

geog.

newsletter

The Quality Mark makes an impact



The Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM) is proving to be a powerful 'lever of change' for the development of geography in schools that take part.

The Key Stage 3 SGQM is a framework developed by the GA to help subject leaders raise standards in school geography. It supports the teaching of quality geography and promotes effective department leadership and management.

Undertaking the Quality Mark engages all staff in the department in a process of reflection about how well the department is achieving its aims and where its priorities lie.

The Quality Mark template is based on the whole-school Self-Evaluation Form

(SEF) that each headteacher goes through annually in reviewing the school's work – so nothing could be more relevant to a subject leader's consideration of how to act next to improve the department.

The whole team takes part in an ongoing process of curriculum review, identifying priorities for departmental CPD, and sharing good practice in a framework that encourages creative and critical thinking about curriculum making and the development of a dynamic, relevant KS3.

The Quality Mark is awarded at two levels – the Quality Award itself and a higher Centre of Excellence Award that recognises the department's contribution to promoting quality geography beyond the school.

What teachers and advisers have said about the SGQM

'... Within my own department, the SGQM was both a fantastic CPD and self-evaluation process. As a team we were able to reflect on and evaluate our current practice ...'

'... It's an audit – a mirror – a learning curve – and, if you can commit to the obvious time of reflection it takes to scrutinise your own department critically with colleagues, then you will come out of it the other end (much) clearer about what the department's areas for development might be, and able to prioritise from the list ...'

How do I apply for it?

- Log on to the GA website at www.geography.org.uk/secondary/secondaryqualitymark
- Secure the support of your headteacher (professionally and financially).
- Collaboratively complete the nine sections of the Statement Table, cross-checking with your SEF.

Examples and evidence should be carefully selected with a maximum of two pieces for each of the nine sections of the SGQM. All evidence should include a statement of context and a brief justification as to why it has been included. Send all evidence to the GA Headquarters in Sheffield.

The award is valid for three years. The cost of applying for it depends on school size, but it has been tailored to mirror the cost of a day's INSET course, with supply, for one teacher.

'This is self-run CPD par excellence, for evidence from training evaluations shows that the one-off day, run by no-matter-how-inspiring a speaker, is generally found less effective as CPD than that where teachers themselves are the active participants, engaged in working on a relevant topic.'

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Justin Woolliscroft, SGQM Coordinator

Welcome to the summer term edition of the *geog.* newsletter. In this edition there's the low-down on the Secondary Geography Quality Mark, snippets of the first review of the *geog.1* OxBBox CD-ROM, and there's a fantastic chance to win a National Trust day out for two!

I hope you enjoy reading the *geog.* newsletter and the rest of the summer term.

Best wishes
The geography team

Don't forget to use your free special offer vouchers

You have only 2 vouchers left this term so why not dig out last term's newsletter?

There's still time to get £50 off when you spend £500 or more on *geog.* GCSE resources (valid until 30th June 2008) and still time to get your FREE *geog.2* evaluation pack when you order the *geog.1* OxBBox CD-ROM (valid from 1st July until 31st July).

Misplaced your vouchers? Then simply drop me an email at shelly.phillips@oup.com and I'll send you replacements.

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OXFORD
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Win a National Trust day out for two!

With the summer holidays fast approaching, to help you unwind we're offering you the chance to win a National Trust day out for two. This is your chance to discover the mystery of an historic house and garden, or the fascination of an English castle or archaeological remains!

This prize includes admission passes for two people to a participating National Trust property of your choice - there are over 300 venues nationwide. These passes are then valid for 31 days from your visit at most other National Trust properties. You will also receive a parking pass, a 'cream tea for two' voucher and a 20% discount voucher to use in National Trust shops.

All you need to do is take a look at this picture and let us know the page number it appears on in the third edition of *geog.1*. All entries will be put into a prize draw and the winner will be drawn at random. Closing date: 18th July 2008.



To enter simply email shelly.phillips@oup.com with your answer – remember to include your contact details. Alternatively, complete and return the freepost postcard on page 4. The winner will be notified at the end of July. Good luck!

Take a look at the first review of the *geog.1* resources and planning *OxBox* CD-ROM



Schoolzone has conducted an independent evaluation of the *geog.1* resources and planning *OxBox* CD-ROM. We've included some snippets here:

"Navigation is simple, with drop down menus that allow you to choose the resource required or see what is on offer, by topic or resource type."

"The software provides quick and easy access to an extensive range of *geog.* resources for each unit."

"*OxBox* is very simple to use and, since it will primarily be used by teachers, there are no problems with navigation. Little or no training will be required."

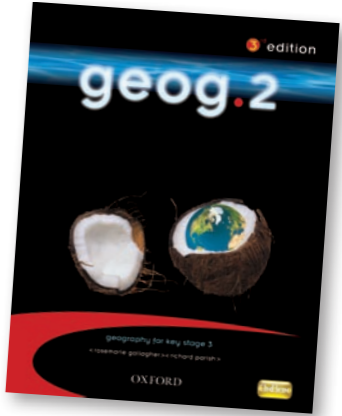
"They were keen on the videos and interactive activities, using words like 'cool' and they were very excited about coming up to the board to answer drag and drop questions. In fact, it turned into a mini competition between a small group who stayed after the lesson to have another go."

"The interface is so easy to use that my colleague needed only a short introduction before using it successfully in her lessons."

To read the independent Schoolzone evaluation in full, visit www.schoolzone.co.uk/resources/evaluations/evaluation.asp?evalID=5009.

The third edition of *geog.2* – coming to a school near you in September

The writing is complete, the maps and diagrams are being drawn, and the photos are being selected – *geog.2* is on its way.



What's new in *geog.2*?

- 1. People and the planet** is a re-working of the chapter 'People and resources' from the current edition, and is about the number of people on our planet and our demand for resources.
- 2. Coasts** has new spreads 'The coast and us' and 'Defend – or let go?', and the Happisburgh case study is updated.
- 3. Weather and climate** features a new introductory spread, and a new spread about storms in the UK.
- 4. Ecosystems** still looks at rainforests, but now has new material on the Arctic tundra – an exciting ecosystem that students enjoy learning about.
- 5. Our warming planet** is a brand new chapter about climate change and global warming.
- 6. Where should we get our energy?** is a mostly new chapter, and contains material about energy in the UK, nuclear power, wind power, biofuels, and solar power.
- 7. Crime** is updated – it's always a popular chapter.
- 8. Oi Brazil!** has new spreads on life in a favela and the threats to Brazil's rainforest.
- 9. London: your capital city** is a brand new chapter.

All facts and figures, examples and case studies have been updated.

What's new across the whole course?

Assessment

The revised curriculum is as much about assessment as content. Each students' book now comes with a dedicated assessment file and *OxBox* CD-ROM. The new *OxBox* software allows us to include electronic formative and summative assessments completed on-screen with feedback.

Classroom software and digital content

The *resources and planning OxBox* CD-ROM contains videos, PowerPoint presentations, all the photos and diagrams from the students' book, interactive activities, and lesson planning, as well as worksheets and enquiries.

Activities

The authors have tried to make sure that students working at the lower levels are eased in. But stretch and challenge is also provided. Activities that promote enquiry, encourage critical evaluation, and provide skills practice are included.

What would you like to see in *geog.3*?

In *geog.3*, we're thinking of doing two new country case studies – The USA and China. But what would you like to see? Is there a particular case study or topic you would like to see in the third edition of *geog.3*?

If so, please drop us an email – we're always pleased to receive new ideas and suggestions. Email your suggestions to shelly.phillips@oup.com.

Don't forget – the revised Key Stage 3 Programme of Study demands relevance and topicality. We're providing new and exciting content in the new editions of *geog.123*. The intention is to give you choice and flexibility, and to help you put in place a course that will suit and engage your students.

Want all the latest news and information sent direct into your inbox?

Sign up to the geography email newsletter today!

It's jam packed full of information about our resources, discounts, freebies, and much, much more – it's really worth signing up for!

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Freebies

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Hot links

3 easy ways to sign up

- 1 Email shelly.phillips@oup.com with the subject line 'Sign me up to the geography email newsletter'. Remember to include your name and school details.
- 2 Visit www.OxfordSecondary/geography and follow the link on the page.
- 3 Complete the slip below and return to us free of charge.



Use this for entering the prize draw and signing up to the geography email newsletter

Yes, please enter me into the free prize draw to win a National Trust day out for two*.

The picture on page 2 of this newsletter appears on page in the third edition of *geog. 1*.

Yes, please sign me up to the geography email newsletter.

My email address is**

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) Name.....

Job title

School.....

Address

.....

.....Postcode.....

*You must include an answer to the question to be entered into the free prize draw.

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