

A RESEARCH SKILLS OVERVIEW...for all ages!

- DECIDING ON YOUR TOPIC...
 - * Brainstorming or gathering ideas about things you would like to learn more about
 - * Choosing a subject or idea that interests you the most
 - * Developing a list of KEY WORDS, usually leading to the formulation of pertinent QUESTIONS that guide your research path

- FINDING AND EVALUATING A VARIETY OF RESOURCES...
 - * Skimming for the key words and other pertinent facts, or to evaluate a resource (Check out the Table of Contents, the Index, and Chapter Headings)
 - * Collect the most resources in a central location

NOTE: if there is not enough information on your topic, reevaluate it NOW!

- ORGANIZING THE FACTS YOU WANT TO REMEMBER...
 - * NOTETAKING, using your OWN WORDS, and CITING SOURCES
 - * CATAGORIZING information you want to keep by topic (DATA CHARTS -see below- OUTLINES, GRIDS, etc)

- PUTTING YOUR FINDINGS IN AN FINAL FORMAT

- REVISING, CRITIQUING, EVALUATING YOUR PRODUCT

- PRESENTING THE INFORMATION AND ANY CONCLUSIONS YOU'VE MADE

- EVALUATING YOUR RESEARCH for yourself, your audience or an authority

TYPES OF SOURCE MATERIALS... you should teach kids to try all three!

- 🍎 **THIRD-HAND INFORMATION** (resources written or produced by others like reference books, trade books, maps, newspapers, magazines, or nonprint resources like globes, film, TV, internet, World Wide Web, etc, also produced by others)

- 🍎 **SECOND-HAND INFORMATION** (answers you get directly by going to experts and asking them questions yourself, usually in an interview or by questionnaire)

- 🍎 **FIRST-HAND INFORMATION** (discoveries made using your own senses and/or tools at your disposal, like surveys, simulations, experiments, etc)