

October 2006 Newsletter

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New Sections

This term we made a few changes to the entry page with new divisions in the categories. The new category titles are Australian Society; Maths, Physics and Chemistry; Earth Sciences and Astronomy, Life Sciences; Ancient and Medieval History; Modern World History; Australian History.

A number of new topics have been added which are summarised in this newsletter. We are currently developing a new series covering Australian history through each decade of the 20th century. The 1960's and 1990's have been completed and the other decades will be added in the coming months. The Library Webs Collection now contains over 175 topics. We value your suggestions and requests for new topics.

This is the last newsletter for 2006. We have valued your support through the year. We take this opportunity to wish you, your staff and students success in the end-of-year assignments and exams and to wish you safe and refreshing holidays.

Maths, Physics and Chemistry

Advanced Mathematics

The magic of mathematics is demonstrated all through this topic. The first section gives an overview of various facets of advanced mathematics, with the following sections dealing in-depth with linear programming and the simplex tableau, the Mandelbrot set, the Fibonacci sequence, the golden ratio/rectangle and complex numbers. Teachers will

find reproducible worksheets and lesson plans in the final section.



Engines

Science and Technology students will find this topic fascinating. The introductory section deals with engines in general and is followed by sections dealing with two and four stroke engines, electric cars, diesel engines, gas turbines, hybrid cars and rotary engines. Worksheets and lesson plans are found in the last section.



Equilibrium processes

Designed for Senior Chemistry classes, this topic covers the following aspects of the chemistry of equilibrium. The first section is a collection of sites which covers the topic in a comprehensive manner. Following that there is a section on Le Chatelier's Principle, sections on the production of ammonia, nitric acid and sulphuric acid; the transport of O₂ and CO₂ in the blood and the pH level of the blood; limestone caves and swimming pool chemistry. The final section contains a wide range of lesson plans for classroom application.



Literature

T.S. Eliot

T.S. Eliot's life and major works are covered in depth here. The initial section contains biographical information and is followed by one

which covers his works in a comprehensive manner. The sections which follow focus on specific works and give students access to critical material. The works covered are *Prufrock and other observations*, *The Waste Land*, *The Hollow Men*, *The Journey of the Magi*, *Ash Wednesday*, *Murder in the Cathedral*, *Four quartets* and *The Cocktail Party*. The section, For Teachers, contains lesson plans and assessment items.



Sylvia Plath 1932-1963

The tragic life of Sylvia Plath is examined in the sites which are contained in the first section. This is followed by critical works on *The Colossus*, *The Bell Jar*, *Ariel*, *Winter Trees*, and *Crossing the water*. The For Teachers contains lesson and unit plans and a critical article.

Ancient and Medieval History

India: Ancient Civilisation

Students are given an overview of the main facets of this vibrant ancient civilisation. After the list of comprehensive sites, there are special sections on the Indus Valley civilisation, art and architecture, the economy, education, politics and government, religions and sacred literature, science and technology, society, warfare, writing and language. Lesson plans are available for teachers in the last section

Mongol Empire

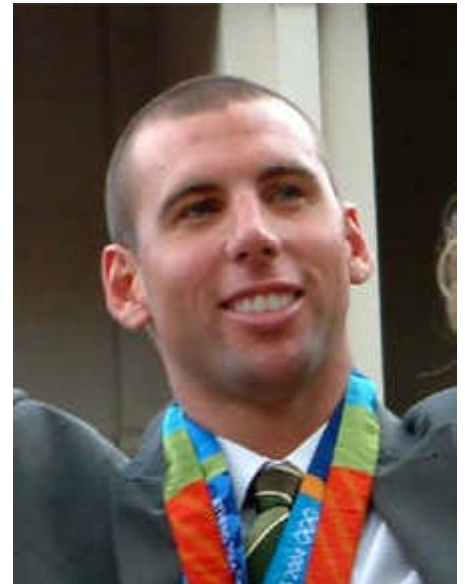
The complex and turbulent time of the Mongol Empire is examined in detail in this topic. Specific aspects covered are the economy, famous people, the way the empire was governed, and its influence and legacy. There are also sections informing students about the way the military was organised and equipped, the place of religion in the society, and social conditions in general. Various rulers who have become household names even to this day are treated, and the section of maps gives students an insight into the way the empire grew and declined under those rulers. Webquests and lesson plans are available for teachers in the final section.

Byzantine Empire

Students will find a wealth of information on the Byzantine civilisation here. The general section covers the period in considerable depth, but specific aspects are highlighted in the sections that follow. The art and culture, economy, government, law and society are explored. The effect of the Crusades is examined and sections are devoted to the emperors and other famous individuals. The military forces of the empire are covered and, of course, the important role of religion is not overlooked. Maps are included to give students a concept of how the empire developed and declined. Lesson plans for teachers are found at the end.

Ottoman Empire

This topic gives students an insight into this fascinating empire whose legacy remains with us today. After the usual list of general sites which cover the topic comprehensively, various sections follow which deal with specific aspects of this civilisation, viz. art and culture, education, famous people, government and society, military, religion, science and technology, sultans and the status of women. There is a section which shows maps of the empire in its various stages of expansion and decline. Teachers will find ideas for lesson plans in the final section.



Australian History

Australia in the 1990s

While not as colourful as some decades of the 20th century in Australia, the 1990s did bring us some dramatic events. The first two sections give a broad view of the state of affairs in Australia and the world in general. Various social aspects are then given coverage, such as crime and the subsequent gun control laws; films, music and sport; advances in Native Title legislation; Prime Ministers and women leaders. The events of some specific years are highlighted, namely the Thredbo landslide in 1997, the peacekeeping force that Australia sent to East Timor led by Peter Cosgrove, and the Republic Referendum of 1999.

New Sections

Legal issues in Australia

- Double jeopardy
- Media ownership
- Privacy and the media

Sports in Australia

- Surfing

Israel

- Israel - Hezbollah conflict 2006

