A virtual Trip to London


In this article we are going to give an example of a webquest that can be used with students of Non-Compulsory Secondary Education at any time during their school year. It can be developed in class in 10 alternative sessions.

The ultimate objective of this activity is to elaborate a students’ travel guide to London, which they will use in their trip to London at the end of the second term, that is why we can work with this project during the first and the second term.

As all the webquests, A Virtual Trip to London has six parts:

- the introduction: where the project is explained to the students
- the task: in this part the pupils find out what they have to do
- the process: where they are explained how to perform the task step by step.
- the resources part: here we provide students with a set of resources in the Internet where they can look for the information and select the most relevant for them
- the evaluation: this part helps the students know how they will be evaluated, which we think it is essential for them, as they can prepare better the task and they know the objectives of it.
- the conclusion: where final comments about the project are made.

In this article we will talk only about the introduction and the task that students will have to perform.

A) INTRODUCTION:

How many times have you seen documentaries about London? How many people have you met who have been to the capital of the UK? You have probably seen photos of Big Ben. Has the expense of visiting London ever prevented you from going? This year you will enjoy a trip to London with your class at Easter. For this reason, you will have to prepare an alternative city guide for students like you.

You will need to visit various sources of information including, news articles, encyclopaedias, newspapers, organized around several web sites, and any other sources that you can find and collect as much information as you are able about London.

When you have your information and have started drafting, you will end up designing a PowerPoint presentation which will be shown to your class, and eventually, could be sent to the four corners of the world; or you may design a Web Site which can be accessed on the World Wide Web, in an effort to guide other student’s travels to the capital of Britain.
B) THE TASK:

The government has asked you and your team to do some research about London to make an alternative city guide for students or young people. In doing this, you will ultimately be promoting the city and bringing more tourists to London.

Keep a record of where you go and what you find in your research. Keep a bibliography, a record of the resources that you use and their page numbers and the like. Everything you do, contributes to the mark you receive in the end.

Some of the information that you don’t use may be helpful to others in your class or others in another group or may even be good for others for different ideas. Keep the information that you collect, even if you don’t use it as your decisions to use and to not use are interesting too.

Be prepared to share some of the information that you find, with others or to assist others who may be having difficulties finding another at all.

London is a great and unique city. There are many things about London that people from other countries want to explore and find out more about, especially interesting places for young people.

Your task is to find out as much information as you can from your perspective in one of the roles assigned: as the Historian and Culturalist, or the Sports reporter, or the Night City expert, or the Travel Agent. You need to keep each of the other members of your group informed in what you have found out through your job. This may help them with some aspects of their task.

Your aim is to become an expert in your field of endeavour.

As has already been stated, it would be beneficial for you to keep contact with other members of the other groups who have taken on your character. In that way you will be able to swap ideas and information and make each other’s job easier.

The Presentation

There will need to be progressive reports made to each of the other team members as well as your teacher so that all the information and the presentations are not left until the very last moment.

It is your responsibility to keep the teacher up to date with where you are up to and not the other way around. Keep a general record of the things that you have done and the things that you have completed.

You will be able to find your information from a variety of sources including the Internet, newspapers, magazines, encyclopaedias and books. You will need to gather all your information about London that you can and make a presentation, which will be the major result of your work.

It is important that you keep your teacher up to date on your progress. Keeping the teachers up to date is also helpful to your end marks.

It is suggested, as you collect the information, that you choose to be a little bit selective of what you keep. As you are all putting your presentations together, you need to include the important things about London that the young tourists would want to know about and discard that which would not be as popular. In the end, the choices are ultimately up to you but select wisely.
It is even suggested that you keep a Portfolio of all the things that you find. This is easily done if you have one of those plastic sheet presentation folders. If you are unsure of the requirements, ask your teacher.

Once you have found a minimum of three factors each, of or about London, that you think young people would be keen to visit, see or to know about, you will need to provide a multimedia presentation of the sites with relevant information about each. Make sure that your presentation includes a suitable title, your name and that of your working partners as well as in them, would also be of benefit too.

Be prepared to be a little creative with what you do.

If at any stage you are stuck, it is your responsibility to ask lots of questions and seek the assistance that you need.

**Getting Started**

When you want to study a topic like An Alternative Guide to London, it helps to have a place to start and to have a few good questions in mind. The best kinds of questions are ones you really want to know the answer to. Sometimes this will be factual and you’ll discover the right answer straight away. Other times, your questions get to the heart of what makes a subject worth studying. Many people spend their lives studying and working in fields related to this topic. Now’s your chance to join them!

Use the links below to explore the topic, your interests and those important questions of yours. Remember, we don’t want straight answers to the questions that you think of. We want you to include the answers in your information.

Copying slabs of information is also discouraged. If you find some great info, put it into draft form, in your own words and then write it up.

The Web will offer some unique resources that might not be available anywhere else so dig deep and see what you find. If you want some idea of what good exploring looks like, read the evaluation rubric. Teamwork is the key to all the work.”

**Bibliografía**

http://www.isabelperez.com/webquest/index.htm