

## **Earth Learning Idea**

Innovative Earth-related teaching ideas

### **Aim**

To develop an internet-based support network for teacher trainers and teachers of Earth science and geography across the globe, by providing educational resources that will promote interactive teaching and the development of investigational and thinking skills, whilst provoking educational debate - minimising costs by using voluntary effort and commitment wherever practicable.

### **Objectives**

- To develop an internet-based support network and discussion forum capable of providing free educational materials to educators across the globe, using a website and blog.
- To promote the network/forum to teacher trainers and teachers of Earth science, through science, geography or related disciplines, focussing on pupils of ages 8 - 14 but suitable for younger and older pupils as well.
- To develop regularly Earth science-based activities that will enhance knowledge and understanding of the Earth, will promote interactive teaching skills in teachers and will develop investigational and thinking skills in pupils in ways relevant to their everyday lives, whilst provoking educational debate around the activities. Each activity will be attractively presented, easily downloadable, and will have associated notes for teachers and teacher trainers.
- Most activities require minimal equipment and resources. Some activities are called ELI+ and these require some basic school laboratory equipment and/or more abstract thought.
- To publish the activities regularly on the Earth Learning Idea website and advertise their publication on the Earth Learning Idea blog.
- To highlight the Earth science principles, to tease out the underpinning scientific/geographical principles and to identify the underlying educational principles for each activity.
- To encourage positive global discussion around each activity to explore its educational potential and potential for developing knowledge and understanding of the Earth and its processes.
- To add readers' suggestions about the activities in 'Extension ideas' on the website.
- To develop a comprehensive Keyword index so topics are easy to find.
- To encourage members of the global network to submit more activities that can be approved and edited for publishing in the future.
- To develop a support network of committed Earth scientists, educators and others around the project.