

Useful Websites for Teaching S.E.S.E

1. <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html>

Enchanted Learning is a website that is fantastic for simplified information about living things. Worksheets are freely available to print and there are simple sketches that give children a base for drawing their own diagrams.

2. <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

This is a National Geographic website dedicated to children. It is a wonderful site to allow children to surf safely and independently when doing project work. There are really great video clips accompanying the details of each animal. Love it!

3. <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/>

There are very few teachers in Ireland that have not discovered this gem of a website! If you are one of them...visit this site! All curricular areas (seachas an ghaeilge) are covered but history and geography are exceptionally well covered.

4. <http://www.nationalaquarium.ie/>

As a Salthill native, I have to plug my local aquarium! This website is super informative and obviously as it is an Irish site, the fish species detailed are mainly fish found in Irish waters. It is simple to navigate and should not be overlooked. Leo Hallissey was largely responsible for their Explorers Programme in which teachers are trained how to bring a class on sea shore safaris and how to run a fish tank in the classroom. There are step by step instructions for carrying out experiments in the classroom.

5. <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/>

This is another great Irish website that is a hidden gem and not used by as many teachers as it should. Birdwatch Ireland has a great Kid's Zone on their website. It details birds found in school yards and in gardens at home. "Bird Detectives" is their own magazine for children that is published twice a year. It is free to download from the website. I find this website a super resource, particularly in winter when you can attract many birds to the school yard with bird feeders and the children really quickly learn to identify the birds themselves. You could use this website to do a full block of teaching about birds and it easily integrates with geography when you teach all about migration.

As we all know, websites are part of life and education however, the best way children will learn is from getting into the thick of it. Let them get stuck in, dirty, splash and trudge their way around whatever is local to you. The websites alone are never enough. They are great to look at before and after a walk to the park, pond, river, canal or seaside, but never as the sole means of teaching S.E.S.E.

"I look, therefore I see.

I listen, therefore I hear.

I do, therefore I understand."

I am sure you have had an amazing week on the island. Feel free to email me if you have any issues with the links I have provided above.

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