

Global-Leap Videoconferencing in the Classroom Teachers' Association (Not-for-Profit)

GLVCTA News Bulletin
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Thank You for your Support

We are coming to the end of another fantastic year!

So a sincere "Thank you" to you and your colleagues who have continued to support the Global-Leap Videoconferencing in the Classroom Teachers Association (not for profit) through 2007.

End Of Year Round-Up

Eight years ago I created "Global-Leap" as a videoconference resource for the teachers at Arbour Vale School, who like myself were excited about using videoconferencing in their classrooms. We had the equipment, but no one to VC with, and no VC content to access.

Creating "Global-Leap" was our solution to finding other VC colleagues to work with, and creating and developing collaborative opportunities for our students. The resource for schools, and our Global-Leap/Videoconferencing in the Classroom Museum, Gallery and Archive pilot programme was further developed with the generous support of the DfES. This funding enabled a huge range of practical experience, feedback and research to be put together, the reports of which were all fed back to the DfES and to representatives from BECTa throughout the period of funding.

Since April 2005 the project has had to be self funded in order to continue to support, develop, sustain and extend VC content and contacts for our schools. Thank you to all those schools who have, through their annual subscriptions enabled us to develop and deliver VC support and VC content for another year.

Through 2007, the (Not for Profit) Association has offered over 1800 videoconference lessons through www.global-leap.org lesson diary, and in addition to these programmes we have delivered 100's of initial "My First Video Conference" sessions, and inset sessions, and tailor made sessions on request from our member schools. We have spent many hours supporting colleagues in international locations. That means that 100s of classes and 1000s of pupils around the world have benefited through this growing and unique resource for classroom teachers.

On February 29th 2008 Global-Leap will be celebrating its 8th birthday. What is interesting is that in 2000 it was necessary to create a special curriculum event to encourage colleagues to use this resource in their classroom. (29th February, the original "Leap" around the world by Videoconference). In 2008 such an event seems unnecessary because videoconferencing can, and does, take our teachers and pupils on a "Global Leap" around the world any day of the week.

week.

In the last couple of weeks alone, we have arranged links for our schools and participated in VC links with children in Afghanistan, Poland, Germany, Malta, Moscow, Pakistan, Japan, across the USA and Canada.

Freelance teachers and visitors have visited our studio to deliver Active Shakespeare drama sessions, a variety of Historical Character sessions, or to tell us about the various charities they represent. I have visited colleagues in our museums, and met with our freelance colleagues to provide practical support on site, and helped them to rehearse their new sessions and offered advice to their freelance presenters/staff. Emergency trouble shooting has ensured sessions have gone ahead successfully almost all of the time. (except in those situations where connectivity issues local to the school, have resulted in problems.) "Trouble shooting" can range from a quick and timely phone call - to complete equipment replacement and set up by telephone in "pit stop" time, or an eleventh hour replacement lesson from Global-Leap studio.

Over the rest of this week and through next week, Santa will again be dropping by, to link with schools who booked up last month.

Many of the 100s of sessions are now posted on www.global-leap.org for January onwards. Sessions are booking fast. For example, National Portrait Gallery sessions for January 2007 have all been booked (except for one on 31st January), so you need to move quickly now, or be disappointed, if you would like to secure your place in February or March for one of these NPG sessions.

Remember to check www.global-leap.org lesson pages regularly as new opportunities are added as soon as dates/times are confirmed by providers.

Lessons provided by **Museum of London** include:

- Roman London Alive (12th,13th March.)
- Fire of London (story telling and object investigation) (22nd March)
- The Black Death: A survivor's tale (11th, 28th March)
- Mary Seacole (16th, 17th January)
- Victorian Costermonger (24th January, 26th,27th March)
- Countdown to Conflict (Civil War)(21st March)
- The Suffragettes (28th January and 4th February)
- Votes for women (Pilot-TBA)

Remember, you don't have to be studying these particular periods of history, to get something useful out of any of these topics. Skills targeted are always "speaking and listening", and many sessions can lead to discussion and debate around contemporary topics. Many will support the citizenship curriculum, peer pressure, bullying, solving conflict, health issues.....

Your drama group could be talking to or observing the actor or actress. How do they develop and build the character.... How do they respond to a live and interactive audience....

If your school is new to VC, telephone (0208 866 6036) to arrange a My First VC session with me, to get over any initial worries or concerns and ensure your teachers and students feel comfortable and confident about participating in VC activities. Have your diary at the ready and we can work out a mutually convenient slot. If you have new teachers who have joined your school, ask for a brief introductory inset session to ensure they all know that this

resource is available to them and encourage them to use it.

Some of the dozens of Global-Leap sponsored VC opportunities available for January, February and March on the lesson pages include:

- **YOUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY** (One World, One Environment) - Sustainable development and Global Citizenship. These sessions look at a range of issues and set the class a task, or encourage research and discussion about environmental issues and natural resources.
- **Mexicolore.** These sessions use Aztec artifacts and stories to bring your classroom study about the Aztecs to life.
- **Active Shakespeare (and his contemporaries), Active Chaucer, Greek Myths, Media Studies, Beowulf .** These Drama sessions get your students on their feet using Shakespearean text in a lively and interactive way, which the students will remember.
- **Royal Botanical Gardens .** These sessions explore plant adaptation and insect life. (only 6 sponsored slots available Jan/Feb.)
- **Global-Leap Interactive Character and Story Sessions .** We will try to work with you to offer the story session to fit your class. We can offer off the shelf sessions, or please bring your ideas, and we will see what we can put together, with you.
- **Jewish Festivals** - New Year (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), harvest (Sukkot) or Chanukah. We also offer sessions on the major life cycle events in Judaism, including birth, bar/bat mitzvah, marriage and death.
- **Visiting speakers and presenters** to tell your children about various topics from Pet Care, Fairtrade, Refugees, Global Warming, topical issues.....
- **International collaborative projects.**
- PLUS regular **Museum and Gallery** sessions. **NPG, MOL, CWR, NA, NHM.....**

Remember, equipment and connectivity alone will not make a successful project. Teachers need help, and support, and so do Content Providers to develop and extend suitable VC content. Costs of providing and developing a wide range of VC opportunities are not limited to the initial cost of acquiring the VC equipment and testing your school's connectivity via whatever solution is available to your school.

Content availability is about more than the VC box and the connectivity solution. VC Content opportunities cannot be developed or be sustainable without your school's support. Dates, room space and actors/freelancers all need to be booked by the museum months in advance, and costs need to be covered. Costs include lesson development time, administration staff time, freelancer costs as well as connectivity costs. Please support these sessions. Otherwise the programmes will not be sustainable. Freelancers require a period of notice for cancellations, (usually at least a month) so schools must book well in advance, otherwise sessions are closed as museums cannot carry cancellation costs. Book your January sessions now. If you wait until after the holiday you may find they have been closed.

If schools want to see museum VC opportunities remaining available and the choices available to be extended, please demonstrate your support for the existing programmes, now. Thank you.

Collaborative projects require huge amounts of dedicated support time, teacher time and enthusiasm to be effective and sustainable. Global-Leap supported projects have long ago moved on from the one off, (high profile/promotional) VC day, or one off demo link. We work to support you to develop long term projects with successful outcomes.

Enjoy your Christmas and New Year holidays, and don't forget to book your VC sessions on www.global-leap.org before you go home for the holiday.

PS.... Anyone doing "Pirates" next term???

Again thank you for supporting YOUR Association and Best Wishes for the New Year. I look forward to joining you and your class in a videoconference in 2008.

Best wishes and seasonal greetings,
Mike

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