

languages ICT

Using ICT effectively at Key Stage 4

Teaching about the weather in Spanish

Useful site: www.123.cl/canales/eltiempo/chilemap.shtml (researched March 2008)

123.cl is a Chilean weather information site which provides supplementary data about weather around the world.

The site provides current weather forecasts for Chile. There are useful symbols, a limited and useful range of vocabulary and a map showing all major cities in the country. There are daily weather reports for countries around the world and a long-term forecast in extended Spanish, suitable for more advanced students, covering the countries of the Southern Cone.

For teaching and learning

Preparatory discussion focused on the location of Chile and the timetable of the seasons there can be reinforced with drag and drop activities matching likely weather phrases to the seasons and appropriate months. These can be constructed on the interactive whiteboard or as Word documents accessed via the whiteboard.

A world map such as that found on www.ibsa.es/imagenes/mapamundo.gif or via Google Earth can be shown on the interactive whiteboard, to give students an idea of Chile's location before entering the site.

Use the annotation features of the interactive whiteboard to label the regions and distinct geographical areas of the country.

Use the map on the site itself to explore the relevant language which is presented both in text and weather symbols.

Students can undertake both oral and written activities by selecting a city from the map and giving information such as maximum and minimum temperatures and the weather conditions. They can also decide on a city that they would like to visit and discuss appropriate clothing that they would need to take.

For extended activities students can go to the section entitled Ciudades del Mundo and examine weather forecasts more widely in the world. Information obtained can be used to practise comparative structures.

For more advanced reading activities the Prónostico a largo plazo can be used to create gap-fill and reading comprehension activities. As there are many cognates in the text activities could be devised to develop reading skills, as well as more focused language activities to look at different tenses.

Activities to compare and contrast weather conditions with those in England and Spain can be designed to extend the range of topic-specific language and also the relevant grammar to compare weather in different countries.

Students can also create and present a weather report for a city in Spain. The website <http://es.weather.yahoo.com> gives up-to-date weather information in Spain.

Students could also compile weather data for cities in Chile, Spain and the United Kingdom over a period of time. The data could be stored in a spreadsheet and analysed for average temperatures, number of days of sun, cloud etc and a 'round the world' presentation for a holiday programme with suitable supplementary advice on clothing, skin protection etc.

Why this site was chosen

This topic is well covered at KS3 and it can be challenging to find relevant, authentic material that is of interest to teenagers when revisiting the theme. It is of particular interest because Chile is a Spanish-speaking country at the other side of the world and its southerly situation, varied terrain and the timetable of its seasons will give students insights into weather, climate and geography.

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.

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