

## Encyclopedia Articles

<i>Skills category</i>	Encyclopedias
<i>Grade levels</i>	4th
<i>Time required</i>	15 minutes
<i>Objectives</i>	Students will become familiar with and be able to extract information within an encyclopedia article. Students will become acquainted with cross references.
<i>Materials needed</i>	Handout #3 (blackline master included) for each student. Handout #1 showing a twenty-two volume set of <i>The World Book Encyclopedia</i> .
<i>Preparation</i>	Prepare handouts (may want to laminate them for future use)
<i>Procedure</i>	<p>“I’m going to pass to each of you a handout that shows a page from <i>The World Book Encyclopedia</i>. Encyclopedias have guide words at the top of the pages just like dictionaries. Notice the guide words at the top left: David, Jacques Louis. The other guide word would be on the facing page at the top right.</p> <p>“This page contains several short articles. Many articles are several pages long.</p> <p>“Look at the first article, <b>David, Jacques Louis</b>. It reflects the guide word at the top of the page.</p> <p>“After the title there is some important information. First, it tells us how to pronounce this name. Does it sound like “David?” (No. dah VEED.)</p> <p>“In parentheses there are some numbers. Anyone know what they tell us? (birth and death dates of David)</p> <p>“Look at the beginning of the next article, David, Saint.</p> <p>“The numbers in parentheses have question marks. This means no one is sure of the dates. Some think he was born about 520 and died about 589.)</p> <p>“Go back to the first article. Count the number of paragraphs. The first paragraph starts with: “David, Jacques Louis ... was the leading French painter...”</p>

“The next paragraph starts: “David was an active...”  
The next one starts: “David was born in Paris.”

“This article has three paragraphs. (pretty short)

“Look at the end of the third paragraph. See the name *Ann Friedman*? Ann Friedman is the author of this particular article. Many articles have more than one author and they are not all listed. However, when there is only one author, the name is found at the end of the article.

“Look at the additional material at the end of the article. It begins with: ‘See also.’ ‘See also’ means if you want more information related to this subject, you may also look for the articles that are listed there.

“‘See also’ is a cross-reference term.

“Let’s look at the cross references. Read along with me.

- If you look under CLOTHING, you’ll find a picture of women’s clothing.
- If you look under FRENCH REVOLUTION, you’ll find the painting named “The death of Marat”.
- If you look under NAPOLEON I, you’ll find a picture of Napoleon.
- If you look under PAINTING, you will find information about art in the 1600’s and 1700’s.

“Are all of these cross references in the same volume as the article on David (in Volume D)? (no)

In which volume would you find: (refer to handout #1)

CLOTHING? (Volume 4, Ci - Cz)

FRENCH REVOLUTION? (Volume 7, F)

“Skip the next article, David, Saint. The next subject is **David Copperfield**.

“Is there an article here? (no)

What do we have? (a cross reference)

We are told to look under DICKENS, CHARLES, for information about his novel, *David Copperfield*.

In which volume would you look for this information?

(Volume 5, D)

“Thanks. You’ve learned much about encyclopedia articles today!”