

Google Custom Search Engine

To use **Google Custom Search Engine**, create a Google account or login to your Google account. You may use your school email rather than a gmail account. Enter the information requested. You are able to add pre-selected internet sites to this page. When students use the custom search, they will only be accessing the sites your have provided. This assures that students get the information you have selected for them to research from as well as prevents them from doing their own internet searches thus spending more time on searching or reviewing websites that do not have the information they need. It looks and functions like a regular Google page.

The screenshot shows the 'Create a Custom Search Engine' form. It includes sections for 'Basic information' (name, description, keywords, language), 'What do you want to search?' (radio buttons for search scope), and 'Select some sites' (a list of URLs to search). The form is titled 'Create a Custom Search Engine' and has a progress indicator showing '1. Set up your search engine' and '2. Try it out'.

The screenshot shows the 'Underground Railroad' custom search engine page. It features a search bar with the text 'Underground Railroad' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, there is a 'Creator' section (Name: Anonymous, Member since: Sep 12, 2008) and a 'Contributors' section (Sorry, this search engine does not accept volunteers). The 'Search engine details' section lists 6 search sites, including nationalgeographic.com/railroad/ and pbs.org/wgbh/iaia/part4/4nar3.html. It also includes a 'Last updated' date of Feb 9, 2009, and a link to 'Add this search engine to your blog or webpage'.

The screenshot shows the search results for 'harriet tubman' on the custom search engine. The results include links to 'Harriet Tubman History' (History-50.com), 'Harriet Tubman' (Short biography based on the PBS series Africans in America), 'Harriet Tubman and The Underground Railroad for Children' (Feb 25, 2007), 'The Underground Railroad @ nationalgeographic.com' (She is Harriet Tubman, a former slave who ran away from a nearby plantation in 1849 but returns to rescue others), 'Underground Railroad' (Along with Harriet Tubman, many other ex-slaves were conductors on the Underground Railroad), 'The Underground Railroad @ nationalgeographic.com' (The route you traveled based on Harriet Tubman's actual journeys), 'Africans in America/Part 4/Narrative: Fugitive Slaves and Northern ...' (Harriet Tubman's efforts to free a captured fugitive slave are described in an incident in Troy, New York), 'Underground Railroad--History of Slavery, Pictures, Information' (You are a slave in Maryland in the 1800s. Can you escape? Learn what challenges slaves faced in National Geographic's Underground Railroad adventure), and 'Africans in America/Part 4/Narrative: Abolitionism' (... it set the stage for the African American women speakers who followed: Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman, among others ...).

The Google URL will be quite long. Use <http://tinyURL.com> to create a user friendly URL to share with your students. For example:

http://www.google.com/coop/cse?cx=017570755461263030450:7g-mp4gwbkn&auth=DQAAAHwAAACYnhKOW4Yu9yAnVdKiAvvcizCYbyl7F4ONJhC8lu6zcBetzQD8sgEn81ZwyWeWTOdSiz_Dpju9WFb8qUh785qvU0DVbpVpR4qVtL5bVzmSFA34IKr4nfn2AOKHsUQdzMKy_Gp2OLzmCEf8jNSB_cRA9qv7__HCTa20aebDiIRqw

... can be shortened to just <http://tinyurl.com/b6sp77> by using tinyURL.com

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <http://tinyurl.com/create.php>. The page title is "TinyURL.com - shorten that long URL into a Tiny URL". The main content area features a large blue header with the "TinyURL.com" logo and the tagline "Making long URLs usable! More than 160 million of them. Over 1.5 billion hits/month." Below this, a section titled "TinyURL was created!" displays the following URL: `http://www.gmodules.com/ig/ifr?url=http://www.google.com/coop/api/017570755461263030450/cse/7g-mp4gwbkn/gadget&synd=open&w=320&h=75&title=Underground+Railroad&order=%23ffffff%7C3px%2C1px+solid+%23999999&output=js`. It notes that this long URL has a length of 237 characters and is shortened to `http://tinyurl.com/ct2jvn`, which has a length of 25 characters. A "Preview TinyURL" section shows `http://preview.tinyurl.com/ct2jvn`. A note states: "This TinyURL may have been copied to your clipboard. (This no longer works for those who have upgraded to Flash 10.) To paste it in a document, press and hold down the ctrl key (command key for Mac users) while pressing the V key, or choose the 'paste' option from the edit menu." At the bottom, there is a form to "Enter another long URL to make tiny:" with a text input field containing the long URL and a "Make TinyURL!" button. Below the form is a "Custom alias (optional):" field with a text input and a note: "May contain letters, numbers, and dashes." The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, Example, Make Toolbar Button, Redirection, Hide URLs, Preview Feature, Link to Us!, Terms of use, and Contact Us!. There are also "PayPal Donate" and "Click to Give" buttons.

Both URL's will connect to the same page.