

# ICT opportunities with Key Geography *Places* new edition

The ICT activities suggested in the original *Places* Teacher's Guide pages 28–30 are still relevant to the new edition of *Places*. However, ideas for integrating the use of ICT with Key Geography *Places* are now being developed on a dedicated Key Geography *Places* internet site. As well as providing links to relevant websites, which are updated on a regular basis, the Key Geography *Places* internet site includes a growing collection of web enquiries, which link to the activities provided in the Key Geography *Places* pupils' book.

URL Nelson Thornes Geography website:  
<http://www.nelsonthornes.com/secondary/geography/index.htm>

The *Places* site can be accessed by clicking on the link on this Geography home page to Key Geography, and then Key Stage 3 links.

## How to use the Key Geography *Places* website

The resources provided on the Key Geography website can be used by Geography teachers in a variety of ways:

- 1 Pupils could work online straight from the Nelson Thornes Key Geography website. They can access the linked sites, and download resources into word-processor or DTP files. They can do this either at school or at home, if they have access to a computer at home connected to the internet. The problems with this approach are related to the level of internet access in schools, the cost of the telephone bill, and the time it may take to download each image, particularly if the activity is developed for the whole class in the computer room.
- 2 A better approach may be to download the whole task onto the school intranet site, if one has been developed. Once downloaded, teachers can produce their own electronic activity, altering the activities or the wording of the text to suit the individual needs of pupils. Any images would also be available for pupils to use much more quickly, as they will be coming from the hard drive of the school's files server, rather than off the internet. The school's ICT Coordinator should be able to provide support with this.
- 3 Teachers could copy and paste the text for the activities into a word-processing file, edit the text and

design their own activity sheet, which each pupil can then use as they work through the tasks at the computer.

- 4 Class teachers could use the website to develop their own teaching and learning resources linked to the material provided in the *Places* pupils' book.

## Using the internet with Key Geography *Places*

The Key Stage 3 Programme of Study outlines the need to study topical issues:

### Knowledge and understanding of places

3. Pupils should be taught:
  - a) the location of places and environments studied, places and environments in the news and other significant places and environments
7. In their study of countries and themes, pupils should:
  - d) study issues of topical significance.

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ICT has an important role to play here. Geography teachers can use online newspapers to keep up to date with the latest developments in different countries. Resources obtained from these sources can either be used by teachers to keep up to date with relevant issues and develop new teaching and learning resources, or by pupils as part of research opportunities. Many newspapers and TV news organisations, from all over the world, now have online editions, which include searchable archives for previous editions.

### Ultimate collection of newlinks

<http://pppp.net/links/news>

This site provides a gateway to over 10,000 online newspapers all over the world. This allows access to the very latest geographical events from around the world. The user chooses an area of the world by continent and then selects a specific country. This will then boot up a webpage directory for that country with links to further directories of online newspapers, and numerous other topics. The UK page, for example, has links to 210 online newspapers. This site provides an excellent gateway to news, events and points of view for people all over the world.

### Internet sites for each country

#### Brazil

Brazilian Embassy in London: <http://www.brazil.org.uk/>  
This website has been developed by the Brazilian Embassy in London. The home page of the site provides links to a range of topics: basic information about Brazil; an environmental section including a collection of excellent articles about the deforestation of the Amazon from the Brazilian government's perspective; a human

rights section outlining government initiatives to deal with street children.

### Kenya

Kenyaweb: <http://www.kenyaweb.com/>

This site includes information about physical and human geography as well as climate. Text is provided about different tribal groups, which would link well to the sections on the Maasai.

### Italy

Italia On-line website: <http://schools.channel4.com/italia/>

This site is designed to complement the 'Place and People' television series on Italy, and contains sophisticated interactive resources which are freely available to schools. Italia On-line provides self-contained exercises employing maps, tables and statistics which will allow the information on Italy to be compared and contrasted with UK equivalents. Italia On-line will be updated and developed over the three years that the 'Place and People' series is broadcast by Channel 4 Schools.

### Japan

Japan Information Network: <http://jin.jcic.or.jp/>

This is a really excellent site which offers the user a wealth of information about the country to tie in with studies of Japan in *Places* pages 86–109. The statistical section offers data and charts on almost every aspect of the country. The Kids section includes a simplified map of Japan. The site even includes a detailed online atlas of Japan.

## Using statistics with Key Geography *Places*

There are many opportunities in Key Geography *Places* for the use of statistics, when investigating a specific country, or comparing a number of countries. ICT can be used to encourage pupils to present and analyse data. Spreadsheets and charts can be used extensively in conjunction with the *Places* pupils' book, either using statistical data provided in the book, or using data from other sources to complement or extend the activities already provided.

There is a wide variety of sources of statistical data in electronic form. Every secondary school in the country received a complimentary copy of the Population Concern Population and Development CD-ROM in 1998, with a magazine explaining how to install the software, together with ideas on how to use it in the classroom, with a number of activity sheets. The central focus of this CD-ROM is a database of statistics for 198 countries. It is possible to interrogate this data in a variety of ways using the disc. However, it is also possible to export the data into other ICT applications. The data is saved in a CSV file

called **Popdev.csv** inside a directory called **Csv**. It is also saved as Excel97 files, which can be opened as with any other file in Excel. This opens up further opportunities to develop pupils' ICT skills. The teacher could open up these files and create simpler spreadsheet files for pupils to use. For example, the teacher could create a spreadsheet for only 10 countries comparing 10 sets of data. Pupils could produce their own charts from the data, copying them into a word-processor file to analyse what they show, linked to activities in Key Geography *Places*.

Statistical information about countries is also available on the internet.

The CIA World Factbook

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>

This site provides maps and statistical data about countries.

United Nations CyberSchoolBus website

<http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/>

The InfoNation database can be found in the Resource section of the website. It encourages the user to search for data for different countries to allow comparison.

United States Census Bureau International Database

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html>

The International Data Base (IDB) is a computerised source of demographic and socio-economic statistics for 227 countries and areas of the world.

Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics IBGE

<http://www.ibge.gov.br/english/>

This site provides a wide range of statistical data about Brazil, which can be used by teachers and pupils throughout the Brazil unit of *Places*.

National Statistics – the official UK statistics site

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>

This site provides extensive themed datasets about the UK. The learning zone section even contains tables of statistics with online activities related to the Geography Curriculum.

## Electronic atlases

An important complement to Key Geography *Places* is the use of an atlas:

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The Geography department could make use of an electronic atlas, for example the Microsoft Encarta Interactive World Atlas, which comes in CD-ROM format and offers a wide variety of resources about countries and themes, going way beyond merely providing a collection of maps.

There are also a number of atlas resources available on the internet, for example:

The National Geographic Map Machine

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/resources/ngo/maps>

Atlapedia Online

<http://www.atlapedia.com/>