



## Offline Search Exercise: Choosing the Best Tool

circus	rainforest	# calories in pizza	skin cancer
John Wayne-1st movie	population of Detroit	nickel	Gettysburg Address
lyrics to “One Sweet Day” (Mariah Carey)	cosmetics safety	turtle recipe	salt
fractions	geology	Kwanzaa art activity ideas	volcanoes
Spanish word for “gum”	famous chemists	When was ice cream invented?	author of <u>Independence</u> <u>Day</u> (book)



## Offline Search Exercise: Choosing the Best Tool

Work with a partner. Cut apart page one. Consider the following questions:

Is the topic broad or narrow? Is there likely to be lots or little online about this topic? Would it be better to use a topical search tool or a key word search tool to *start* the search? Decide together which tool will give you the most focused and relevant results and sort into categories below.

<b>topical</b>	<b>keyword</b>



## Online Search Exercise: Choosing the Best Tool Topical Searching

Choose a term from the topical column on page 2 for you both to work on together.

Choose the best topical search tool below and work together to search for your term. If time allows, perform the search again using another search tool. Compare the results, and compare how the tools format the results.

Discuss pros and cons of the tools in terms of ease of use, formatting of results, quantity of results, etc.

<http://www.yahoo.com>



<http://www.school.discovery.com/schrockguide/>



<http://www.about.com>



<http://www.mel.org>





## Online Search Exercise: Choosing the Best Tool Keyword Searching

Choose a term from the keyword column. Work with your partner to perform a keyword search using one of the keyword search tools below. To prepare for your search, consider the following questions:

**Is the term ambiguous, common?**

**Could the term be mistaken or misunderstood by the search engine?**

**How can you make your meaning clear to the search engine?** (Hint: use connectors and operators)

Rephrase your search if necessary to reduce the number of “hits”. Remember to consult the search tool's help area for tips on constructing good searches. Try your search on one of the other keyword search tools. Compare and discuss differences in results.

<http://www.altavista.com>

<http://www.hotbot.com>

<http://www.excite.com>

