Geographical Enquiry: A Practical Approach

Rachel Norman
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What is enquiry?

• Enquiry stems from constructivism – students should create the knowledge (Roberts, 2003)

• It is NOT an optional approach (Roberts, 2010) and should be integrated into every geography lesson

• Enquiring Minds (2007) – ‘co-constructorive’ pedagogy (students and teachers working collaboratively)
Why enquiry?

• ‘Pupils show exceptional independence; they are able to think for themselves and take the initiative in, for example, asking questions...’ Ofsted, 2013, p.3

• ‘A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives’. Department for Education, 2013, p.3
Lesson stimulus

- Good Geography begins with questions – the learning is ‘active, focused, independent and informed’ (Amis, TES Magazine, 2013)

- **Twitter** – @NatGeo @TeachitGeog @OxfordEdGeog @The_GA @Geog_enquirer @TheEconomist @EmmaAbuDhabi @guardianeco

- **National Geographic website**

- **BBC News website**

- **Guardian Environment**
  [http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment)
Why did Tim and his grandchildren hide in the sea?

Australian bushfire 2013 – impacts and effects

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20959468
Why has coffee been found in the ocean?

A starting point for teaching about marine pollution

Why might bananas replace potatoes?

Food shortages in the future could lead to bananas becoming a staple crop for millions

Examples of enquiry – What I have done

• Why did Harry Truman and his 16 cats die? (Volcanoes) KS4

• Why did Jan cancel the pub quiz night? (Flooding) KS3

• How can a city be powered by the sun? (Impossible Places – cities) KS3

• Antarctica – open ended enquiry KS3
Why did Harry Truman and his 16 cats die?

KS4 lesson

Mount St Helens eruption, 1985

Harry Truman refused to leave his home

Key facts about eruption

Primary/secondary effects

http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/volcanoes/vtruman.html


http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGwa3N43GB4&noredirect=1
Starter - What do you think happened?
1. Where does Harry live?
2. Recap knowledge of volcanoes
3. What happened? Watch videos (use q sheet to write down key facts)
4. Effects and responses
Plenary – exam question
Why did Jan cancel the pub quiz night?

Guardian website, 25 November 2012

Causes of flooding and impacts

Flooding case study

http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/nov/25/polperro-flooding-aftermath-weather

KS3 Flooding
Used in conjunction with Geog. textbooks
How can a city be powered by the sun?

Masdar City, United Arab Emirates

Sustainable city

Renewable energy (solar energy)

KS3 Impossible Places
Cities and sustainability

http://masdarcity.ae/en/
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/8586046.stm
Starter - Create a hypothesis
1. Guess the name of the country (hangman) and find it in an atlas
2. What is the climate like? How does this link to solar energy?
3. How is Masdar City sustainable?
4. Write a travel blog about Masdar City
Plenary - Red tomato/green pepper
What do you want to know about Antarctica?

Open-ended enquiry used with Year 8 students

1 lesson to plan enquiry in groups

2 lessons and homework to complete enquiry

Peer assessment/self assessment
How to construct an enquiry lesson

Based upon Davidson (2002) and Roberts (2003)

1. Idea – stimulus
2. Series of questions to answer – use Bloom’s Taxonomy
3. Activities (and differentiation)
4. AFL – Progress (showing progress in 20 minutes to Ofsted)
Questions

Follow me on Twitter/ask me questions in the future: @Geog_enquirer
References


