

40 ideas in 40 minutes: Websites for Geography Teaching

James Riley, Geography Teacher, Lawrence Sheriff School; jmrileytoadhall@hotmail.com

ICT Websites and Tools

- Big Huge Labs** <http://bighugelabs.com/>
Amend digital photos
Example: turn photos into trading cards: <http://bighugelabs.com/deck.php>, e.g. cities, coastal defences
- Bubbl** <https://bubbl.us/>
Online brainstorming programme
- Cool Iris** <http://www.cooliris.com/>
Media browser plug-in; search Google Images, YouTube videos etc
- Dafont** www.dafont.com
Free, downloadable graphics for presentations or PowerPoints
- Mind42** <http://mind42.com/>
Free online intuitive mindmap collaboration tool (needs a sign up, which is free)
Video tutorial how to use: <http://www.vimeo.com/1230441?pg=embed&sec=1230441>
- Prezi** <http://prezi.com/index/>
The zooming presentation editor; create something different from a PowerPoint for once!
Geography example: http://prezi.com/3yd9fxg-r_5e/geography-prezi/
- Retrievr** <http://labs.systemone.at/retrievr/>
Search for images by shape and colour
- Shape Collage** <http://www.shapecollage.com/>
Photo collage maker software program
YouTube video on how to use Shape Collage: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMrSkUz7ws&feature=player_embedded#
- Teachit Timer** http://www.teachit.co.uk/custom_content/timer/clock3.html
Online timer for setting tasks
- Wordle** <http://www.wordle.net/>
Generating word clouds from texts
- YouTube** www.youtube.com/xl
Use YouTube without the comments below videos (sometimes not blocked)
- YouTube No Comment TV** www.youtube.com/user/nocommenttv
Use YouTube to show clips without commentary
e.g. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Smw1UGfq0AY> Sri Lanka floods no comment
RELATED: Use Audacity (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>) for pupils to add their own commentaries

Mapping websites

- Bing Maps** <http://www.bing.com/maps/>
See OS maps on Bing (OS tab at top of screen)
- Map My Run** <http://www.mapmyrun.com/>
Plots maps of where you have run; useful for measuring distances (river courses, urban transects)
- Scribble Maps** www.scribblemaps.com
Draw on Google Maps with scribbles, circles, squares and more; useful for plotting spatial data
- Where's the path** <http://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>
Free OS mapping side by side with Google Aerial Imagery
- Worldmapper** <http://www.worldmapper.org/>
World maps with territories resized according to set criteria
e.g. <http://www.worldmapper.org/countrycartograms/>
See also: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8280657.stm>
See also: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/8284655.stm
RELATED: <http://www.viewsoftheworld.net/> for interesting analysis on some Worldmapper cartograms
e.g. British views of the world: http://www.viewsoftheworld.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Guardian2010_world.jpg

News websites

- Guardian: Environment** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment>
Online Guardian articles: Good sections on climate change, energy, water, population
See also <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/climate-change>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/energy>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/water>
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/population>
- Independent Front Pages** <http://www.independent.co.uk/extras/frontpages/>
Latest printed front pages from The Independent
- Ten by ten** <http://www.tenbyten.org/10x10.html>
An interactive exploration of the words and images that define the time

Photography websites

- Boston Big Picture** <http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/>
*Regularly updated, high quality photographic imagery based around contemporary news stories
e.g. www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/04/more_from_eyjafjallajokull.html*
- Geograph** <http://www.geograph.org.uk/>
Representative photos from every square kilometre of the British Isles; repeat on smaller scale in local town
- Lens** <http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com>
Photojournalism blog of the New York Times
- Yann Arthus Bertrand** http://www.yannarthusbertrand.org/v2/home_us.htm
Stunning 'Earth From Above' aerial photography with associated geographical/environmental messages

Geography resources

- Blackle** <http://www.blackle.com/>
Energy saving search engine
- Breathing Earth** <http://www.breathingearth.net/>
Real-time simulation displaying CO₂, birth rates, death rates etc
- Clone Town Britain** <http://sustainableneighbourhoodspool.files.wordpress.com/2010/01/clone-town-britain-loss-of-identity.pdf>
PDF on losing identity of UK high streets; useful survey at bottom of PDF to calculate clone town scores
- Discovering the Arctic** <http://www.discoveringthearctic.org.uk>
RGS and IBG interactive education resource, specifically aimed at teachers
- Environment Agency: Flooding** <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/default.aspx>
Outline of homes at risk from flooding in the UK
UK flood map: http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wjby/wjbyController?x=531500.0&y=181500.0&topic=floodmap&ep=map&scale=3&location=London,%20City%20of%20London&lang_e=&layerGroups=default&extonly=off
- Gapminder** <http://www.gapminder.org/>
Plot statistical relationships between development data over space and time
See particularly www.gapminder.org/world
Download free desktop version and teacher resources: www.gapminder.org/desktop
PDF guide for usage: http://www.gapminder.org/GapminderMedia/wp-uploads/tutorial/Gapminder_World_Guide.pdf
- Google Public Data Explorer** <http://www.google.com/publicdata/home>
Explore visualisations of public data; similar to Gapminder
e.g. world development indicators: http://www.google.com/publicdata/overview?ds=d5bncppjof8f9_
- One Water** <http://www.onewater.org>
Collaborative project bringing awareness to issues surrounding water; good 'stories' section and films
- Poodwaddle World Clock** <http://www.poodwaddle.com/clocks/worldclock/>
Geography statistics data counter
- Royal Meteorological Society** <http://www.metlink.org/>
Key Stage 4 Weather and Climate: <http://www.metlink.org/weather-climate-resources-teachers/key-stages-weather-climate/key-stage-4-weather.html>
- Six Degrees, Mark Lynas** <http://www.marklynas.org/sixdegrees>
Climate change scenarios based on IPCC predictions; six chapters, 1C rise every chapter. Excellent read.
National Geographic programme: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/episode/six-degrees-could-change-the-world-3188/Overview>
Six Degrees Interactive Map: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/sixdegrees/interactive.html>
YouTube links to parts of programme: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6m6hkAPxWqQ&feature=related>
Summary of 6 degrees impacts: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2007/apr/23/scienceandnature.climatechange>
- Sky Rainforest Rescue** <http://rainforestrecovery.sky.com/>
Website outlining how WWF and Sky are trying to save 1 billion trees in the Amazon
- Toporopa** <http://www.toporopa.eu/en/>
Geography quizzes about Europe: mountains, capitals, flags, regions, islands
- UMich Lecture** http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange2/current/lectures/human_pop/human_pop.html
Population growth over human history
- Weather Club** <http://www.theweatherclub.org.uk/>
Shared experiences of the weather; features, comments, news
- Will it rain today?** www.raintoday.co.uk
Rain radar for the UK