

## First steps in using technology

These ideas were suggested by David Mitchell of the University College London Institute of Education as good activities for trainee teachers to start with in lessons. They emphasise the geography and can be adapted for many different topics. Continue the table with other ideas as you use them, to keep a record of your use of different applications.

Activity	Purpose (Geographical learning benefit)
<p><b>Using Google Earth:</b> Students track a feature (river source to mouth, a transect through a city, stretch of coastline etc.) on Google Earth, and produce a rich description.</p> <p>See the 'river journey worksheet' from <i>Teaching Geography</i> 1997 as an example.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To put geographical theories (e.g. river changes downstream, urban models, discordant coastlines) to the test in real world</li> <li>• To improve geographical descriptions and develop sense of place and uniqueness of place</li> <li>• To engage curiosity and produce geographical questions/ enquiry</li> </ul>
<p><b>Using website research:</b> Students use pre-determined appropriate websites to research different geographical ideas, and select information to produce a single slide PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>For example, using the 'Discovering Antarctica' website to produce a slide answering the question 'Why is Antarctica important?'. The PowerPoint must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• locate Antarctica</li> <li>• describe the environment of Antarctica and explain why it is so cold</li> <li>• explain the student/nature relationship</li> <li>• suggest an approach for managing Antarctica for the best future.</li> </ul> <p>Rules for the PowerPoint are as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Only one slide allowed.</li> <li>2. No sentences allowed.</li> <li>3. Students may use as many images and words as they like, as long as they are legible and the slide looks presentable.</li> <li>4. Students can explain anything on the slide (poster) to the audience.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop a sense of place through images, sounds, video</li> <li>• To enhance research skills – selection for purpose, using range of sources (visual, statistical, maps etc.) to answer geographical questions</li> <li>• To communicate richer descriptions and clearer explanations</li> </ul>