July 2006 Newsletter

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New Sections

This term we have added more new topics many of which were requests from subscribers. New sections have also been added to existing topics to keep pace with world events. The summary of the new topics and sections is listed below. The Library Webs Collection now contain over 160 topics with approximately 40,000 links. We value your suggestions and requests for new topics.

Social Sciences

Australia:
Regional and global context

This topic is a compilation of sections taken from other topics. It is designed to support the Yr 10 geography unit in NSW schools. The sections include Australia: Foreign relations; Population Issues in Australia; Population Policy; Immigration; Refugees; Unauthorised Arrivals; The War against Terrorism; Australia's presence in Afghanistan; Reconciliation; Children in Immigration Detention; Australia in the global economy; Australia's trade; Foreign investment; Free Trade and Protection; Overseas Aid; Indonesian-Australian Relations; Australia's role in East Timor; Australia and the UN. The customary For Teachers section with webquests, worksheets and lesson plans concludes the topic.

The United Nations

This topic looks at the major functions of the United Nations, namely human rights, economic and social development, peace and security, humanitarian affairs and International Law. It also has sections which look at the history of the organisation as well as its future as many reforms are considered. The Millennium Development Goals have a section all to themselves, as does Australia's relationship with the UN. A selection of lesson plans, quizzes and other materials for classroom use are found in the last section.

Pure Sciences

Sound

Created for Year 11 Physics students in mind, this topic covers various aspects of sound, and the application of sound physics to everyday life. The first section covers the basic nature of sound. Thereafter the sections cover speaking and hearing; hearing aids; musical sounds; synthesizers and synthetic sound; acoustics; supersonic speed; sound proofing; sound recording and reproduction; sonar devices; ultrasound in medicine and the Doppler Effect. Teachers can find

a large selection of lesson plans and classroom resources in the last section.

Applied Sciences

Nuclear medicine

Designed for Year 11 physics students, this topic holds interest for everyone as most of us have at least had an X-ray, if not some more complex procedure using nuclear medicine. The first section, Nuclear physics, gives students a basic overview of the science behind the medical applications. The second section looks at the topic in a comprehensive way, and the following sections focus on specific methods of diagnostic medicine, e.g. X-ray, MRI, the gamma camera, laser surgery and ultrasound. Two sections deal with the debate in Australia about the advantages and disadvantages of reactors and cyclotrons, and the replacement research reactor at Lucas Heights. The section, For Teachers, has lesson plans, webquests and other material for teaching this subject to students in the middle and senior years.

Infectious diseases

This topic tells you everything you wanted to know about the dreadful things that can happen if you catch an infectious disease…. but were afraid to ask. The diseases currently examined include Avian Influenza (Bird Flu), Botulism, Chickenpox, Cholera, Cold sores, Conjunctivitus, Dengue Fever, Diphtheria, Leprosy, Malaria, Measles, Meningitis and Meningococcus, Mumps, Pertussis, Plague, Poliomyelitis, Ross River Fever, Rubella, Salmonella, Scabies, Smallpox, Sexually transmitted diseases, Tapeworm, Tinea, Tuberculosis, Typhoid Fever, Typhus, Warts, and Yellow Fever. If students wish to study some other disease not listed, they will find ample information in the introductory section which has several A-Z listings as well as other information. There is also a section dealing with bioterrorism, which poses a global threat. The final section, For Teachers, contains ideas for lesson plans.

Modern History

Native Americans:
Contemporary issues

The original inhabitants of North America share many of the concerns common to indigenous nations all over the world which have been colonised by Western powers. The problems highlighted in this topic are education, health, housing, hunting and fishing rights, preservation of culture, repatriation of remains and artefacts, reservation life, self-determination and sovereignty, social problems and the stereotypes and commercial use of Indian motifs. Teachers will find ample resources for classroom applications in the final section.

Native Americans of the USA:
Traditional

The pre-European lifestyle of the native peoples of the USA is the main focus of this topic. The sections cover the following aspect: Chiefs; dress and clothing; homes and housing; food; religion, ritual and myths; travel and transport; tribal society; contact with Europeans. The For Teachers section includes the usual lesson plans, quizzes and other classroom resources.

Australia in the 1960s

This is a huge site, but still only scratches the surface of all that happened in this flamboyant and tumultuous decade. This first section looks at the Sixties from a global perspective, after which the topic focuses on the Australian context. Various aspects of the social and political culture are examined: entertainment, fashion, music, sport and transport; Prime Ministers, British and American influences; the tragedy of the H.M.A.S. Voyager; the social unrest caused by National Service and Australian and New Zealand Involvement in Vietnam; the Freedom Rides led by Charles Perkins and the1967 referendum; the change to decimal currency; the hanging of Ronald Ryan; the controversy regarding the construction of the Sydney Opera House; and the kidnapping and murders of Graeme Thorn and the Beaumont children. The section for teachers contains ideas for classroom discussion and activities.

New Sections

Afghanistan
Future outlook for Afghanistan

Australia at war
Gallipoli: John Simpson Kirkpatrick and his donkey

Australian Scientists
Ian Fraser

Earthquakes
Indonesia 2006

History of Indonesia
West Papua
Foreign Relations with Australia

Volcanoes
Indonesia - Mt Merapi