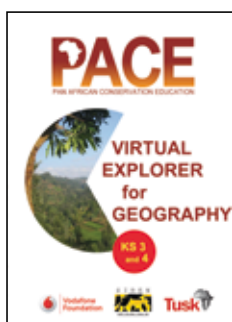
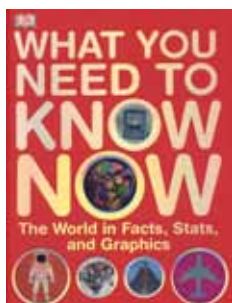


Geography resource reviews

Reviews of new
geography resources.



BOOKS

What You Need To Know Now: The World in Stats, Facts and Graphics

London: Dorling Kindersley, 2010
256pp, 22×27.5cm
Pb: £16.99. ISBN 978-1-40535-371-7

This book is extremely entertaining, up to date as well as being very informative. The illustrations and diagrams are brilliant and fun; they make difficult concepts come to life and are truly engaging. Each topic covered is presented clearly over a double page spread, with bright and engaging graphics. Each page develops with an ever-increasing layer of more sophisticated facts and information to challenge even the most able of students. The book has an interactive quality, which clearly goes beyond presenting statistics, facts and graphics. Once students start reading this book it is difficult to get them to stop. There is a sense of awe and wonder in this book which has encouraged our students to continue to research a topic and tell their friends! I was particularly impressed by the highly relevant topics covered for today's world, such as water and energy security – a great support in the geography classroom!

Andrew McFadden, Alsager High School

TEACHING PACKS

Stupid or not: Education for a smarter planet

ActionAid
Chard: ActionAid, 2009
Pack containing:
Activity Booklet, 32pp, 21×29.7 cm
14 A4 Story cards and DVD
£25.00. ISBN 978-1-905694-08-2

The Age Of Stupid is a film documentary directed by Franny Armstrong. It stars Pete Postlethwaite as a man living alone in the devastated world of 2055, looking at old footage from 2005 and asking: 'Why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance?' and implies that we were stupid not to have done this. An interesting idea which would appeal to students, I am sure.

This potentially very useful subject for geography teaching is presented in a pack from ActionAid, which, though it does not have a copy of the film itself, has a number of relevant clips from it, coupled with teaching materials. It is aimed at students aged 12+.

Essentially, the pack explores the complexities of climate change – from the science, to the possible impacts and solutions – through real human stories. The activities are structured around a key question. One example is 'AI and happiness', which focuses on happiness not necessarily being

found in the latest gadget. There are six film clips about AI (a real person) to watch and two story cards looking at how climate change is affecting people, enabling learners to develop analytical skills and creative thinking about geographical issues.

There are 14 different stories and 10 different lessons are set out in detail with all resources provided.

I feel that the pack provides a most stimulating way to approach this topic, including activities which learners will enjoy, and which will help to differentiate the geographical approach to climate change from those of other subjects.

Mike Jones, Alceyn's School, Dulwich

DVDS

PACE (Pan African Conservation Education) Virtual Explorer for Geography

KS3– 4
Siren Conservation Education and Tusk Trust, 2010
DVD and CD, minimum donation of £5
ISBN 978-0-9555682-1-3

This DVD does what it says on the tin! The series of ten short videos give a very positive insight into the people of different parts of Africa confronting issues and coming up with a sustainable solutions.

I was very impressed with the format of each case study used. The videos are well made; they are short in length and contain text and a variety of people describing the issue and the solution.

To back up the video case studies, there are clear, relevant and teacher-friendly teachers notes. There are also PowerPoints that set the scene about the wider context of the issue. The activities are varied with card sorts, role plays and ICT. There are linked websites about the issue as well some background context about the country. There are also links to the key stage 3 geography curriculum and to GCSE specifications. I would have no problem at all in using it with A level geography or AS world development.

The case studies cover cleaner toilets, urban greening, plastic bags, elephants, making money from trees, good woods, harvesting the rain, cleaner cooking and ecotourism. The cases studies are from South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia.

I would recommend this DVD to any geography teacher as it creates a very positive outlook that combines many aspects of development such as population and resources, urban issues, sustainability and local action.

Garry Atterton, Castle School, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire