



"T.V. WEATHER PRESENTER'S TRAINING PACK."

*"A Series of 5 ICT based Geography Lessons for
Year 8 Students."*

The Teachers Guide!



An Introduction.

The idea behind this series of lessons came from the pupils themselves. When discussing different aspects of the Weather with my Year 8 class, many of them expressed a desire to learn more about weather presenting, and wanted to present the weather. As we had covered the core theory, I had planned to use ICT with the class, and decided to design a short series of lessons for them, where they would:

- Consolidate prior learning from the weather topic.
- Explore different methods of using ICT within Geography.
- Add a vocational aspect to the Geography course.

The lessons were taught in the Humanities ICT Suite, consisting of 15 computers, equipped with Office 2000. We have a colour printer and an interactive whiteboard. Each lesson is 60 minutes in duration.

Setting up the classroom.

The ICT Suite was organised so that pupils were working in pairs. This was not ideal, but did allow pupils to share ideas and to talk about the subject, which they did!

The class would sit around a large middle table for the Starter and plenary sessions, and then move to their computers for the main activity session.

Setting up the computers.

We have had issues in the past, where teachers have placed a file in a central "Public" drive for the pupils to use. Most pupils can find the file, but some have difficulty.

In order to minimise this, we placed a shortcut to all of the pupil files into the Humanities Folder located on the start menu (we use Microsoft 2000). This allowed pupils to just click on Start, Programs, Humanities and then the file they required.

We found this not only solved a lot of the pupils problems, it also helped the less confident ICT Geography Teachers we have in the department.



The Lesson Format.

The lessons have been planned using a modified version of the school's Lesson Plan format, and follows the three part lesson framework.

The Lesson Objective section states what the lesson hopes the pupils will achieve by the end of the hour. This is generally done by learning outcome, and not by task.

The starter activity normally lasts for 5 minutes, a little longer at times, depending on the pupils.

The main activity is divided into different sections, to allow the teacher to explain the activity and for the pupils to have time to complete their work. It is very important, particularly in ICT lessons, that pupils have enough time to complete and print / save their work, otherwise they soon get disinterested in the topic.

The Plenary section normally lasts for 10 minutes, and is used for pupils to share their work with the rest of the class, and for the teacher to assess what the pupils have learnt, and fully understood.

The lesson plans have been written for use within our school, and are for the non-specialist teacher in particular. You may wish to edit and change the lesson plans to suit the needs of your own classes.

The Role of the Teacher.

The teaching of the core weather theory has taken place during the first year of Key Stage 3 (Year 7) in this example. The role of the lessons, and of the teacher for these 5 lessons is different from the normal role.

The teacher needs to be more of a facilitator and mentor in the lessons. They should outline the skills needed and help the pupils to achieve them. The pupils should be encouraged to develop ideas through the use of ICT.

The teacher will need a basic knowledge of the Office software tools, including Word and PowerPoint.



The Lessons

The Lessons have the following general themes:

- Lesson 1 - What skills do Weather Presenters Require?
- Lesson 2 - Weather Symbols
- Lesson 3 - Low and High Pressure.
- Lesson 4 - Presenting a Weather Forecast.
- Lesson 5 - Online Assessment Test.

Each lesson has the following files to help and support the teacher:

- A lesson Plan.
- A PowerPoint Slide Show to use with Pupils.
- An Activity Sheet for pupils to use.

Lesson 4, the Presenting part of the series uses the webpage located on the "teachers Pages" which is based on the one found on www.juiceygeography.co.uk which I used as my inspiration, and uses an interactive whiteboard.

Should an Interactive Whiteboard not be available, then pupils could use the page as a backdrop and draw the symbols on the board, or use an OHP with weather symbols printed onto OHP sheets.

Developing the Idea further.

It is hoped that by providing this series of lessons free online, it will promote the use of ICT within Geography and also develop the lessons as more teachers try and adapt the basic concept.

I have included a freeware MindMapping program that you can download. This mind mapping software could be used by pupils instead of the Word Template for example.

Please email me your ideas, changes and developments, so I can see how the concept grows.

Enjoy!

Mr. P. Hunt.

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