



**Are you a 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher interested in supporting research and earning Amazon.com gift cards? Then consider using CAST (Child Adaptive Search Tool) in your classroom!**

We are looking for teachers to use a prototype search engine in their classrooms. Each month your students use the CAST search portal, you will be eligible to earn a \$20 Amazon Gift Card. CAST is a research project funded by the National Science Foundation aimed at creating a search tool tailored to the information retrieval and developmental needs of elementary school children.

#### **What will I have to do?**

- Get permission from your principal or other administrator to participate in the research.
- Have your students use the CAST search portal when they look for information online.
- Log in to your *Teacher Portal* to see what students have been searching for and provide brief notes for what was happening each day (optional).
- Every time your class completes a specific number of searches in a month (approximately 10 per child), you will earn a \$20 Amazon Gift Card. **In addition**, every day you provide notes in the teacher portal we will increase your gift card by 50 cents.

**If you are interested in learning more, please email [cast-group@boisestate.edu](mailto:cast-group@boisestate.edu). Include your name, school, and grade level, and we will be in touch shortly!**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

***Ten searches per student sounds like a lot. Do I have to change my lesson plans to meet that number?***

No, we want to see how this can be used in authentic classroom settings. A “search” is anytime a child types something new into the search box and hits enter. So, if a child searches for “dinasor”, then corrects it to “dinosaur”, and then tries “T-rex”, he or she would have completed three separate searches. In our laboratory testing elementary students frequently completed five to ten searches when they were looking for information on one topic.

***My students don’t do many internet searches – can I still participate?***

Absolutely! You don’t have to use the CAST portal every month to participate. You can sign up and use it as your lessons and class time allow. Every month you meet the minimum number of searches you will receive a gift card.

***Is this a safe search? Is the content appropriate for my students?***

While it is impossible to guarantee that a search engine will *never* return inappropriate content, we are using the same filtering used by Google Safe Search. Our search engine’s focus is to help children search and retrieve and prioritize child-friendly materials.