

Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 Trainer Guide

2 Contact Hours



Learning Objectives

Participants in the Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 Class will achieve eleven objectives:

- Understand the importance of using digital text and other media to support the inquiry process.
- Find Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 on the INFOhio website: www.infohio.org.

Optional Training Activities

- Optional training activities add approximately one hour to the original training time.
- Identify the databases which supply the content for Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 to use the best resource for the needs of your students.
- Use the navigational tools to search and browse content to find the best content for students and instruction.
- Teach students how to locate information within Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12.
- Find the instructional supports available in the resource.
- Identify strategies for integrating Explora for Grades 6-8 and Grades for 9-12 into inquiry instruction.
- Learn how to use features within Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 to differentiate instruction.
- Consider methods for sharing Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 with parents and colleagues.
- Create a lesson plan to integrate Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 instruction.
- Reflect on learning by sharing information with others.

In this course, you will work through several lessons to learn how to access INFOhio's subscription to Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12, how to use it, and how to integrate it into your classroom teaching. Below is a description of each lesson and the amount of time it should take for you to complete each one.

Getting Started

Pretest

- **Lesson Content**

Take a quiz to find out what you know or need to know about Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12. (5 minutes)

Welcome to the Explore for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 Class

- **Lesson Content**

Review the course objectives and the course overview. (5 minutes)

Optional Training Activity

- Use a web based word cloud generator like [Answer Garden](#) or [Poll Everywhere](#) to generate ideas for ways Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 can fulfill instructional and technical needs in the classroom. (5 minutes)

Open Space Groups

- **Lesson Content**

Join the [Explora Resources group](#) in Open Space. In this group, discuss and reflect on the integration of technology with like-minded adults. (5 minutes)

Optional Training Activity

- Take time to explore the Explora Resources group. Have each participant join the group and review the Discussion questions posted. (5 minutes)

How to Use Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12

Getting to Know Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12

- **Lesson Content**

Read facts about the resource, practice steps needed to access it on www.infohio.org, and learn about the different databases included. Think about what you learned by answering questions. (10 minutes)

Optional Training Activity

- Discussion Questions - Direct participants to discuss the questions using the [Snowball Discussion](#) method. (20 minutes)
- Answer the reflection questions from the class in the Explora Resources group in Open Space. Navigate to the Discussions tab in the group and find the *Features of Explora Resources* question.

Using Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12: Searching

- **Lesson Content**

Learn about the navigational tools and features in Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12. (5 minutes)

Optional Training Activities

- Distribute the guided notes handout to participants and ask them to work in pairs to work through the lesson, recording the information they learn on the handout as they go. Encourage collaboration. (15 minutes)

Using Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12: Browsing

- **Lesson Content**

Learn about the navigational tools and features in Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12. (5 minutes)

Optional Training Activities

- Continue using the guided notes handout with participants working in pairs to record the information they learn as they go. Encourage collaboration. (15 minutes)

Using Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12: Browsing

- **Lesson Content**

Learn about the instructional supports available on Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12. (5 minutes)

Optional Training Activities

- Continue using the guided notes handout with participants working in pairs to record the information they learn as they go. Encourage collaboration. (15 minutes)

Using the Instructional Supports

- **Lesson Content**

Learn about the instructional supports available on Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12. (5 minutes)

Optional Training Activities

- Read and discuss the instructional supports available in the resources. Ask participants to choose one of the features to explore and write a 140-character review/description of what it is. Post ideas in a shared space to disperse ideas. (15 minutes)

Tools for Reading Digital Text

- **Lesson Content**

Learn more about the tools available for reading digital text. (5 minutes)

What Have You Learned So Far?

- **Lesson Content**

Take a short quiz to check what you know. (5 minutes)

Applying What You Have Learned

- **Lesson Content**

Complete an activity to practice using Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12. (10 minutes)

Optional Training Activities

- Encourage participants to post in the Discussion tab of the Explora Resources Open Space group, sharing the text they found and how they will use it in its PDF or HTML formats. Look for the *Text from Explora Resources* question. (5 minutes)

Integrating Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 into Classroom Instruction

Teaching Students to Locate Information with Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12

- **Lesson Content**

Read strategies for using Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12. Reflect on the practices by answering questions. (15 minutes)

Optional Training Activities

- Direct participants to work in pairs to complete the exercise under Locating Information using Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12, including reading the blog post. Once they have completed the activity, ask them to share their findings with the rest of the group. (15 minutes)
- Discussion questions – Use a method from [this blog](#) to facilitate discussion. (10 minutes)
- Answer the discussion questions in the Explora Resource Open Space group. Look for *Integrating the Explora Resources* question.

Sharing Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 With Colleagues and Parents

- **Lesson Content**

Consider methods for sharing Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 with parents and colleagues. (5 minutes)

Creating Lessons Using Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12

- **Lesson Content**

Review lesson plans featuring Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12. Create your own using a lesson plan template. (30 minutes)

Optional Training Activities

- In **Creating Lessons with Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12**, review the sample lesson plans as a group. Ask them to evaluate the lessons based on their own classes, and to suggest ideas that might make the lessons better. (15 minutes)
- Lesson Plan Template – Each participant should find another person whose teaching situation is similar to their own. Give each pair a copy of the lesson plan template found in the Exercise Files of the class and direct them to begin drafting a lesson using Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12. Begin by identifying the standards to address, and then find Explora for Grades 6-8 and Explora for Grades 9-12 content that fits in with a current theme in the classroom. Encourage the participants to consider integrating the inquiry process, discussions, and the recently brainstormed ideas about the sample lessons to include in their lesson plan. If they have identified limitations to using technology in their classroom before, encourage them to find solutions and steps to move beyond these obstacles. (30 minutes)
- Find the *Explora Lesson Plans and Educator Tools* post in the Explora Resources Open Space group and describe the lessons created. (5 minutes)

Checking Your Learning

Self-Assessments

- **Lesson Content**

Answer questions to reflect on what you learned. (15 minutes)

Optional Training Activity

- Ask participant to answer the **Self- Assessment** questions either in writing or with a group. Ask for volunteers to share their responses. (15 minutes)
- Find the *What Did You Learn from the Explora Class?* thread in the Discussion tab of the Open Space group and post answers to the reflection questions.

Contact Hour Quiz and Certificate

- **Lesson Content**

Take a quiz to earn a contact hour certificate. (5 minutes)