

Teaching matters

Articles and opinions on primary teaching, with tips and ideas for the classroom

Rich reference material – online

Google Cultural Institute

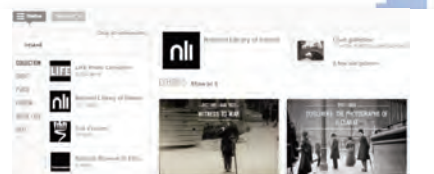


Through the Scoilnet portal www.scoilnet.ie, we Irish teachers have access to a myriad of curricular aligned resources. Now we can upload our own documents and presentations enabling us to share with fellow teachers and, in turn, create a true repository. All Irish teachers, parents and pupils have free access to *Encyclopaedia Britannica* school edition through a link from the Scoilnet homepage. Through the use of our Scoilnet accounts <https://accounts.scoilnet.ie>, we can access quality maps of our school communities and compare satellite imagery and historical maps.



Panorama image of Downpatrick Head taken using phone camera and associated app.

The summer holidays are fading from memory and many teachers and pupils had a chance to explore historical and cultural sites in Ireland and far beyond during the summer months. Some other pupils are not as fortunate and one of the challenges of teaching is creating authentic learning experiences for all. Technology enables us to bring all our pupils beyond the confines of the classroom walls and the immediate school community to every corner of the world. The Google Cultural Institute (www.google.com/culturalinstitute/about/) enables us use a range of rich resources to support the



This screenshot details exhibitions when 'Ireland' is the search item.

teaching of history, geography and visual art through three main sections – World Wonders, Historic Moments and Art Project.

World Wonders Project

The World Wonders Project brings world heritage sites online 'so that they can be explored by people around the world and preserved for future generations'.



Scott's Hut, Antarctic.

It is possible to explore Stonehenge, Pompeii, Palace at Versailles and a range of other heritage sites. An Irish site featured is St Brendan's Cathedral in Clonfert, Co Galway. One of the most interesting is Scott's Hut in the Antarctic giving an insight into the equipment at the disposal of the explorers of that era and how tough and resolute they must have been.

Rather than our pupils consuming all this information and passively engaging with images, pupils can be prompted to create similar images about their locality. With panorama, photo stitching and stop motion applications now available on many phones and tablet devices to work with the camera function, this is easy to do for teachers and pupils alike.

Historic Moments Project

Historic moments is a comprehensive series of online exhibitions detailing the stories behind significant moments in human history. Each of these exhibitions tells a story using documents, photos, videos and in some cases personal accounts of events.

Having just passed the 70th anniversary

of the D-Day landings, a number of exhibitions relating to the landings are featured in Historic Moments and give fantastic images of this period in history – a lot more comprehensive than the range of images in the history books I read. In more recent history, the fall of the Berlin Wall has some stimulating accounts and images from that time. Again, our pupils can be prompted to create exhibits of local history.

Art Project

Art Project brings us into the world of visual art where users can explore art galleries and the works of numerous artists of varying genres, periods and nationalities. Some can have a surprisingly local theme as evidenced in the Jack B Yeats piece featured in the screenshot below.



The Swinford Funeral, Jack B Yeats.

2014/2015

PDST will explore and mediate assessment in all its forms in the year ahead.

The use of technology in assessment to inform teaching and learning will be featured in many of our articles.

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