**Deserts in the news**

**Class activities - Key Stage 2**

**Overview of the Resource**

Geography in the news is designed to give teachers a topical and entertaining online information and activity source. It will help to support the National Curriculum’s requirement for the flexible inclusion of current global and Welsh issues into pupils’ geography lessons in addition to more formalised schemes of work, and/or may be used to stimulate extended work within schemes or work.

Each edition contains a main theme and 2 linked articles each of which forming the focus for lesson activities. In addition, a Global current events screen can be used on a regular basis as a home page or lesson starter stimulus. The ‘Brainbox’ links may form entertaining wider geography discussion points, for instance, as end-of-lesson activities.

Key Words are highlighted within the resources and have been defined in a glossary. Website links are included at key points in the resources to facilitate further research on selected topics.

Each edition will be archived to allow repeated access and use in the future. They are fully downloadable to allow storage and reuse in classrooms without internet connection.

**Coverage of National Curriculum and Skills Framework for 3 to 19 Year Olds in Wales**

The lesson plan activities state the relevant skills and range from the National Curriculum.

**Skills Framework and Assessment for Learning**

The accompanying lesson plans aim to support the requirement for a skills-focused curriculum. Where appropriate in the lesson plan, suggestions will be shown where thinking skills, communication, ICT and number skills can be applied in the context of geography.

Investigative work lends itself very well to assessment for learning. For example, at the beginning of a study children can establish where they are in their learning and suggest what they want to find out. At the end of a study, children can assess their own achievement and indicate it by using simple techniques such as drawing smiley faces or by showing traffic light symbols in their work. The use of questioning throughout the activities encourages children to reflect on their understanding and help further their learning.

Opportunities to use assessment for learning strategies will be indicated as **AfL.**

**Article 1: Deserts – Knowledge Check**

| **Key Skills Objectives** | **Subject Objectives and Skills** | **Activities and Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thinking Skills**  Reflect  Evaluate current knowledge of a subject and identify areas for improvement | **Geography**  Range  Develop their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding through learning about places, environments and issues globally.  Geography vocabulary:  Polar, sub-tropical, cold-winter & coastal deserts, precipitation, tribe, | **Aim:**   * to find out what pupils already know about the world’s deserts and identify areas for improvement * to introduce the topic and themes that will arise again in the later articles and activities   **Resources:**   * Geography in the News interactive quiz   **Activity:**  Attempt the interactive quiz individually to assess your current knowledge.  Make a note of your score. You can come back and try again once you have read all the articles and completed the pupil activities. |

**Article 2: Desert Places**

| Key Skills Objectives | Subject Objectives and Skills | Activities and Resources |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thinking Skills**  Plan  Asking questions.  Gather information  Develop  Considering evidence, information and ideas  Reflect  Evaluate own and others learning and thinking.  **Communications**  Literacy  Presenting information and ideas.  Wider Communication Skills  Communicating information | **Geography**  Skills  Investigating:  – observe and ask questions about a geographical issue  - develop ideas to find answers and draw conclusions  Communicating:  - express their own opinions  - communicate findings in a variety of ways  Range  Carry out investigations of ‘geography in the news’.  Develop their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding through learning about places, environments and issues nationally and globally | **Aim:** to gather information about one particular desert or desert region  **Resources:**   * Geography in the News article and interactive content * Books and internet access for research including a list of links included in the article   **Activity**  Working in groups of three or four choose a particular desert (or region of a large desert) and find out about it. The information collected should include:   * Where it is, what kind of desert it is and what the terrain is like * Information about the climate * Some information about the animals and plants found there * Some information about the people who live there   The information can be collected in a Powerpoint presentation, word-processed document or as handwritten notes and will be used as the basis of the final student activity below.  **AfL:** Work can be checked by the teacher if necessary to ensure that the groups have collected sufficient information ready for the next lesson. |

**Article 3: Desert People**

| Key Skills Objectives | Subject Objectives and Skills | Activities and Resources |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Thinking Skills**  Plan  Asking questions  Gathering information  Develop  Considering evidence, information and ideas  Forming opinions  Develop ideas  Thinking about cause and effect and making inferences.  Reflect  Evaluate own learning and thinking  **Communications**  Written  Presenting ideas and information  Writing accurately  Numeracy  Using relevant facts and figures to support statements and explain issues | **Geography**  Skills  Gather information  Consider evidence  Develop ideas to find answers and own draw conclusions  Range  Carry out investigations of ‘geography in the news’.  Develop their geographical skills, knowledge and understanding through learning about places, environments and issues locally and nationally  Geography vocabulary:  Polar, sub-tropical, cold-winter & coastal deserts, precipitation, oasis (oases), wadi (wadis), arid, rain-shadow, tribe, steppe, nomad, nomadic pastoralism | **Aim:** to research the way that traditional communities in desert regions live and adapt to their environment, and how recent developments in the world are affecting them  **Resources:**   * Issue 24 of Geography in the News * Online resources and books for research   **Activity:** In the same groups as before prepare a written report about the people and communities living in the region you researched in the last activity. Your report should include:   * At least one map showing where the desert is and where the people live, as well as pictures and/or graphs and tables * Information about the desert, especially things that have a big effect on the people who live there * Details about the people you have chosen   Think about the way that the world and the region is changing and how this might affect the people you are writing about:   * How is the land being used and is it changing? * Are the people being forced to change the way they live? * Is climate change affecting them? * Is modern technology making a difference in their lives?   Finish your report by saying what **you** think the future might hold for the population of your chosen desert. How might things change for them in the next 50-100 years?  **AfL:** Reports to be handed in to the teacher for marking |