

WebSights features announcements and reviews of select sites of interest to physics teachers. All sites are copyrighted by their authors. This column is available as a web page at [PhysicsEd.BuffaloState.Edu/pubs/WebSights/](http://PhysicsEd.BuffaloState.Edu/pubs/WebSights/). If you have successfully used a physics website that you feel is outstanding and appropriate for WebSights, please email me the URL and describe how you use it to teach or learn physics—[macisadl@buffalostate.edu](mailto:macisadl@buffalostate.edu).

### Richard Feynman's *Fun to imagine: Using physics to explain how the world works*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive/feynman/>

This site contains a half dozen 10- to 12-minute long video interview vignettes from 1983 by the Nobel physics laureate sometimes called “the great explainer.” Feynman clearly shares his joy and passion in figuring out everyday physics concepts in a series of profound, bite-sized treatments. He discusses atomic kinetic theory and states of matter, characteristics of materials, electric and magnetic interactions, mirrors and reflections, big numbers, and the process of thinking scientifically. I particularly enjoyed the fourth vignette analyzing the optical nature and perceptual psychology of plane mirror reflection symmetry, which had disturbed me for some time. You will think differently about your image in a mirror after this video.

*Suggested by Kevin O'Donnell of Toshiba Medical Research Institute*

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### College ready physics standards: A look to the future, by P. Heller and G. Stewart

<http://www.compadre.org/psrc/items/detail.cfm?ID=10310>

This document contains a set of K-12 educational standards for physics. This work is an extension of Advanced Placement standards to a full K-12 progression of physics concepts. There are five main standards each with a set of objectives, foundation knowledge statements, conceptual learning targets, and learning outcomes. The document also includes instructional guides for each of the standards and objectives to help teachers interpret and address the learning outcomes. These guides include common student difficulties and the content boundaries for each grade band, as well as example activities, questions, and problems.

*Suggested by Frank Noschese, John Jay HS Physics*

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### Joel Harben's RSS feeds

<http://www.google.com/reader>

For those who have trouble wading through scientific (and other) news from dozens of websites on a daily basis, try using Really Simple Syndication (RSS). RSS is a standardized format that allows a software program (RSS reader) to aggregate headlines from multiple sources in one place. From there, you can quickly skim through dozens of articles and choose only those that interest you for further reading. My RSS reader of choice is Google Reader <http://www.google.com/reader>, which automatically syncs across my Google account and iPhone. Websites that support RSS typically have the text “RSS” or an icon somewhere on their front page. Click on that link to add the site to your RSS reader. Sites that I often find interesting articles for my students include <http://nationalgeographic.com>, <http://popsci.com>, <http://physorg.com>, <http://news.discovery.com>, and <http://scientificamerican.com>.

*Suggested by Joel Harden, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Physics*

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### Physics and science teaching blogs

<http://fnoschese.wordpress.com/>

I spent some considerable time reading teacher blogs after being directed to examples by postings on the Modeling-L listserv, <http://modeling.asu.edu/listserv.html> (whose edited archives are themselves a treasure for physics teachers). I had the great fortune to meet Frank Noschese at a Buffalo State Modeling physics course several years back, and was very impressed with his blog *Action-Reaction: Reflections on the Dynamics of Teaching* at <http://fnoschese.wordpress.com/>. Frank's blog includes a collection of physics teaching resources, links to other teaching and physics blogs, some of which have been previously published in this column. Dean Baird's *Blog of Physz*, <http://phyzblog.blogspot.com/>, Rhett Allain's *dotphysics*, <http://scienceblogs.com/dotphysics/>, and Greg Jacob's *Jacobs Physics*, <http://jacobsphysics.blogspot.com/> all are linked from Frank's blog. Pithy, inspirational and useful reading for physics teachers.

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