



Educational Programming Highlights ~ DECEMBER 2011 ~

The programs listed below air on Idaho Public Television, and can be recorded for use in the classroom. Most are accompanied by teacher guides and additional information on the accompanying websites. A calendar with additional programs, professional development courses, telecourses and more can be found at <http://www.idahoptv.org/learn/toolbox.cfm>.

**Time zones are MT/PT where two times are shown.

FOR ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS

Math & Science:

D4K: FLIGHT. Airs Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 2:00/1:00 pm. Joan Cartan-Hansen and her guest scientists, Frank Lester, education coordinator for the aeronautics division of the Idaho Transportation Department and Pilot Lori MacNichol, answer questions about flight. <http://www.idahoptv.org/dialogue4kids/> (30 min)

ONCE UPON A CHRISTMAS CHEERY IN THE LAB OF SHAKHASHIRI: 2011. Airs Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 1:00/12:00 am. The sights and sounds of science come alive in this 42nd Annual Christmas Lecture by renowned science communicator, Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, Chemistry Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prof. Shakhashiri and special guests, including Bucky Badger and Santa Claus, display fascinating phenomena, fire and smoke, color-changing liquids, and lots of booms and bangs. <http://scifun.chem.wisc.edu/> (30 min)

DRAGONFLYTV. Airs Tuesdays at 3:00/2:00 am. A hip, fun science show for kids 9 to 12. Two episodes air each day: Montana/Yellowstone & New England (12/6), the deep South & Hawaii (12/13), nanoscale objects & carbon nanotubes (12/20), surface area/nanotechnology & nanoparticles (12/27). Online Educator's Guides are available at <http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/> (2 x 30 min)

History:

AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. The American Experience website includes a section with a format designed especially for kids called WayBack: U.S. History for Kids. The web pages accompany many of the American Experience programs airing each month, and include resources for parents and teachers. Topics include civil rights, U.S. Presidents, the gold rush, and more. Check it out at <http://www.pbskids.org/wayback/>

Music, Art & Literature:

THE ELECTRIC COMPANY. Aired weekdays at 3:00/2:00 pm. This program teaches children ages 6 to 9 crucial areas of literacy: decoding, vocabulary, comprehension of connected text, and motivation. Check out the educator tools at <http://www.pbs.org/parents/electriccompany/> (30 min)

WORDGIRL. Aired weekdays at 3:30/2:30 pm. WordGirl aims to enrich children's vocabularies and close the gap between those who don't grow up in language rich environments and those who do. The program is for everyone, but mainly ages 4 to 9. Teacher lesson plans and activities can be found at <http://www.pbs.org/parents/wordgirl/> (30 min)

FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Math & Science:

KILOWATT OURS: A PLAN TO RE-ENERGIZE AMERICA. Aired Monday, Dec. 5 at 2:00/1:00 am. This film asks "How can I make a difference?" by looking at one of America's most pressing environmental challenges: energy. Many free resources are available at the website <http://www.kilowattours.org> including lesson plans, activity ideas and energy-saving tips. (60 min)

SCIENCE INVESTIGATORS. Aired Thursday, Dec. 29 at 2:00/1:00 am. Four youthful hosts, armed with the latest gadgets and technology, tackle scientific mysteries. Throwing energy and technological know-how at the topics, they seek answers for: Can you build an elevator into space? Does anyone own the Internet? Do robots have feelings? Why does a rice plant have more genes than humans? <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/si> (60 min)

NOVA. Aired Wednesdays at 8:00 or 9:00 pm. NOVA is the highest rated science series on television, and the most watched documentary series on public television. December topics: Charles Darwin (12/7), the planet Pluto (12/14), genetic research (12/21), melting glaciers (12/28). Repeats Saturdays at 4:00/3:00 pm and Mondays at 1:00/12:00 am. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova> (1 or 2 hrs)

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN FRONTIERS. Aired Tuesdays at 2:00/1:00 am. Host Alan Alda takes us from the depths of the conscious mind to the outer reaches of the universe. Each program is accompanied by an online teaching guide filled with science activities. December topics: ocean floor & chimpanzees (12/6), global warming & hydrogen (12/13), the mind & archeology (12/20), artificial senses & robots (12/27) <http://www.pbs.org/saf/index.html> (60 min)

NATURE. Aired Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. NATURE brings the beauty and wonder of the natural world into homes, and is the benchmark for natural history programs on American television. December topics: elephants (12/7), Christmas in Yellowstone (12/21), polar bears (12/28). <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature> Repeats Sundays and Tuesdays at 1:00/12:00 am (60 min)

Social Studies, History and Economics:

ABOUT BENJAMIN. Aired Thursday, Dec. 22 at 2:30/1:30 am. In celebration of the 300th birthday of one of America's most famous inventors and statesmen, documentary filmmakers look at Benjamin Franklin and his contributions to science, art, medicine, education and politics. There are lessons

plans, an interactive online exhibit and more at <http://www.bf300.org> (30 min)

FREE RESOURCES FOR TEACHING FINANCIAL LITERACY. A special collection of educational digital media resources for use in school and home learning environments to help students understand complex economic concepts is now available. Access, Analyze, Act: From Economic Theory to Financial Reality is available for free at <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/access-analyze-act-economy>

PBS NEWSHOUR. Aired weeknights at 6:00 pm. The online NewsHour Extra provides unique current events resources for busy teachers, news stories, pictures, maps, video, in-depth lesson plans, stories written by students and more. <http://www.pbs.org/newshour>

Music, Art & Literature:

ZORA'S ROOTS. Aired Thursday, Dec. 8 at 1:00/12:00 am. This documentary tells the story of anthropologist and author of "Their Eyes Were Watching God" Zora Neale Hurston. Zora came from the small, all-black township of Eatonville, Florida, and emerged in the Roaring Twenties as the most prolific woman writer of the Harlem Renaissance. <http://www.pbs.org/zorasroots> (60 min)

MASTERPIECE TEACHER GUIDES. Browse the selection of online teacher guides to help you use Masterpiece films in the classroom. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/learn/guides.html>

FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS

ORIGINAL MINDS. Aired Thursday, Dec. 1 at 1:00/12:00 am. Five teenagers stigmatized by being in Special Ed. struggle to articulate how their brains work, and discover that they are smarter than they thought. <http://www.originalmindsfilm.com/> (60 min)

BEAUTIFUL SON. Aired Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 3:00/2:00 am. Through one family's struggle to save their child, BEAUTIFUL SON explores the complex and sometimes controversial world of autism. <http://www.itvs.org/films/beautiful-son> (60 min)

TEACHING CHANNEL. Aired Thursdays at 3:00/2:00 am. Teaching Channel takes you inside America's K-12 classrooms with programs that showcase inspiring and effective teaching practices. For detailed topic information and to subscribe to the newsletter, visit <http://www.teachingchannel.org/> (30 min)

BARBARA MORGAN: NO LIMITS. Aired Thursday, December 29 at 1:00/12:00 am. Producer Marcia Franklin traces Barbara Morgan's 23-year odyssey from McCall elementary teacher to space-veteran astronaut. Vintage footage, photos and interviews with friends, colleagues, students and family weave a tale of perseverance and resolve. <http://www.idahoptv.org/productions/specials/barbaramorgan> (60 min)

FREE BULLYING RESOURCES. The We Do Listen Foundation has created an illustrated children's book to help make it more comfortable for young children to come forth and report bullying to a teacher. Visit the website www.wedolisten.com for free teacher endorsed tools and resources to help 4-8 year olds and their parents and teachers deal with bullying.

GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS. Media literacy experts have created a guide that simplifies the legalities of using copyrighted materials in an academic setting. The Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Media Literacy Education can be found online at

http://www.centerforsocialmedia.org/resources/fair_use_and_teaching

WORKSHOPS BEGINNING THIS MONTH

LEARNING MATH: MEASUREMENT. Aired Fridays, Dec. 16 to Jan. 20 at 1:00/12:00 am. A 12 part video course for elementary and middle school teachers that examines some of the major ideas in measurement. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series184.html> (2 x 30 min)

Thanks for reading!
IDPTV Learning Services