

Implementing Digital Literacy Tools: NewsELA & Vocabulary.com

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vocabulary.com

Staff Development

In Summer 2020, I developed digital interactive notebooks for staff development at High Bridge Middle School.

Both **NewsELA** and **Vocabulary.com** are multidisciplinary and function in varied settings:

- Distance learning
- Hybrid learning
- In-person learning

In Spring 2020, I earned two certificates from NewsELA's professional development program:

- NewsELA Teacher Trainer
- NewsELA Certified Educator

Why NewsELA?



- High-interest and timely
- Offers a variety of texts across many subject areas
 - Current news
 - Opinion articles
 - Primary sources
 - Career articles
 - Social Emotional Learning
- Reading comprehension
- Write prompts
- Vocabulary building

Artist uses thousands of Lego bricks to make sculptures of animals

Presenting

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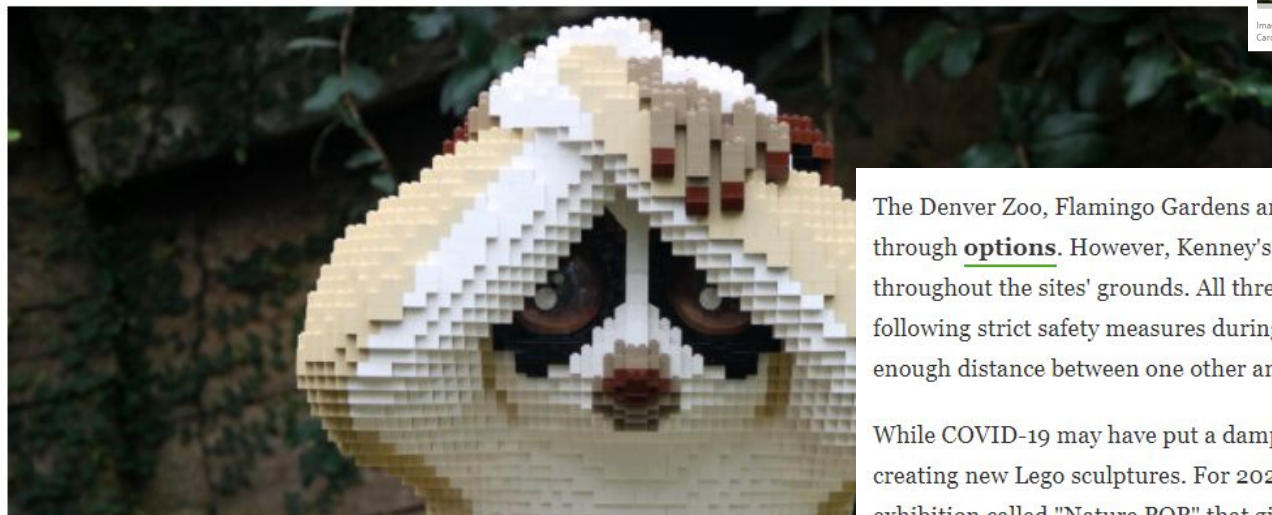
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Image 2: Sean Kenney's Lego sculpture of a tiger swallowtail butterfly on display at the Naples Botanical Garden in Naples, Florida. Photo: Carol VanHook/Flickr



The Denver Zoo, Flamingo Gardens and North Carolina Arboretum don't offer drive-through options. However, Kenney's Lego creations are outdoors and interspersed throughout the sites' grounds. All three locations, as well as the San Antonio Zoo, are following strict safety measures during COVID-19. They are encouraging guests to keep enough distance between one other and mandating that visitors wear face coverings.

While COVID-19 may have put a damper on traveling, it hasn't stopped Kenney from creating new Lego sculptures. For 2021, he's dreaming up a "colorful, punchy and playful" exhibition called "Nature POP" that gives the natural world a new spin.

"Imagine a lawn full of giant bunny rabbits in polka dots and stripes, or a neon-blue woodpecker on a lava-lamp tree trunk," he says. "All built with hundreds of thousands of Lego bricks. It's going to look amazing!"

Why Vocabulary.com?



- Their philosophy:
 - Mastery is not memorization
 - Focuses on exposure to learn all the meanings and nuances of words
- Motivational (leveling up, earning badges, correct answer streaks)
- Collaborative (vocab jams, annual nationwide vocab bowl)
- Offers a dictionary tool
 - Student friendly definitions

New Jersey Division III Middle/Elementary Schools: 1st place

New Jersey Middle/Elementary Schools: 2nd place

New Jersey State Top 10 Monthly Badges Earned: 6 badges

- 2019: September, October, November, December
- 2020: January, March

46,461 mastered words!

HBMS is off to a great start in the 2020-2021 season!

We earned a New Jersey State Top 10 Monthly Badge for September!

HBMS students have already mastered 4,828 words!

High Bridge Middle School 2019-2020 Vocabulary Bowl Season