

## **MARVEL Challenge May, 2011 Grades K-2**

*A note for teachers: If you or your students are exploring these resources from your home you may need to create a free account. Simply put in your name, email and required information about your school. If you are accessing MARVEL from school, your name and email are not necessary. Your location should have been registered by your school or library tech staff. If this has not been done, send an email to MaineInfonet ([pellett@maine.edu](mailto:pellett@maine.edu))*

The following questions are designed to be answered using the MARVEL databases located at <http://www.maine.gov/marvel> . All answers can be found in either Britannica Learning Zone, Searchasaurus, or Novelist K-8.

**Britannica Learning Zone** is a very visual and interactive website. Clicking around will reveal more information, rather than typing in queries as you would in a traditional search engine.

There are also areas where your students can create art, and practice early numeracy and literacy skills. This web resource lends itself to exploration by a whole class, and by students working independently. For a full teacher's guide please visit the link below

[http://info.eb.com/PDFs/Guided\\_Tours/Britannica%20Learning%20Zone.pdf](http://info.eb.com/PDFs/Guided_Tours/Britannica%20Learning%20Zone.pdf)

**Searchasaurus** “is an exciting and easy way for young researchers to experience online searching. It is an animated interface with a dinosaur theme that encourages students to enhance and develop basic search methodologies (ebsohost.com).” It's a safe place to search! Teachers will appreciate the lexile tool that aligns search results with the reading level of the student.

Searchasaurus functions more like a standard search engine.

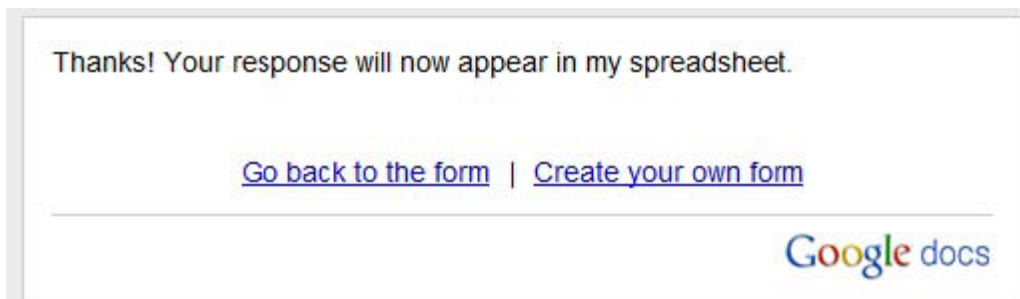
**Novelist K-8** is a database that can help students and teachers find books using student interest or curricular topics. Among the search elements is the lexile value of various books Educators will enjoy the preselected “Book Lists.” While the database is very user friendly, teachers interested in more detailed information about this tool can go to

<http://support.ebsco.com.prxy2.ursus.maine.edu/novelist/training.php> for guides and training webinars.

## Rules of the Challenge and How to Submit your Answers

You must submit answers to at least seven (7) questions to be eligible for prizes, but can do more if you like. Answers are not scored, though you must show which MARVEL resource was used. Don't worry, we're not grading you! The MARVEL Challenge is less about finding the right answers and more about practicing 21<sup>st</sup> century searching skills with your students. Citing sources is important, but in the early grades the name of the database used will be sufficient.

Typically people print out the questions below, or keep track of their answers in a word processing document. When you are ready to submit your answers, go to <http://www.actem.org/Marvel>. Click on "Submit Your Answers", then choose the specific challenge your class took. Unfortunately, Google forms will not give a very clear indication that the submission was received, but after you hit the "Submit" button you will see a screen like this if your submission was successful.



If you have any questions at all, feel free to email [marvel@actem.us](mailto:marvel@actem.us)

If you find these resources to be valuable, please spread the word to parents and colleagues, since this taxpayer-supported resource is available free to all Maine citizens. Keep in mind that there are many more databases in MARVEL to explore, so please do not limit yourself to those we have focused on. The Grand Prize drawing for an interactive whiteboard will happen in June. We hope you have a MARVELous May!

### Question List

1. What part of the world should you explore in Britannica Learning Zone to see an eagle fly?
2. The Statue of Liberty is one of the world's largest statues. What is the statue made of, and what was its original color? (*Teacher tip: in Searchasaurus click "PDF Full Text" to*

*see the complete and printable original articles with pictures as they appeared in publications like Weekly Reader or Scholastic News)*

3. What part of the world should you explore in Britannica Learning Zone to see a kangaroo jump?
4. When you look for a picture of Maine Black Bears in Searchasaurus you might not see what you expected. What *did* you see?
5. What part of the world should you explore in Britannica Learning Zone to see a koala play?
6. Where is Acadia National Park?
7. What part of the reading activities in Britannica Learning Zone has “Mary Had a Little Lamb?”
8. Which of the following is NOT a dinosaur: Triceratops, Narwhal, or Brontosaurus?
9. What color are the spots on the outer edges of a monarch butterfly’s wings?
10. Some books about dinosaurs are made up stories. Some books about dinosaurs are true. How can you tell the difference in Novelist K-8 plus?
11. Portland is the biggest city in Maine. Can you find articles about it in Searchasaurus?
12. There are many poems about Maine. Can you tell us the name of any books of poetry for children that are set in Maine or written by Maine poets?
13. Using the Searchasaurus dictionary can you tell us how many legs an insect has?

14. Kids come up with clever solutions to problems every day! Can you tell us about a recent invention by a young person?
  
15. What is your favorite book on the Must-read Classics for Grades K-2 book list in Novelist K-8 Plus?
  
16. *Hannah's Christmas* is a story about a young girl from what country? (clue: people from this country celebrate Saint Lucia's Day)