ⓜ UNIVERSITY

When exploring how to best use your 3D printer, you don't have to go it alone. There's a massive online community of millions of 3D printing educators and makers that actively offer advice, answer questions, and contribute their designs for others to use freely. This community is Thingiverse.

Thingiverse is built on the principles of sharing, learning, and making. It's a community where users from all over the world can download free 3D models and 3D printing lesson plans for any age group or subject. MakerBot founded Thingiverse in 2008 while developing the first desktop 3D printers, and several years later it's grown to an enormous size and stands in support of the entire 3D printing industry.

TERMINOLOGY

Thingiverse®: The largest online 3D printing community and library of printable files, accessible at thingiverse.com

Thing: A 3D model uploaded to Thingiverse, this can be a single object or several, and typically comes with pictures and printing instructions

Thingiverse Education™: 3D printing projects and lesson plans for different grades and subjects

Remix: A cornerstone of Thingiverse. This is when a user edits or builds upon a Thing to customize it in some way while providing attribution to the original designer

Licensing: Describes how a designer permits the community to use his/her creation (i.e. whether it can be remixed or sold commercially)

Makes: When a user downloads and prints another designer's model, then uploads a picture of it to demonstrate its appearance and printability

Collection: A curated folder of Things by users, and a great way to organize Things for your class

THINGIVERSE, A UNIVERSE OF THINGS

Thingiverse is a great place to go for inspiration when creating your own 3D models. Instead of designing a hinge or spring from scratch, there are plenty of Things you can look to for guidance, or download and modify to suit your own project.

Several designers use Thingiverse the way photographers use Instagram; designers upload 3D models to share with others and get feedback and recognition for their work. Take some time to explore the more active users' portfolios – you're sure to find some amazing and inspirational Things!

Be mindful of the licensing features that the original designer has chosen when downloading and printing 3D models. In some cases, you are free to use the model however you'd like. However in others, you may not be allowed to remix or use the model commercially, such as selling prints of the model. In all cases, you must provide attribution to the designer, especially when you remix another designer's model.

THING BADGES

When searching Thingiverse, keep an eye out for these icons to help you identify standout Things:

Verified Thing: 3D model has been print tested and verified to print successfully.

Featured Thing: This Thing has been featured on the Thingiverse homepage.

Challenge Winner: This Thing was the winning entry in a Thingiverse Challenge.

Thingiverse Education: This Thing is an educational project.

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EXAMPLE THINGS

Subaru WRX EJ20 Boxer Engine Model
Thing: #1643878
@EricThePoolBoy
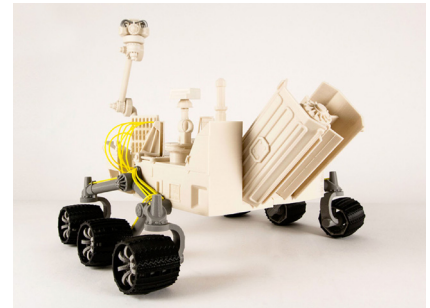Licensed under CC BY-NC 3.0

Vases
Thing: #284006
@LeFabShop
Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Mars Rover
Thing: #404824
@MakerBot
Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

WALLY - Wall Plate
Thing: #47956
@TheNewHobbyist
Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Go-Go AirBoat
Thing: #906745
@Macakcat
Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Pip Boxes
Thing: #1766512
@Aaskedall
Licensed under CC BY-NC 3.0

Forest Dragon
Thing: #87458
@DutchMogul
Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Tide the Fish
Thing: #236345
@Cordavi
Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Fascinator Hat
Thing: #858954
@Yesquab
Licensed under CC BY-NC 3.0