

Using A LEARNZ Virtual Field Trip In Your Secondary Classroom

Question 1. Why bother?

A LEARNZ field trip:

- Makes a **perfect context** to deliver the AO's of the Curriculum
- Reinforces student learning with **excellent current, relevant examples**
- Provides a perfect opportunity for students to develop and practice **research skills**
- **Motivates students** by taking students into a world where the fundamentals of their theory and practical work are put into action
- Makes field trips **manageable**
- **Puts your class in touch with experts** regarding parts of the curriculum you may feel less confident with.

Question 2. How do I manage, organise, and plan it?

You decide your level of involvement. You simply pick and choose which aspects of a field trip you can manage. A list of field trip components is given on page 30 of the Teacher Manual. Below is a full involvement covering 3 timetabled periods.

Before the field trip

1. Students read field trip background pages by using any of
 - a computer each (at school or at home)
 - a digital projector in the room
 - hard copies which you print and distribute

(Note: *Standard Read* or *Easy Read* versions of the background pages are available online)

2. Students check their learning by using the online interactive, self-marking activities (at school or at home)
3. Students develop a "fat" question(s). A fat question is one that shows the student has some knowledge but seeks more detail or further implications of that knowledge. This is a fundamental and important step in the learning process. (See page 24 of the Teacher Manual).
4. You send 8-12 fat student questions to me (donald@learnz.org.nz) prior to the field trip.
5. Students put their questions directly to experts using a speakerphone (eg Polycom) during live audioconferences (dial 0800 69 33 63, PIN = 0881).
 - The audioconference is timed to suit your timetable.
 - Only one secondary class takes part in an audioconference. This gives your class ownership of the experience.
 - See pages 19-24 of the Teacher Manual for more details about audioconferences
6. Alternatively students can listen to another schools questions/answers by;
 - listening 'live' on a speaker phone at the time (Dial 0800 69 33 63 , PIN = 0881)
 - listening 'live' through a computer with sound card etc
 - listening later (anytime) through a computer with sound card etc

(Note: audioconference questions are available on the web site beforehand, so you know if an audioconference is relevant for you)

During the 3-day field trip

1. Students follow Donald's daily activities using the web (as in 1. above). The components uploaded to the web site each afternoon are:
 - diary ('teaser' email sent to you when uploaded)
 - still images (x10)
 - videos (x7-15)
 - panoramas (x1-3)
 - audioconference (usually 2) recordings
2. Students can put extension questions or clarification questions to the LEARNZ Web Board (answered usually within 24 hrs)
3. Students answer the questions posed in each video caption. Answers are supplied in the Teacher Section of the Web Site.
4. Every class enrolled in a field trip can enter the competition. It requires three answers, one per day. The clues are in the audioconferences and daily diaries. The prize is a magnificent \$1200 Polycom SoundStation! Answers are posted on the online entry form and are due about 2 weeks after the field trip.

After the field trip

1. All field trip components (but see below) are available to your students
2. The Web Board remains open for student questions for a month after the field trip ends
3. Competition entries are due about 2 weeks after the field trip ends

Please note

- There is NO LIVE VIDEO between the classroom and the field trip venue, only live audio. Short video clips are uploaded to the web site each day.
- Typically, and understandably, teachers will use more components as they become more confident
- Getting students to ask their own questions 'live' is best, and requires:
 - organising a speaker phone or Polycom
 - telling me (donald@learnz.org.nz) when you want to have an audioconference (ie a date and time that suits your timetable)
 - getting 8 -12 fat questions from your students and sending these questions to me, just prior to the field trip.

See the Teacher Manual for the full story.

Donald Reid.

For further information

- email me (donald@learnz.org.nz) or
- Teachers' free-phone 0800 LEARNZ (0800 22 55 53)