

Futurelab conference outcomes

Spaces, Places and Future Learning: Using innovative technology and practice to re-imagine learning spaces

1-2 November 2006

Rich Mix, London

Create-A-Scape workshop

The Create-A-Scape workshop offered delegates a chance to try out an innovative mobile learning resource developed by Futurelab and Mobile Bristol, which offers students a powerful way of engaging with the world around them. Available through a website, Create-A-Scape allows users to design their own mediascape (a collection of location-sensitive sounds and images which are placed in local landscapes and can then be experienced via a PDA handheld computer and headphones), and then to undertake that mediascape using a PDA.

Each group was asked to explore the educational potential of mediascapes by designing a learning experience for a particular age group and subject, and producing three posters to demonstrate this: a map; a corresponding key; and background data in the form of answers to some set questions. Some examples of the outcomes (showing a range of age groups and subjects) are shown below.

Group 2

Subject area: Science

Age range: Year 10

What is it for?

To help our Year 10 learners to engage in monitoring and evaluating the impact of environmental changes, including carbon emissions and noise pollution in the area. They have ideas about how to make changes in their current and future lives. Links to geography, citizenship, history, ICT, literacy, team work, orienteering.

Who is it for?

Year 10 science learners - but can be used across age groups - eg working in 'regeneration' projects. Very much about group work and generating discussions. Students will be sharing PDAs - networked + with access to the internet.

Where will it be?

The top half of the map from (and including) the railway to Wood Road and from Park Villas to the school.

What will make the mediascape play?

'Yes' to the GPS unit attached to the PDA - for initial information

Click on for additional information

'Yes' - see above - move through 'clicking' + internet search

What sort of content will you collect or make?

Carbon calculator - science scope sensors for pollution levels + carbon monoxide levels

Students will have to collect more data

Animations to explain the effect of carbon dioxide eg how trees create oxygen

Use sound + images

One group - all doing the same in small teams after class sharing + teaching the other group + make another mediascape of what they have found + learned

Key

Group of 18 - 6 teams of 3

Blue = audio/visual/scapes
Green = text

Green

1. Starting at school

- a) Explanation of carbon dioxide coming out of cars
- b) Vehicle log

2. Museum - transport

Mini-questionnaire to ask passers-by (a survey)

Film of the area + the various types of transport in the museum in use

3. Shops

Waste + pollution text

Information on the benefits of pedestrianisation

Carbon emission calculations on transporting wine from Spain by plane + by train + by lorry

4. Calculations on average time taken to get to... by different

Comparison of the haulage levels between trains + lorries + cars

Timetable for the line

Info on changing train usage for freight + passengers

Blue

1. Sounds of cars, horse + carts + audio instructions

2. Audio/commentary to items in the museum

3. Sounds of the various types of transport

Visuals of packaging + questions on recycling, origin + manufacture source - transportation
- carbon footprint explanation

'Blueberries from Chile'

'Wine growing in Spain'

Noise + fume pollution video of food being delivered by lorries

4. Image of the station in the past

Trains + boats + planes + the song by Peter Paul & Mary!

Map

[Open image of Group 2's map poster](#)

Group 3

Subject area: English

Age range: Year 7

What is it for?

To create a poetry journey

Concept of a journey within a poem

Journey to be experienced through sounds + images to stimulate ideas

Create heightened awareness of sound and images
Literacy/PHSE/geography/ICT/history/sports
Open activity

Who is it for?

11-12 year-olds (+/-) family learning
Group work 2-5
Share!

Where will it be?

Triggered by facility (urban)
Meaningful
Place specific (not located in just any space)
No order but plan own journey to specific locations
Large space - town!

What will make the mediascape play?

Need GPS to trigger sounds
Sounds/images triggered by location (unless raining - then virtual tour)
No deeper levels (creative activity)
No time limit

What sort of content will you collect or make?

Factual/fictional content - sounds + images to facilitate creative thinking
Children look at screen and surroundings - children take photos to add
About 90-120 mins
Guidelines on a number of places to visit but not fixed

Key

* Start here/return here
Visit 5 locations in any order

1. Theatre - video clip of a performance
2. Church - bells ringing (sound)
3. University - picture of a mortar board + scroll
4. Victoria Hospital - ambulance sirens - extract from Holby City!
5. Temple - image of Athens
6. Shops - picture of a Medina - Nike
7. Community centre - bingo calls
8. Sports centre - football cheers
9. Mosque - sound of call to prayers
10. Windsor Museum - bust of Cleopatra
11. Castle ruin - extract of archaeological dig (image)
12. Hotel - beds - Fawlty Towers
13. Lyn Park - swings - children laughing
14. Woods - birds - trees - flowers - rustling leaves
15. River Lyn - gurgling water
16. Castle Station - sound of a train - announcements

Map

[Open image of Group 3's map poster](#)

Group 9

Subject area: Geography

Age range: Year 12

What is it for?

Produce a piece of coursework lasting 6 weeks to contribute to assessment for AS-level.

Who is it for?

Year 12 to produce a mediascape for their peers and 14 year-olds.

Where will it be?

Whole town - different groups have different zone. Put together and make available for their peers and presented to local authorities.

What will make the mediascape play?

GPS triggered sounds - people's views of 'their' city, incongruous sounds - provoke thoughts. Geolocated plans/proposed buildings - to prompt responses.

What sort of content will you collect or make?

Own narrative response Timetables of space usage Interviews with people Photos and videos - of issues you/others want to highlight, activities in spaces (space usage), obstacles to the uses I want, planning applications (made into friendly language)

Key

Green - stimulus: visual (photo/video)

Blue - stimulus: sounds - stimulate 'different' behaviours eg 'look up'

All other content personal and user-generated

Map

[Open image of Group 9's map poster](#)

Group 10

Subject area: History

Age range: Year 7

What is it for?

Looking at local points of interest & their history. To give students a sense of place & history.

Who is it for?

Year 7 history students for the three high schools in the locality.

Where will it be?

1 & 2 Mosque

3 Lyn Bridge

5 & 6 Castle ruin

7 & 8 Castle Station

What will make the mediascape play?

GPS + PDA, headsets

4-week project, 1 location per lesson

Crossover with RE, geography, business studies, citizenship, drama, maths, science & technology, PE, healthy schools

What sort of content will you collect or make?

Photos of locations (now)

Voice recordings of observations

Questions - what students would like to know

Commentaries en route of local area

Presentations & sharing of views from students at the different schools

Key

Mosque:

1. History of Islam - audio + image

2. History of particular mosque - audio

Bridge:

3. History of the architecture of bridges - pictures of the past

4. History of trade along River Lyn - how crossed in past?

Castle ruin:

5. Re-enact an event from the castle's history - narrative - interact with other groups

6. Two different perspectives of the narrative (eg opponents)

Castle Station:

7. History of transport in relation to railways - that specific - images of past

8. Give narrative account/record - as if they were passengers of that period

Map

[Open image of Group 10's map poster](#)