

AIM

The ATLAS web site (www.ucl.ac.uk/atlas) is intended to encourage students to find out more about languages and cultures they may not be studying at school. In addition, it is meant to raise their awareness of the benefits of learning another language and to indicate some progression and career routes. It is aimed at year 9, though other year groups will find it useful.

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE

In class (using computers)

Students can be asked, singly or in small groups to find the answers to the questions in the quizzes (see attached). The quizzes can be photo-copied and distributed or the teacher may wish to run an event like a competitive “pub” quiz. Another idea is to set them the task of finding unusual sayings in as many languages as they can (e.g. the Danish expression “to step in the spinach”) or information about a football team in 10 countries.

In addition, each language has “Hot Potato” exercises which students can attempt.

Individual study

Students may be asked to do research on a country, its language and culture, for a presentation to give to the class or it may help in providing materials and links for GCSE, AS and A level topics. Apart from its own content, the web site has links to other sources of information.

Language Café

A PowerPoint may be made, using clips and information from the ATLAS web site projected on to a wall as a background to a Language Café or similar event.

European Day of Languages

On the European Day of Languages in September, the site may be used for a range of activities similar to those above.

Careers Events and Parents’ Evenings

Several schools have set up a computer at a Careers or Parents Evening and used the site as a source of information, especially the careers pages, for advisors, parents and students. In particular it is recommended that the live link to an employment agency site (in this case the Reed agency) is a useful way of raising awareness of the potential careers for language students. Go to “For you” > Where do you want to go tomorrow? > www.reed.co.uk and enter any language in the search box for a list of the 100 or so jobs available for that language.

Progression Advice

The site has been used as a resource for careers advisors or a tutors advising on options and progression choices (year 9 to year 10; year 11 to year 12, Year 13 to university). It may be used to support the establishing of a language option in school. For example if the school offers Japanese, students might like to look at the ATLAS site Japanese pages to get some idea of what the language is like and the excitement of learning about the culture.

Community and supplementary schools

The site may be used for students and teachers wishing to start to explore heritage languages