

Geography Education for Educators

Positioning Geography Conference 2010

L1 Geo - A new way of thinking  
Concepts, Themes, Inquiry

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Hupane, kaupane  
Whiti te ra


A new sunrise,  
A new day



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In pairs,  
find out from your partner:


- \* where they're from
- \* one thing they'd like to get out of this workshop
- \* if you could be anywhere in the World right now, where would that be? Why?



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**Learning Intention:**  
To gain a clear understanding of approaches to  
teaching L1 Geography


**Success Criteria:**  
Produce a L1 geography plan to suit the needs of your  
students



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What's wrong with what we've been doing?


Why change?



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**Best Evidence Synthesis (BES)**  
**Effective Pedagogy in Social Sciences**

Graeme Aitken and Claire Sinnema



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## 4 key mechanisms (findings)

- \* Connection
- \* Alignment
- \* Community
- \* Interest



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## Assessment to Learn (AtoL)

effective classroom practice in the use of assessment information to improve teaching and learning

MoE initiative



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## AtoL Uses a range of approaches

- \* day-to-day activities (Eg. learning conversations)
- \* mental note taken by the teacher during observation
  - \* student self and peer assessments
  - \* a detailed analysis of a student's work
- \* assessment tools (Eg. written items, structured interview questions or items teachers make up themselves)

What's important is how the information gathered is used to improve teaching and learning



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## Geography in the New Zealand Curriculum

An opportunity...



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## Concept - based approach

'The curriculum AOs in Social Sciences are based on concepts and are also examples of conceptual understandings'

Building Conceptual Understandings series – Approaches to Social Inquiry  
MoE 2008



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## Concepts from the Achievement Objectives

### Level 6 Geography – AO1

Understand that natural and cultural environments have particular characteristics and how environments are shaped by processes that create spatial patterns



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## Concepts from the Achievement Objectives

### Level 6 Geography – AO2

Understand how people interact with natural and cultural environments and that this interaction has consequences



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## Concepts from the Achievement Objectives

Your team has entered the reality TV show

The Lion's Den.

Using the concept given, you are to 'sell' it by explaining how and where it can be used in L1 Geography.

Your concept is the best and most worthwhile for teachers to invest in!



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## Year plan for L1 Geography

For the AO allocated, complete the outline to best suit the needs/interests of your students



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## Social Inquiry approach

"Tell me and I'll forget,  
show me and I may remember;  
involve me and I'll understand"

Chinese Proverb



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## A Real School !

- \* Extreme Natural Events
- \* AtoL strategies
- \* Interest, engagement and motivation



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## And the results...

NCEA External	NA	A	M	E
2007	45%	47%	5%	3%
2008	46%	30%	19%	5%
Prediction 2009	21%	43%	39%	6%



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How could you approach Inquiry  
within your  
L1 geography programme?

What would work best for your class(es)?



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Where to from here?



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