

September 2014



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Welcome Back!

Welcome to the beginning of another fantastic school year! As a former fourth grade teacher, I know you are just trying to keep up with the beginning of the year rush, so thank you for taking a moment to allow us to welcome you back.

In this newsletter, you'll find lots of great information and updates we worked on all summer to help you start the year off right! Thank you for inviting us into your classroom, and please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you make this school year the best one yet!

Getting to Know You Ideas

Are you looking for interesting ways to use technology to help you get to know your students and to help them get to know each other? Wouldn't they love to create a comic, a mock online profile, or a word cloud? Be sure to check our back-to-school blog posts featuring ten online tools and unique suggestions for using them at the beginning of the year. Simply click the links below and enjoy!



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<http://blog.starmatica.com/getting-to-know-you-back-to-school-ideas/>

<http://blog.starmatica.com/digital-getting-to-know-you-activities/>

Summer Updates

K-2 Reading and Math

We want to make sure StarrMatica is providing you with the best digital content on the web. That's why in addition to adding new content topics, we also revisit current topics and add all of the new gems we've found as we scour the Internet so you don't have to! This summer, hundreds of new pieces of content were added to our existing K-2 reading and math topics! All of these updates show up for you automatically.

Keep these updates in mind as you search topics you have searched in the past and re-visit collections you have created in the past. Take a few moments to do a quick search to see if something new catches your eye!



[Number Jungle](#)

Skip count by 5s or 10s to move the monkey along the number line to reach his food.

[Word Chain Short Vowels](#)

Replace a sound in one word to make another word.



Student and Teacher Notes

Teachers have asked for the ability to add a note that students wouldn't be able to see to a piece of content in a collection. You asked and we've answered! There are now two options for adding a note to an individual link.

The *Comment* section that pops up when you add a link to a collection or edit a link in a collection is now re-named *Student Notes*. In this section, you can write a note that the student will see about how this link will help them or how this link relates to their work in class.

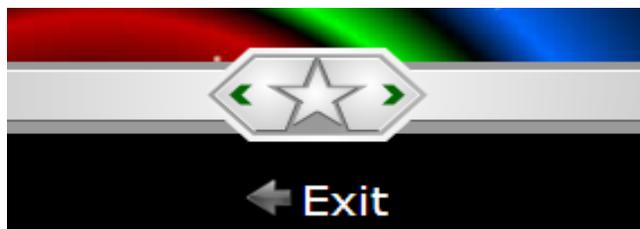
The new section is named *Teacher Notes*. In this section, you can write a note that you or any other teacher accessing your collection will see. You can use this section to make notes to yourself about how you plan to use this link or notes to another teacher about how this link fits with your curriculum.

Student Notes

Teacher Notes

3-6 Exit Button

A new *Exit* button was added to our 3-6 interface. The button is found below the star navigation arrows at the bottom center of your screen.



This new button will allow you to exit back to your teacher or student member page without having to use the back button in your browser. Now both the K-2 and 3-6 interfaces have an easy, intuitive way for you to exit and continue to explore other areas of StarrMatica.

Monthly Video Tip

Fiction and Nonfiction Content Guides

One of the comments we hear from members often is that there is so much content available on StarrMatica, they don't think they have uncovered all the library has to offer. That's why every monthly newsletter this school year will contain a link to a helpful video that focuses on one type of content resource you have available in StarrMatica or gives you one idea for using our content in your classroom. These videos were developed to help you explore and use our library in bite sized pieces that will fit into your busy schedule.

This month's video tip highlights our fiction and nonfiction content guides. These guides were developed to help you prepare students for constructed response questions with literature that is already available in your classroom, school, or town library.

If you are in a school that will have a standardized test with questions that require constructed responses in ELA (VA SOLs, PARCC, Smarter Balanced) these guides are an incredible resource for test preparation. Just click the image to the right to view the video in a new browser window.



Need help finding that perfect digital resource? Email or call StarrMatica's digital content experts. We would be happy to help!
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