

Top ten ideas for your new KS3

From GA's Secondary Phase Committee

1. **Our favourite places** Students presented their favourite places on an A3 sheet any way they chose. They had to make sure their sheet was clear about where their favourite places were, and why they were special to them. This provides a good wall display and good talking points for open evening.

2. **My places** Use your ideas from favourite places to produce a written piece that can be submitted to <http://worldwise.geography.org.uk/myplaces/> Students can read other entries and vote on them.



3. **Free maps** Speak to your local council and find out who is in charge of maps... they can provide a wealth of maps, paper and electronic for use in schools. Handy if you are thinking about integrating GIS early on but lack digital maps of the local area. The best bit is they are free!

4. **Getting the real world into the classroom.** As part of an investigation into the local area, design a questionnaire and then email the questions to "important people" within the local area and city at large. Students really enjoyed having their own questions responded to... having a real audience is a powerful tool to encourage engagement.



5. **Using the school grounds** Get children out into the school grounds early. The students could draw a field sketch or use the starter idea cards from <http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/fieldwork/info/local-learning/fieldwork-in-the-school-grounds/5-quick-and-easy-ideas/>. A follow on homework could be a field sketch from their bedroom window.

6. **Geo Text** For a homework activity write a text message with 140 characters to describe an event such as a flood or an earthquake or what a place is like.

7. **The Box** Are your classes following the route of the box? It is a container painted red with the BBC News logo which is being followed around the world. It has a GPS and the route can be seen on a Google map. It has just taken Whisky from Scotland to Shanghai. Where to next?

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/business/2008/the_box/default.stm

8. **Images and movies** Animoto (<http://www.animoto.net>) is a website which produces engaging and high quality movies. Provide the images, choose the music and Animoto does the rest. A free account is now available for teachers – check out <http://biz.animoto.com/education/faq.html>. For a guide to using Animoto in the classroom, check out Tony Cassidy's Teaching and Learning Newsletter for Summer 2008:

<http://teachingandlearningforum.co.uk/tal-newsletter/>



9. **Add Sounds to your lessons!** Soundtransit (<http://www.soundtransit.nl>) has thousands of sounds recorded at locations around the world. For example the sound of a glacier melting in Greenland, or traffic in Mumbai, or a market in Beijing. Search by location. For copyright free sounds for PowerPoint slides, visit SOUNDSNAP (<http://www.soundsnap.com>)

10. **Planning for progression** In a department meeting draw an annotated image of what skills you think a geographer should have at the end of KS3 in an ideal world. Use this as a basis for skills progression for KS3 POS. It can be helpful because it allows a shared vision in terms of what you are all working towards.

Why not email your own top idea for inclusion in next half term's **'Top Ten'**?