

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Teaching personal identification and description in French

Useful site: www.polarfle.com/learn_french.html (researched March 2008)

The Polarfle website offers a role play game for learners of French at different levels. In the game the students have to solve a crime by undertaking a series of activities.

The role-play game deals with a murder investigation. A woman has been killed in Trouville and the detective Roger Duflair is in charge of the investigation. He must find out the name of the criminal, the motive and the circumstances of the crime. The students play the role of his assistants and must work their way through the listening and reading material on the site in order to solve the crime.

Activities are available at four different levels: beginner, elementary, intermediate and advanced. The teacher is advised to check the materials in advance to determine the appropriate level for the students.

There are also printable worksheets and extra on-line activities including a cartoon story about a crime with transcript and sound and also downloadable articles about crimes which have been committed. The students decide who is guilty and can check to see if they are correct.

For teaching and learning

The teacher selects the appropriate level for the class or if the group contains a wide range of ability, students work at different levels. One benefit of this site is that it can be used when there is a huge ability range in a GCSE class.

In all the listening and activities, there are hidden clues which will help the students to solve the crime. Therefore, students have to understand the gist of every exercise and memorise the information.

One way of using the site could be over a series of lessons in a computer suite where the teacher introduces each section to the class who then work independently on the exercises connected with that section.

There is much more material on the site to explore including games, printable worksheets, suggestions for teachers and an on-line cartoon detective story with sound which could be used as a full class activity.

Why this site was chosen

It is difficult to make the topic of personal identification and description more interesting as this will have been covered in KS3. This site adds greatly to the topic by introducing a very motivating means of revisiting the vocabulary. A range of tenses and question words also feature.

About the 'Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4' series

www.languages-ict.org.uk/technology/ks4.htm

This series of advice sheets deals with the effective use of ICT at Key Stage 4 for teachers of modern languages. The series focuses on online resources characterised by their richness and potential for stimulating teaching and learning languages, particularly French, German and Spanish, at Key Stage 4. It is hoped that the suggestions and ideas put forward in the sheets will be of use to teachers of other languages.

The sites were chosen as useful resources for teachers dealing with topic areas which, for various reasons, may be classed as 'hard to teach' at Key Stage 4.

The sites chosen are not presented in any way by CILT, ALL or Becta as unique or comprehensive and no responsibility is taken for any changes which may take place subsequent to this research.

The sheets were researched and written by a small team of consultants working on behalf of CILT, the National Centre for Languages.

All advice and references in the series refer to content as found during the first quarter of 2008.

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