

NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD GLOBAL SCHOOLS PROJECT



One of the aims of Newcastle of the World is to link young people and schools who live in towns and cities and share our name.

Mo writes: "We have a growing number of schools signed up to our schools link project and have been matching them up. There's room for many more - so please use your own contacts to help us find schools to join in this exciting project. Email us at newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com. And send this page to your local schools please!"

Each participating school is sent an introductory pack with curriculum resources and ideas for making friendship links with their partner school. Each school will learn about their own culture and heritage as well as those of their partner school. Below are examples from the education pack and how it can be applied to studies.



Geography: Pupils investigate, compare and contrast the people, places and environments of their own and partner Newcastle; they start to make links between different places in the world. They find out how people affect the environment and how they are affected by it. This provides a basis for pupils' understanding of global citizenship.

History: Pupils learn about change and continuity in their own area and another part of the world. They make a visit to their own castle or heritage sites with a guided tour from participating heritage officers and/or castle managers. Each class is provided with a collection of small, hand-held cameras or mobile phones and asked to make a short film of their visit to share with their partner school and upload to the portal. They find out about famous people from their country and share their learning.

Literacy: Pupils will listen to or read a story from their own country and one chosen by their partner school. Books and stories will be recommended and exchanged. They will be supported by their teachers to develop an understanding and appreciation of fiction from at least two places in the world. Pupils will be encouraged to write a piece of (non-fiction) text which advertises their Newcastle. This can be supplemented by pictures and photos.

Maths: Each Newcastle school researches data on their own Newcastle to share with their partners. Pupils learn to compare the data and to compile statistics using simple lists, graphs and charts. They can learn to sort, classify and organise information. Older pupils can be encouraged to interpret data and use ICT where appropriate and compare demographics, and geographical data.

ICT: Pupils use the internet to research their own Newcastle and about their partner school. They learn to share and exchange information in a variety of mediums: email, twitter, facebook, intranet (online portal) and how to upload work such as videos, pictures, text and musical compositions.

Religious Education: Pupils find out about the religious beliefs in the various Newcastles around the world. They explore the major faiths – Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism and Islam - name and explore a range of celebrations, worship and rituals; noting similarities where appropriate. Teachers may wish to invite pupils to reflect on how spiritual and moral values relate to their own behaviour.

Citizenship: An opportunity to examine the differences and similarities between Newcastles; to examine their own place in the world and how we are dependent upon others. Pupils learn to identify and respect differences and similarities between people.

Art & Design: Pupils learn about the role of art and craft in their own place and that of their partner school. They will be encouraged to record first-hand observations, experience and imagination using art, design and artefacts, producing work that can be shared and exhibited with others.



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ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD



In 1998 the Mayor of Shinshiro in Japan took the initiative to invite representatives of seven "Newcastles" to his city. They have continued to meet every two years – in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (Indiana/Pennsylvania) in 2002, South Africa 2004 & 2010, Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK) in 2006, Neuburg an der Donau, Germany in 2008, Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in 2012 and most recently Nové Hradky in the Czech Republic in 2014. We next meet in September 2016 in Newcastle, Ontario, Canada.

The aim of the Newcastles alliance is to foster friendship and collaboration, and to share and enjoy each others' heritage and culture. Each gathering has taken a discussion theme to ensure practical, usable outcomes, also involving our young people.