and is connected correctly.

If you are still experiencing problems after taking these steps, e-mail FOSS Technical Support at support@FOSSweb.com. In addition to describing the problem you are experiencing, include the following information about your computer: Mac or PC, operating system, browser and version, plug-ins and versions. This will help us troubleshoot the problem.