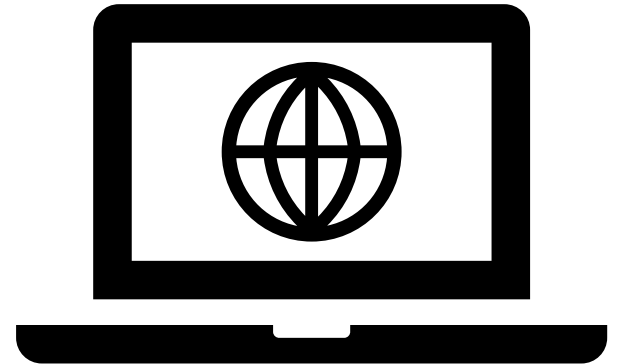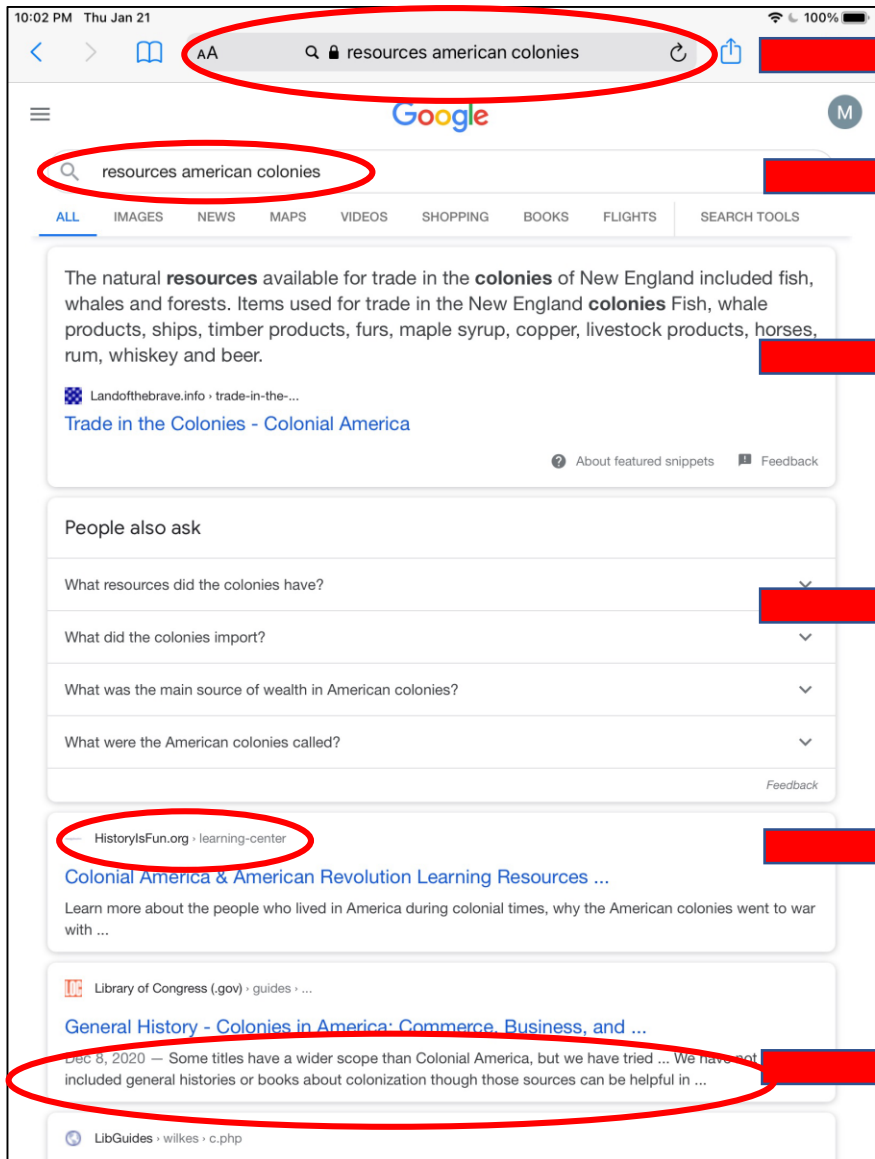# Tips for Keyword Searching

- Understand your research question before you begin so you know what you are looking for.

- Brainstorm keywords and synonyms related to your topic before sitting in front of a computer.

- Focus on main idea words. Avoid common and nonspecific words.

- Use quotation marks around words you want to find in a particular order on websites.

- Capitalization and punctuation do not matter.

- Add the words "for kids" at the end of your search to find websites best suited to you.

Evaluating Websites in the Search Results

This is the search bar where you can type in your keywords.

You can also type your keywords here.

The first result that appears is often a snippet from a website article. Evaluate the website before you decide to use this information for your research. Ask yourself: Who made this website and are they an expert? You may need to do some digging around!

Frequently asked questions may appear. They may be useful, but keep in mind that they do not always show you the information you are looking for. Sometimes they can distract you away from what you are really looking for.

Look carefully at the domain ending on websites that appear in your search results. Websites that end in .gov, .edu, or .org are generally safe to use. Be wary of websites ending with .com or .net.

Pay careful attention to the description. Does it sound like the website might have the information you are looking for? If so, visit the website. If not, don't bother visiting the website and look for another website that seems more useful.