

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Teaching about the home in Spanish

Useful site: www.inmobiliaria-monserrat.com (researched March 2008)

Inmobiliaria Monserrat is a Spanish estate agents' site containing abundant information about flats and houses to buy in Vinaros on Spain's Costa del Azahar.

For teaching and learning

The site can be used for a range of activities with the whole class.

Images may be used from the company web site to discuss the types of housing in Spain and review known language to describe buildings, rooms and their contents.

Work with the features of the interactive whiteboard to present new vocabulary which students will find when working on the site themselves.

Prices may be converted to British pounds using a currency converter such as that found at www.xe.com/ucc/es/, thereby enabling students to discuss and compare house prices in Spain and their own city or town.

The images and vocabulary found on the site can also be used to create interactive games with authoring software or electronic worksheets using a word processor. These can be accessed on the interactive whiteboard.

Students can work in the ICT room or from home to consolidate and extend learning by completing interactive exercises prepared by the teacher and placed on the network.

Independent work may consist of a task to study the adverts in order to build up a personal vocabulary bank to use in further work on the topic. Students could be asked to explore the adverts and describe a flat or house found on the site in continuous prose, using key verbs such as *tiene* or *hay*.

Extension activities might be centred on the concept of *Mi dormitorio ideal*, for which students could use *El dormitorio ideal de Isaac Lim* as a model. See

<http://sketchup.google.com/3dwarehouse/details?mid=56db3968898cc54f9923f29a73f1a8cf>

Group work could involve the design of adverts for properties in the students' home town. They could use their own digital photographs and advertising text based on this site. Their adverts could be constructed using desk top publishing software, presentation software, or web pages created in Word.

Why this site was chosen

The home is a topic which is covered at KS3, and revisited in KS4. It is best revisited in a different context and with new stimuli. A site like this provides a new way of engaging with the topic at a more adult level. Students may well have been on holiday to the Spanish coast and will enjoy the freedom of exploring a commercial web site looking at real properties in a tourist area.

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.

The project was funded by Becta during the academic year 2007–08.