

INTERNET SITE REVIEWS

Curriculum Exchange ↔ Your Resource Connection

ALL internet sites reviews have been prepared by the Online Learning Delivery team, ICTs and Learning Branch. These and other website reviews are available online in EduList on the Curriculum Exchange at www.education.qld.gov.au/tal/edulist/index.html and the Classroom Resources Reviews website at <http://crr.qed.qld.gov.au/reviews/afwiinq.dll>.

These sites were available to schools at the date of their submission to *Education Views*. Users should be aware that website content can change daily so MIS blocking could occur before publication.

For further information about this service, please contact the Curriculum Exchange on 3421 6473 or email: curriculum.exchange@qed.qld.gov.au.

Sites reviewed in this edition of *Education Views* are:

- Calligraphy, lettering art and artist books
- Creer des activites pedagogiques avec usina quiz
- Designing for sustainable living learning object
- Flash Classroom



TITLE: Calligraphy, lettering art and artist books

URL: <http://www.cecilia-letteringart.com/>

PUBLISHER/SOURCE: Cecilia Sharp-ley

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2005

REVIEW: The curator of this site, Cecilia Sharp-ley, has been an active member of the Calligraphy Society of Victoria and, by the creation and maintenance of this website, continues her campaign to promote Australian calligraphers to the rest of the world. The site's focus is not merely calligraphy however, with artists' books featuring as well. The galleries of work are extensive, vivid and lush. There is a traveller's directory to Australian and international calligraphy and book arts organisations and numerous links to calligraphy and book arts websites. Viewers are encouraged to send in images for inclusion on the site, such as the Alphabet forest and the Mail art galleries. There is also a children's playground of lettering with contributions from all over the world. Its aim is to show how children celebrate their alphabet and they are encouraged to find their own expression and joy in playing with letters. The site is colourful, creative and innovative and a pleasure to explore.

CURRICULUM: The Arts

SUBJECTS/DESCRIPTORS: Calligraphy; Art - Study and teaching; Art - Collections; Book design; Illustration of Books

SUITABLE FOR: Middle Primary; Upper Primary; Lower Secondary; Middle Secondary; Upper Secondary

REVIEW DATE: 02-06-2005



TITLE: Creer des activites pedagogiques avec usina quiz

URL: <http://usinaquiz.ovh.org/>

PUBLISHER/SOURCE: Anne and Thierry Perrot

REVIEW: The "Quiz machine" offers teachers (and students) the opportunity to create quizzes, games and other activities that can be played on a computer or put on a website. The website allows the creation of such

activities as Hangman (Pendule), Multiple choice (Menu deroulant, Radio), Single answer questions (Formulaire), as well as Java applets, Javascript routines, Flash and easily programmable games. The site also contains instructions for the construction of web pages, insertion of images and other aspects of web building. Each type of activities contains instructions (mode d'emploi) and a trial to see what the activity is and how it operates; for example, Pendule shows a tree with a branch extended and a drop-down box with choices of terms from the computer, the car, clothes, home and in the home. The user is asked to fill in the blanks, which usually begin with two or three blanks before a space, to indicate "un", "une". As with Hangman, the errors cause the body to hang, foot first, until the whole person is hung or the term is revealed or four errors are made. A terse comment comes with the final axe! A definition for the term is available if the icon is clicked. The actual creation of activities using the generators is simple. Step-by-step instructions enable the non-computer literate user to build some impressive units of work that will help students with vocabulary and syntax, if those are the aims.

CURRICULUM: Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

SUBJECTS/DESCRIPTORS: French language - Study and teaching; Educational activities; Educational games; Teaching - Aids and devices

SUITABLE FOR: Middle Primary; Upper Primary; Lower Secondary; Middle Secondary; Upper Secondary

REVIEW DATE: 31-05-2005



TITLE: Designing for sustainable living learning object

URL: <http://www.build.qld.gov.au/research/sustainableliving/>

PUBLISHER/SOURCE: Education Queensland: Distance Learning Unit; Department of Public Works, Queensland

REVIEW: This exciting learning object on sustainability in the home environment is an online curriculum resource for Middle and Senior Years of schooling. Based on information gleaned from the Research House Project in Rockhampton, the learning object enables students to explore alternatives when designing a house that is energy, water and waste efficient and socially sustainable. Feedback, in the form of a sustainability report and a score, is provided once siting, landscaping, building materials and interior decoration and fittings are selected and incorporated into the

house plan. A virtual tour is available. There are very detailed teacher notes, developed by the Curriculum Branch of the Queensland Studies Authority, with syllabus applications, ideas for use and links to online resources. The material has particular application for the following syllabuses: SOSE, levels 4-6, "Place and space", and "Systems, resources and power" strands for the key value of "Ecological and economic sustainability"; Technology, to support learning planned from the "Technology practice", "Materials" and "Systems" strands of the Years 1 to 10 syllabus; Home Economics 4 - 10 to allow students to work in the context of "living environments"; Senior Home Economics for the core value, "Individuals and families in their living environments"; and Senior Geography for orientating activities for core units, "Sustaining urban and rural communities" and "Managing resources".

CURRICULUM: Studies of Society and Environment; Technology; Science

SUBJECTS/DESCRIPTORS: Senior Geography; Senior Home Economics; Sustainable development; Ecological sustainability; Housing; Energy conservation; Learning object

SUITABLE FOR: Lower Secondary; Middle Secondary; Upper Secondary

REVIEW DATE: 11-07-2005



TITLE: Flash Classroom

URL: <http://www.flashclassroom.com/cms/flashclassroom/index.php>

PUBLISHER/SOURCE: A LDC-ICTs Far North Queensland Project

PUBLICATION YEAR: 2005

REVIEW: As the introduction to the site says, "There are heaps of fantastic Flash tutorial and resource sites on the web, but this is the one that's devoted to the use of Flash in P-12 classrooms". The "About" gives a very clear rationale for the use of Flash in the classroom, as a teaching tool and as a learning tool for students. The tutorial covers Flash MX 2004 and is an audio accompanied tour of the program with animated mouse movements, full of practical hints and step-by-step lessons in all aspects of animation from one who has been through the process and wants to make it easier for the beginner. The site contains a gallery of examples, some made by students, to demonstrate the capabilities of the program and also links to other tutorial sites. There are learning objects, resources that can help students with disabilities learn and explore independently, delightful e-cards, examples of animation and actionscripting. There is also a link to the Macromedia website where a 30-day trial of Flash MX is available for teachers who are considering becoming involved in it. An excellent site for teachers and students, once the drop-down menu is understood and mastered.

CURRICULUM: Across the Curriculum; Technology

SUBJECTS/DESCRIPTORS: Macromedia Flash (Computer program); Learning objects; Educational games; Animation; Classroom activities

SUITABLE FOR: Upper Primary; Lower Secondary; Middle Secondary; Upper Secondary

REVIEW DATE: 10-05-2005



Young writers like Cory Ross soaked up the expert advice at the Coopers Plains District Literacy Development Network Young Writers Camp.

Authors help young writers tell tales

A POSSE of young writers from the Coopers Plains region this week had an opportunity many older writers would relish – to learn tricks of the trade from popular published authors.

Sixty-one Year 7 and 8 students from 23 schools participated in an intensive writing "camp" on July 25 and 26, hosted by Park Ridge State High School on behalf of the Coopers Plains Literacy Development Network.

Authors James Moloney, Sally Freud, Pat Flynn and Prue Mason showed the students the ropes of writing, helping them each develop a short story with the theme "Write into the Future".

The workshop aimed to help students have fun and learn new skills as writers. Students worked in small groups with the authors to develop and edit their stories.

The stories and photos from the camp will be published in a CD to be launched on August 3 and distributed to local schools and libraries.

Park Ridge State High School literacy coordinator Donna Harvey-Sutton, who organised the camp, said the CD format was in keeping with the futuristic theme, rather than a printed book.

"I think the CD will be fantastic, but more importantly, each of these students has grown and learned so much in the two days they've spent with us," she said.

Each school in the region nominated two or more students for the event, choosing those who exhibited a passion for writing and a willingness to further develop their writing skills.

Ms Harvey-Sutton said six teacher-librarians from schools in the region took part as well, acting as assistants to the authors as they worked with groups of students.

"The teacher-librarians will take what they learned back into their schools, and that will feed back into their own literacy and writing programs," she said.

"The authors and teachers involved are going to choose two students to go to the prestigious Meanjin Writers Camp later this year.

"All these young people are like little sponges soaking up information and encouragement – it's great to facilitate this springboard for them.

"It's all about letting them soar," she said.

Students were equally positive.

"The camp is an ingenious mixture of skills, imagination and a hint of confidence," Algester Primary School student Taylor Brennan said.

Tom English from Springwood State High School said "the camp will build my English skills and it provides me with an opportunity to work with an author to build my confidence in my ability to write."

The camp is an example of the innovative curricular and extracurricular activity called for in the Middle Phase of Learning Action Plan to keep students engaged in learning and achieving at their potential.

Ms Harvey-Sutton said the initiative also helped with the transition from primary to high school by bringing students from all the region's schools together and giving primary students a taste of the high school environment.

Coopers Plains district has a strong focus on literacy through developing teachers' skills and encouraging emergent writers. For example, at Park Ridge State High School groups of Year 11 and 12 students are currently working with authors Kim Wilkins and Dr Venero Armano on writing projects.

The Coopers Plains Literacy Development Network, led by chairperson Jan Kazakoff, is active in maintaining the profile and performance of literacy initiatives in the region.

A recent literacy conference organised by the Literacy Development Network attracted 350 teachers, while extensive professional development has helped teachers apply the Literate Futures initiatives in the classroom.

Ms Harvey-Sutton said the support of school administrators in the region had been vital for the success of these initiatives.

"My principal Valerie Hadgelias has been incredibly supportive and so have the principals from all the schools involved," she said.

