



GEOBYTES / ICT UPDATE

To: Mm/Sc/Ro/Mk/Mb/Cx

From: Cb

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GeoBytes Update

(Week beginning 6th February 2006):

“St Ivo Geographers go Global!”

Whose visited our site this week? (**GeoBytes Tracking Link....**) - not quite as global this week – but good UK coverage!

- Gent, Oost-vlanderen
- Dubai
- Crewe, England
- Edinburgh, Scotland
- Rancho Santa Margarita, California
- Singapore
- New York



ADVANCED WARNING – MARCH 22nd WORLD WATER DAY!



BUCKETS OF WATER

March 22nd World Water Day

There is a "Buckets of Water" secondary pack available here

http://www.wateraid.org/uk/get_involved/community_groups/youth_schools_and_students/schools/buckets_of_water/default.asp

and other **teaching resources** are also available

http://www.wateraid.org/uk/get_involved/community_groups/youth_schools_and_students/schools/buckets_of_water/897.asp

Water Aid has lots of other great resources available and remember there is the Water Aid ICT project and associated links available on GeoBytes – I will put out more information on this nearer the time when people are actually ready to start. Other great resources though include:

http://www.wateraid.org/uk/learn_zone/educational_resources/777.asp

Water Aids Online Games http://www.wateraid.org/uk/learn_zone/games/default.asp – I will make direct links to these from GeoBytes in March and will also make the WaterAid website, Website of the month to coincide with the World Water Day

Development Issues Sheets http://www.wateraid.org/uk/learn_zone/educational_resources/730.asp e.g. on Sanitation; Water availability; disease, technology, community participation etc. – includes case studies and statistics.

Country Information Sheets http://www.wateraid.org/uk/learn_zone/educational_resources/735.asp



CLIMATE CHANGE COMPETITION

The Eden Project, supported by BT, is running a **multi-media competition** related to Climate Change. **Entries are to be in a digital format** - e.g. short documentary, interview, drama etc. “We want you to tell us about the people, ideas and technologies that cut greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, build more robust societies, and protect wildlife in the face of climate change. So, tell us a story, make a short documentary, interview, drama or cartoon in digital format” (Quote from Eden Site – see link). This doesn’t appear to be specifically for schools, it seems to be open to everyone and the rules are clearly laid out on the site. The first prize is £3,000 so it may be worth a look! <http://www.edenproject.com/6215.htm> (see link for full details and rules of the competition)

The UN General Assembly in New York have designated 2008 as International Year of the Planet with a number of specific aims, overall raising the international profile of earth sciences.

At the moment I am posting this just to make you aware. However activities supporting the year will take place from 2007-2009 and I will come back to this later in the year as more becomes apparent about the nature of these activities as it would be good to see how we can integrate some of these themes / raise awareness in lessons.

The International Year will support a number of research themes (inc. mega cities; climate, soil, hazards – minimising risk and maximising awareness etc.) – the brochures about these themes are available for download here <http://www.yearofplanetearth.org/downloads.htm>

Quote from website on aims:

The Year's purpose, encapsulated in its strapline Earth sciences for society, is to:

- Reduce risks for society caused by natural and human-induced hazards
- Reduce health problems by improving understanding of the medical aspects of Earth science
- Discover new natural resources and make them available in a sustainable manner
- Build safer structures and expand urban areas, utilizing natural subsurface conditions
- Determine the non-human factor in climatic change
- Enhance understanding of the occurrence of natural resources so as to contribute to efforts to reduce political tension
- Detect deep and poorly accessible groundwater resources
- Improve understanding of the evolution of life
- Increase interest in the Earth sciences in society at large
- Encourage more young people to study Earth science in university

The Year aims to raise \$20 million from industry and governments and will spend half on co-funding research, and half on Outreach activities. It will be the biggest ever international effort to promote the Earth sciences.

Thanks to Dr Stuart Hitch for highlighting this.



(New Software has now been added!)

Hopefully most of you will have seen the interactive quizzes I have been adding to GeoBytes – including **Penalty Shoot-outs; Walk the Plank; Fling the Teacher, Multiple Choice** etc. I have been aiming to add at least one new quiz a week if not more and so far I have more or less achieved it – they are really good motivators as starters or plenaries and the students really enjoy them. ([Go to GeoBytes and then GeoGames](#))

Two of the ones I mentioned above I have had to pay for in order to buy the software rights. However, there are **three free pieces of quiz software (Bargain!)** that you could use to create your own simple starter quizzes and this software can be downloaded from

<http://www.contentgenerator.co.uk>.

These are (i) Fling the Teacher; (ii) ****New** Final version of Multiple Choice (can create different size quizzes – ideal for use on the data projector and (iii) **BRAND NEW*** Match-up generator!!**

All you need to do is visit the content generator website – see above, register to access the forums and then download. The guy who writes these / runs the website is Andrew Field – Head of ICT and History teacher from Neal Wade – the software is fantastic.

It really is incredibly simple to produce these quizzes – it takes you through step by step and all you really have to do is add the questions and select a couple of options! Have a go! If you produce any – if you let me have copies I can add them to GeoBytes to help build up the department's bank of quizzes! (*I have just added a new match up quiz to GeoBytes so you can see how it works!*)

New / Useful External Weblinks:

ORDNANCE SURVEY – FLASH CARDS (Map Symbols)

We do have a couple of sets in school – but they are now available as free downloads here – it is actually possible to cut and paste from pdf's to create quiz powerpoints using the flashcards / to show examples on the data projector (although do be aware of the copyright issue) – we may have finished with Year 7 – but could be useful quick quizzes for any year between topics and may be useful for helping with revision for Year 11 Skills Paper.

<http://www.learningnet.co.uk/ubb/Forum5/HTML/003802.html>

FLASH MOVIES

An excellent flash movie – definitely worth bookmarking! Great for use with data projector! Check them out!

Water Cycle http://www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/flash/flash_watercycle.html

Global Warming - On a similar vein but I think I have mentioned this before Global Warming

http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming/kids/global_warming_version2.html

GEOGRAPHY MYSTERIES

Have you done a mystery activity with students? – they are often really well received. I did one on migration with Year 8 last term and they really got into it – there are some fantastic ready made mystery activities (and other Thinking Through Geography Activities) at this link...

http://www.sln.org.uk/geography/thinking_through_geography.htm - part of the Staffordshire Learning Net. Well worth checking out and experimenting with.

AFRICAN FOOD CRISIS

A BBC In-depth feature with many good resources / articles – would provide some great case studies for AS / A2

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/africa/2006/africa_food_crisis/default.stm

POPULATION

China One Child Policy: Article from the Guardian “Under House Arrest – Blind Activist who exposed forced abortions <http://www.guardian.co.uk/china/story/0,,1701281,00.html>

CLIMATE CHANGE

Some great links (posted as part of the Climate Revolution Competition mentioned above) including:

Climate Change – what's the problem? http://www.edenproject.com/6215_6223.htm - a summary of the problem plus links highlighting sites for further research / details on the issue.

Where to find out about Climate Revolution? http://www.edenproject.com/6215_6224.htm - lots of very good links related to strategies for tackling the problem of climate change and issues surrounding these strategies.

This Weeks GeoBytes Updates

Year 9 Mount Pinatubo Assignment – task and resources (weblinks) now available online – see Homework_Year 9

Climate Change in the News - Go to GeoNews_In the News for links related to the recent news stories regarding the increased concerns over the rates of climate change and predicted sea level change.

Year 9 Plate Tectonics – Plate Boundaries Quick Quiz – Match up starter activity (drag and drop activity – ideal for use on whiteboard) – on GeoGames section

Year 8 Types of Industry – Multiple Choice Starter Activity (found under GeoGames section)

NEW INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD RESOURCE

AS SETTLEMENT

Settlement Sites – Powerpoint for AS Settlement – adapted to fit Edexcel specification / teaching resources from an original powerpoint from SLN (see Cb for a copy)

VOLCANOES PHOTO STARTER – a photostory file with images of different volcanic eruptions / pyroclastic flows / magma etc.. (for showing as students enter the room or at beginning of lesson) – (see Cb for copy)

Sorry no other new resources this week – hopefully some more over half term!