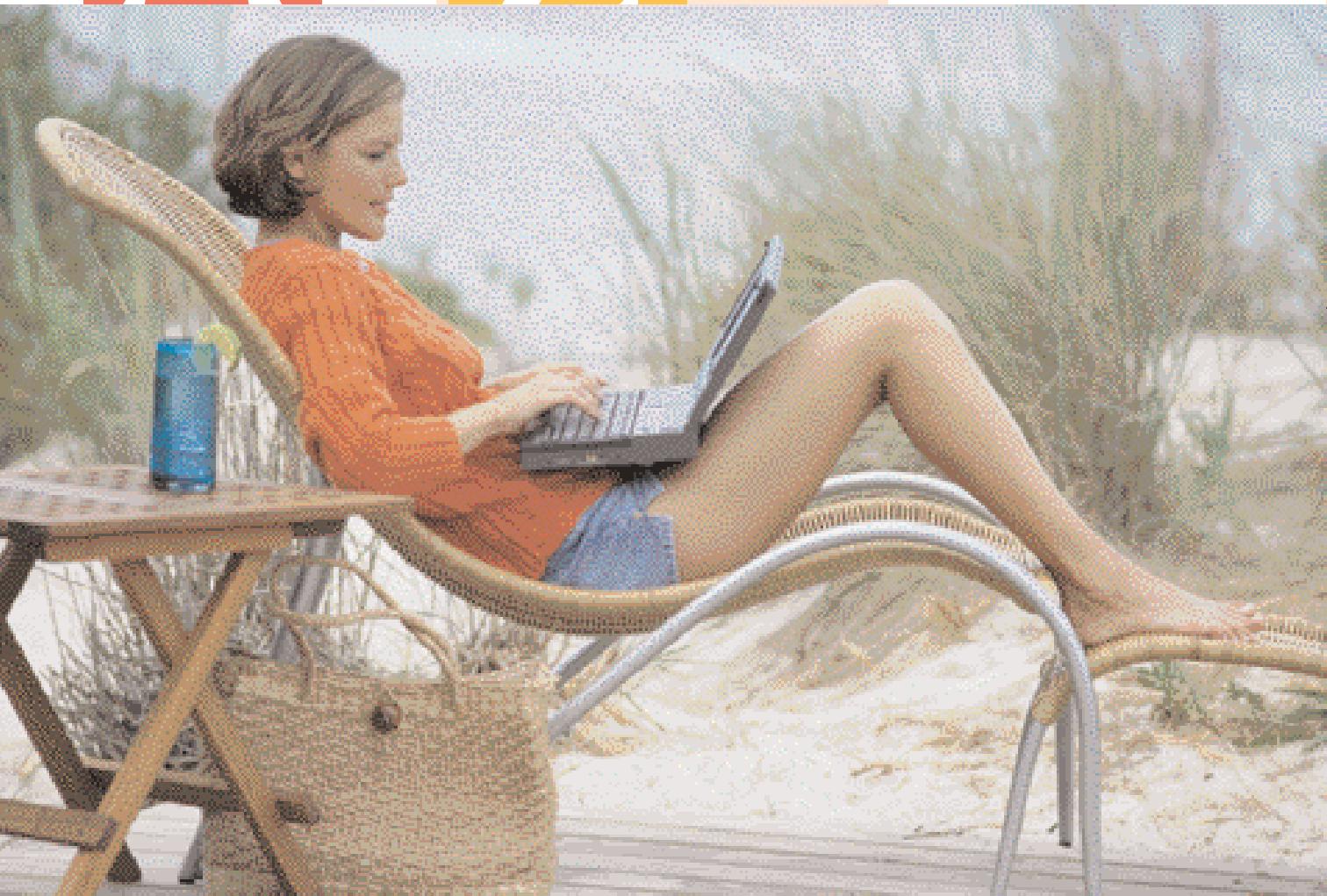


Your Super SUMMER GUIDE

From

A to **Z**

For this teachers-only alphabet, we found 26 adventures, learning opportunities, and more cool things to do over



A**Trek Through the ALPS**

Does summer fill you with wanderlust? Several European tour companies, such as Abbey Road (www.goabbeyroad.com), hire people just like you to supervise their teen charges in exchange for all travel expenses and—in some cases—additional compensation. It's a job perfectly suited for teachers itching to climb Switzerland's mountains, eat French cuisine, or stare in wonder at Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*.

B**Build a Class BLOG**

Impress next year's students by starting a class blog. The online journals are not only a favorite forum for middle- and upper-graders, they're also a great way to structure casual conversations about summer reading and more. It's easy to create a free blog at sites such as www.blogger.com and www.livejournal.com. Write an introductory message greeting your students, and ask them to respond by describing what they've been up to over the summer.

C**Turn Trash Into CASH**

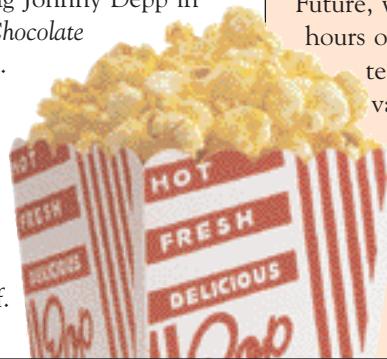
The juice pouches students threw away by the dozens each day became the basis for a business for kindergarten teacher Dawn Tupper. After seeing handbags made from the pouches at a craft fair, Tupper began creating the bags herself, selling them to both girls and moms in her neighborhood in Oxford, Georgia. "Teaching is stressful," Tupper says. "It helps to have a fun project and to make a little extra money on the side."

D**Pick Up a DUMBBELL**

Forget January 1—for teachers, the best time to start a new exercise routine is six months down the road, when school lets out for the summer. If you're looking for support, Curves gyms (www.curvesinternational.com) get rave reviews from teachers for their time-saving, women-only workouts. "It's in and out, no waiting, and in 30 minutes you are done with your exercise for the day," says *Instructor* advisory board member and fifth- and sixth-grade teacher Jane Lierman.

E**Savor a Happy ENDING**

The latest blockbuster is an easy mini-retreat to budget for this summer, even with kids in tow. So tune into your inner tween with *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* (June 3) or sweeten up by catching Johnny Depp in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (July 15). Sketch lessons based on these adaptations of children's books—or simply savor them for yourself.

**F****Follow the FUTURE**

Want to boost your tech knowledge? More than two million teachers have learned how they can best use technology in their classrooms through Intel's Teach to the Future, which provides 40 free hours of training to select master teachers at public and private schools. These teachers then lead their colleagues through the program. Learn how your school can get involved by going to www.intel.com/education/teachfuture.

G**Give Out a GRADE**

The College Board needs readers for the new essay portion of the SAT and is accepting applications at www.collegeboard.com/newsat/hs/reader.html. Those who have taught high school are especially needed, but anyone with relevant experience is welcome to apply. (Check out the FAQ for more on qualifications.) The best part? Grade from home and earn \$17–22 per hour!

H**Head for the HIGHWAY**

With the wind in your hair and sun on your skin, nothing says summer like a convertible. Now you can snag one for a day at a budget-friendly rate by becoming a member of TeachersDisCount at www.teachersdiscount.biz. The free program offers discounts at major retailers including Avis. Prove the old saying right: June, July, and August are three great reasons to be a teacher.



I Join the Team at **INSTRUCTOR**

From the best in board games to math tools, hundreds of educational products will arrive at our offices this summer—and so can you! *Instructor* needs teachers who can be in NYC in late June to choose this year's best classroom products.

Send your name, number, and the grades you teach to instructor@scholastic.com.



J Go on a **JOURNEY**

From studying marine life to Chinese folk tales, the Earthwatch Institute (www.earthwatch.org) offers adventures around the globe—and the chance for teachers to join them for free. “My experience shows students they can make a contribution,” says Shauneen Giudice, a Delmar, Delaware teacher who studied endangered caterpillars in Costa Rica.



K Score a **KICKBALL**

From the Bad News Bears to the Mighty Ducks, Hollywood sports teams always seem to find the right benefactor at the right time. Due to tight P.E. budgets, however, real-life squads don't always have it so easy. Help the young athletes in your life pay for new softball gloves and soccer cleats by applying for an activity grant from Balance Bar. The deadline is August 30, 2005. For more information, go to www.balance.com/grants.

L Learn While You **LUAU**

After a long winter, can you practically feel the tropical breeze? The National Marine Educators Association will hold its annual conference in Maui, Hawaii, from July 11–16, 2005. Science teachers looking for real-world inspiration can scuba dive, snorkel, and tour a volcano. For info about travel arrangements and scholarships, go to www.vims.edu/nmea.



M Take a Mission to **MARS**

Every summer, the JASON Foundation invites a group of lucky teachers to join research scientists for a week of hands-on exploration and discussion. The theme for this year is “Mysteries of Mars and Earth,” and participants will study the Mars Rover, California geology, and more. Teachers then carry out the theme in their classrooms during the year. Also running: last summer's popular Louisiana expedition on “Disappearing Wetlands.” Visit www.jason.org for information.

N Find Deals on the **NET**

Many teachers love auction sites such as www.ebay.com for finding classroom bargains. Just starting out? Click on “Everything Else” on the left-hand side of the page, and then on “Education and Learning.” In *eBay Bargain Shopping for Dummies* (Wiley, 2003), Marsha Collier suggests browsing for misspelled items and bidding in odd figures (e.g., \$10.97) to up the odds of winning auctions by a few cents.

O Click and **OBSERVE**

School may be out of session, but that doesn't mean you can't check out other teachers' tried-and-true strategies through a classroom visit. Head to www.learner.org/resources to sample some of the free online videos of master teachers' lessons. You'll be inspired by everything from a dynamite second-grade reading lesson to a middle-school geometry project that keeps kids engaged (for a whole class period)! Look for the special streaming video symbol to access the material.

P Remodel Math **PROBLEMS**

Could your math lessons use an extreme makeover? It's time to call in the experts at www.teacherline.pbs.org. Sculpt your curves by enrolling in “Shaping Up: Teaching Geometry Using Technology,” or transform algebra with “Math in Everyday Life.” While these courses offer a teaching facelift from the privacy of your home, class forums ensure that you'll receive the support you need during your transformation.

Q Get Paid for a QUOTE

Looking for a summer sideline? As an agent for Teachers' Insurance, which offers educators low rates on auto insurance, you can earn money just for submitting quote requests—there's no heavy salesmanship required. The company provides free training, and for a limited time you can earn \$500 for successfully completing the required licensing exam. For more info, call 1-800-671-8810 or visit www.teachers.com.

S Sweeten Up SUMMER SCHOOL

If the thought of teaching summer school has you groaning, consider signing up for a new subject or grade level. Dawn Flowers Thompson, a teacher at Clara Barton School #2 in Rochester, New York, had her best summer-school experience when she integrated Shakespeare and math. "I really enjoyed doing something different from my normal teaching," she says. Got a great summer school lesson? Tell us about it at instructor@scholastic.com.

T Tag a Sea TURTLE

Imagine touring the Galápagos, spotting giant tortoises and sea lions, with a group of awe-inspired students in tow. Through Save the Rainforest (www.saverfn.org), a nonprofit run by teachers, you can coordinate trips to the famous islands, Costa Rica, and other tropical destinations. Bonus: Trip leaders travel free!



R Relish a Good READ

Reading is one of the sweetest pleasures of summer, whether you're catching up on the latest award-winners or soaking in a beachy page-turner.

That's why we're offering a special Summer Reading Giveaway!

Win a library of 15 Newbery winners for your classroom, from *Because of Winn-Dixie* to *The Summer of the Swans*. Plus: Receive 10 just-for-you titles from Harcourt, including *The Life of Pi*, *The Time Traveler's Wife*, and *The Crimson Petal and the White*.

One lucky winner will receive 25 books in all!

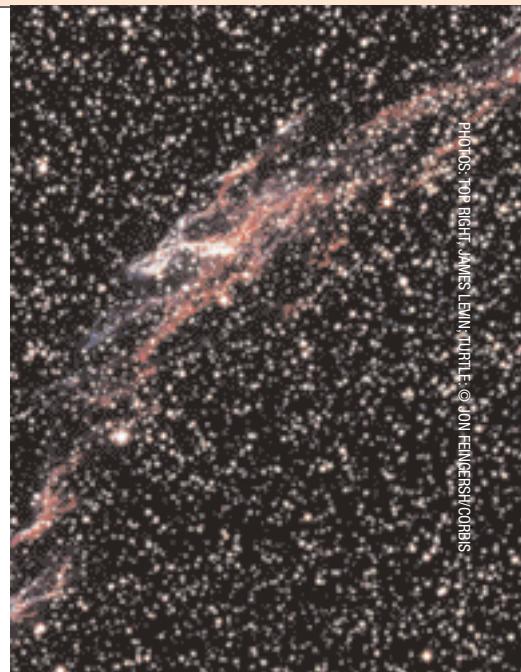
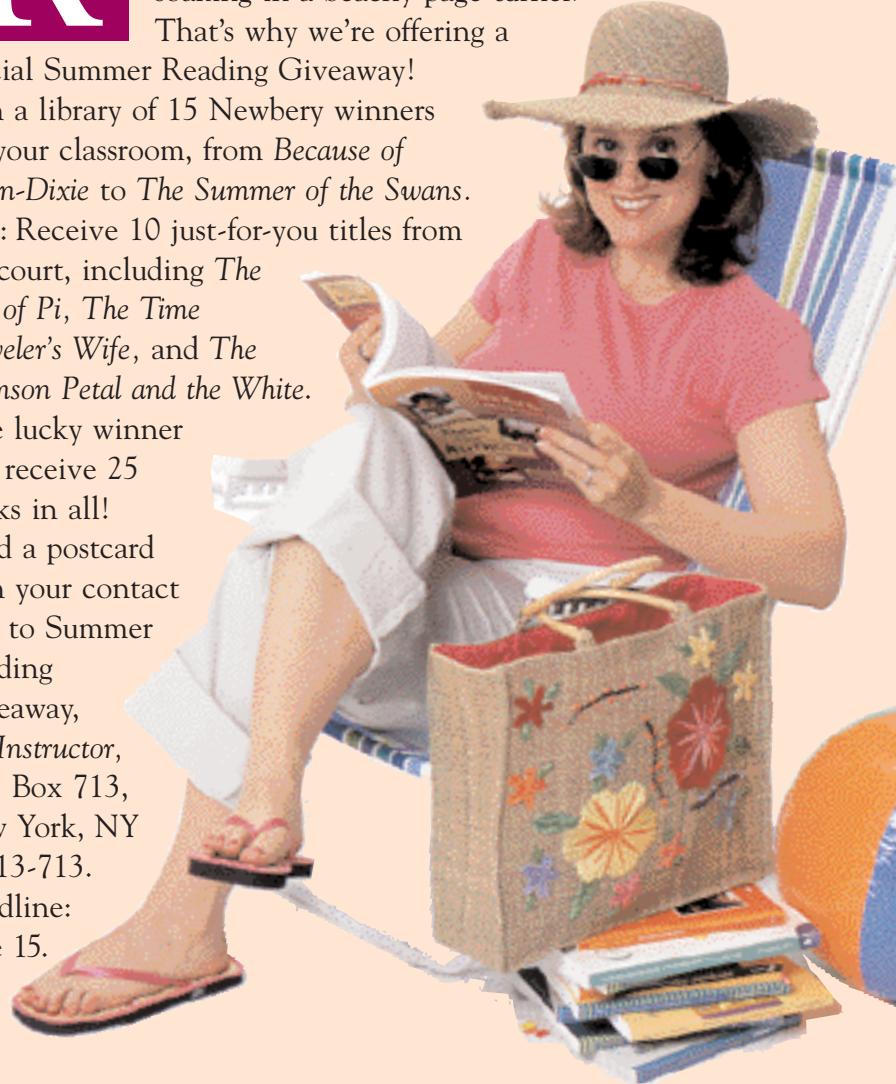
Send a postcard with your contact info to Summer Reading Giveaway, c/o Instructor, P.O. Box 713, New York, NY 10013-713.

Deadline: June 15.

U Understand the UNIVERSE

Get a glimpse of the universe beyond the classroom this summer at the McDonald Observatory in West Texas. Week-long workshops provide teachers with access to experts and equipment, and focus on strategies to incorporate astronomy into lesson plans. Continuing education credits and scholarships are available. Apply by May 16th, 2005, at www.mcdonaldobservatory.org.

(Continued on page 59)



SUMMER GUIDE FROM A TO Z

(Continued from page 24)

V Take Time to **VOLUNTEER**

Joining AmeriCorps allows you to give back to the community and earn money for future schooling at the same time. Opportunities abound for those with experience, including teaching children of service members on Cape Cod and mentoring people with mental disabilities in Texas. For specific program information and to apply, go to www.americorps.org.

W Reimagine **WRITING**

WORKSHOP Summer workshops offered by the National Writing Project (www.writingproject.org) are available at more than 185 universities across the country, and focus on teacher-to-teacher strategies for improving lessons on the six traits, poetry, and more. "I had no idea what an impact the Writing Project would have on my life," says Dawn Imamoto, a second-grade teacher from West Sacramento, California. "I've become a better teacher and a better person."

X **Excel As An EXTERN** At Zoom Telephonics, Anthony Principe got the chance to help develop a faster modem. "It was a great opportunity to learn about new technology and pass that on to my students," says Principe, an assistant principal in Newton, Massachusetts, who has participated in his local Teachers in Industry Externship Program several times. Similar programs exist around the country; ask an administrator or check with your local chamber of commerce to find one near you.

Y Empower Your New **YEAR**

Make more time for summer fun by keeping organization for the next school year simple. Set up boxes labeled with each month or topic you teach, and any time you run across a great resource, lesson plan,

or reproducible, put it in the appropriate file. Where to find those resources? Visit www.scholastic.com/instructor for great back-to-school activities, ice-breaking CyberHunts, and curriculum-based crafts.

Z Catch Up On Your **Zs...**

It's been a marathon of a year, but you've reached the finish line. Time to slow down by visiting www.spafinder.com or www.spa-addicts.com to score massages, facials, and more from spas around the country at exclusive, rock-bottom prices. So when it comes to tying up your laces again—or your kindergartners'—you'll be ready. ■

Island Right

(rule is 5 inches from right edge,
8 inches from bottom edge)