As a learning and teaching resource, Encyclopædia Britannica online is very powerful in the classroom as it presents information on many many topics in a highly interactive and easily searchable format. Unlike the traditional book based encyclopaedia, it is updated regularly and so is very current.

Interactive Features of Encyclopaedia Britannica at a glance

- Atlases with clickable maps – Discover our World
- Activities for infants and junior classes in the Britannica Learning Zone and Games
- For middle/senior classes there are some very stimulating activities in Learning Materials
- Interactive and editable timelines
- A range of video, animations and other multimedia clips

Britannica is available to all schools via the Schools Broadband Network and also to teachers at home through their Scoilnet login. You can access the Scoilnet login on the homepage of www.scoilnet.ie.

The Competition

Encyclopædia Britannica in partnership with Scoilnet is running a major national competition for teachers during October.

Teachers will have the chance to win a range from prizes including an iPad2, lunch for two at Ashford Castle and a range of other high-tech classroom-based software and hardware from Promethean and e-instruction.

For the competition, teachers and student teachers are invited to submit an online learning activity focusing on the use of Britannica’s interactive online resources in the classroom. The activity can be for any level, topic or subject, but should show practical and creative ways to use Britannica in a classroom.

Winners and finalists will be invited to a special awards ceremony hosted by award-winning children’s author Conor Kostick and representatives from Britannica in Dublin in November.

For more information on the competition and for the terms and conditions of entry, please visit www.scoilnet.ie/competition.aspx.

Compiled by NCTE
www.ncte.ie

By popular demand, the NCTE has developed a new short course, ‘Creating ICT Resources’, which is now available to teachers countrywide. This course focuses on the use of digital media and the internet to create learning and teaching resources. The skills learnt and content covered are applicable to interactive whiteboards.

If you need a bit of basic upskilling first, ‘Getting Started with your Laptop and Digital Projector’ is the ideal course. Agus má tá tú ag múineadh i nGaelscoil nó sa Ghaeltacht, beidh curras nu aile eile luí: ‘TFC sa Bhunscoil.’

NCTE courses are available through your local education centre, free of charge. NCTE online courses are also available. Details: www.ncte.ie/ICTTraining

New NCTE courses