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# EARTHLEARNINGIDEA - UPDATE

## **‘I know it’s Monday when a new Earthlearningidea appears’ - quote from a supporter in India**

[www.earthlearningidea.com](http://www.earthlearningidea.com)

Earthlearningidea was set up for the International Year of Planet Earth with the intention of reaching as many children throughout the world as possible, particularly those who suffer from lack of resources and from lack of thought-provoking teaching. Our aim is to foster a better knowledge of our natural world and how it works, encouraging the joy of knowledge about the Earth in those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to receive it.

How can this be done? We have developed a website for the use of teacher trainers and teachers of Earth science/geography across the globe –. This provides educational resources that will promote interactive teaching and the development of investigational and thinking skills, whilst provoking educational debate. All the activities assume minimal equipment and resources. Further details of our objectives may be found on:

<http://earthlearningidea.pbwiki.com/About%20Us>

Earth-related activities are published every Monday evening in both English and Spanish. Gradually, they are also being translated into Norwegian and soon they will appear in Italian and Tamil. Some activities have video demon-

strations and, where the activity has resulted in comments from teachers, these have been published as ‘extension’ ideas. Our first sample activity was published last June followed by four more in 2007. Since the beginning of 2008, we have been publishing an activity every Monday and will continue to do so until the end of December this year. So far we have published activities ranging from ‘The Himalayas in 30 seconds’, ‘A tsunami through the window’, ‘Why does soil get washed away?’ to ‘How to weigh a dinosaur’. All our activities are free to download from our website.

As we have minimal funding for this project, we are using free internet software, blogger, wiki and, more recently, squidoo. The blog, <http://earthlearningidea.blogspot.com>, by June 25th, had recorded 5825 visits and had reached 98 countries. The darker the shading on the map, the more visits to the site.

We should like to increase the numbers of people using our activities in all countries, especially those shown in pale shading on the map. Please help us by sending us contact details of any teacher trainer establishments that you know and details of any schools in which you think our activities would be useful. Our email address is [info@earthlearningidea.com](mailto:info@earthlearningidea.com).

In this way we can spread Earthlearningideas across the globe.

### **The Earthlearningidea team**

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