

USEFUL & FREE GEOGRAPHY INTERNET SITES

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Wisconsin State Teachers' Conference

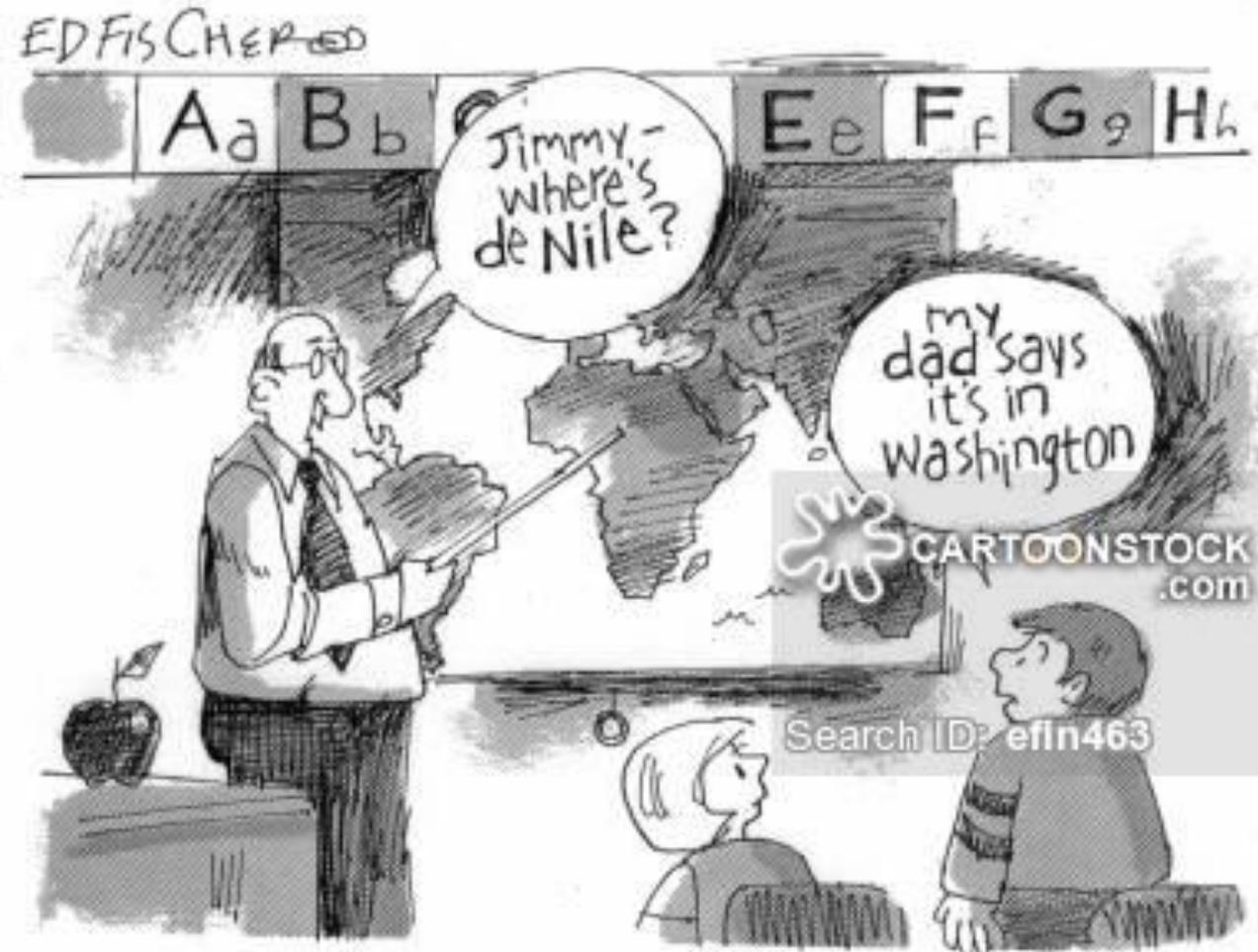
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EXPERIENCE ANY FRUSTRATING TEACHING GEOGRAPHY?



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WHY IS TEACHING GEOGRAPHY SO FRUSTRATING?

- ▶ *Think back to your grade school/high school years: How did you study geography? How do you study geography in your classrooms today?*
- ▶ *Students, generally, have less interest in subjects unless you can make it fun and relate to them.*
- ▶ *In the 21st Century, we have unlimited access to information using the internet to help us relate geography to our students.*
- ▶ *Today, we will look at the study of location & place in geography by using internet sites as a tool to help you teach.*
- ▶ *The items shown today SHOULD NOT be used as your sole basis for teaching geography; rather they should be used a resource.*

SITE #1: LIZARDPOINT.COM

- ▶ Gives a map & name: You must click the correct area.
- ▶ Gives you points based upon how many you identify correctly.
- ▶ Different levels of testing:

Study: Names are given on the area / You click the area to learn more about it.

Practice: Names are off the area / You have three chances to click the correct area / More points are given the fewer tries it takes to identify correct area / Can click a help button for assistance.

Test: You have three chances to click the correct area / More points are given the fewer tries it takes to identify correct area / No helps are available.

Strict Test: Only get one chance to answer correctly / No helps are available.

- ▶ Can study the entire world, different continents, or different countries.

SITE #1: LIZARDPOINT.COM

- ▶ *Test your knowledge in many different areas of land (states, countries, capitals, provinces, major cities).*
- ▶ *Test your knowledge in other geographical areas (bodies of water, rivers, tourist destinations, flags, geophysical regions, US governors).*
- ▶ *Test your knowledge in other academic areas (world leaders, famous artists, artistic works, art definitions, math online work, math worksheets, using money, etc).*
- ▶ *Does not emphasize spelling.*
- ▶ *Can set the map to different colors or event have the entire map one color.*
- ▶ *This website is best when the students have some background knowledge of the area.*
- ▶ *You can join the website to experience more features but you do not have to have an account to use the site. (I've never done that so I couldn't tell you the benefits of joining). 😊*

SITE #2: SHEPPARDSOFTWARE.COM

- ▶ Breaks up the globe into continents, countries, capitals & landscapes.
- ▶ Calculates the percentage correct and shows how long it took to take the quiz.
- ▶ Different levels of learning based upon student's ability (not all have the same types of levels)

Tutorial: Click on the area, it displays and says the name of the area. It also gives some general information about the area. You click the area again to remove the name.

Beginner: Gives the name and only a small region in the country to choose. Once the small region is filled, a new small region will be revealed. Map outlines are given.

Intermediate: Drag the land area onto a small region of the country. No outlines are given.

Expert: Drag the land area onto the whole country. No outlines are given up the dragged areas remain.

Cartographer: Click on the correct land area from who whole country. No outlines given up clicked areas remains.

Cartographer Plus: Enter the first three letters of highlighted area. Area remains when identified.

SITE #2: SHEPPARDSOFTWARE.COM

Explorer: Drag area onto the map. No outlines are given. Area disappears when identified.

Explorer Plus: Type first three letters of area with no outlines given. Area stays when identified.

Geographer: Drag and rotate the area onto a map. No outlines are given. Area disappears when identified.

Geographer Plus: Drag, rotate, and resize the area onto a map. No outlines are given. Area disappears when Identified.

- ▶ ***This site is good for students with little/no background knowledge.***
- ▶ ***Does not emphasize spelling, other than the 1st three letters.***
- ▶ ***Lots of other information to learn (science, health, chemistry, language arts, etc.) but I have never used any of them. 😊***

SITE #3: SPORCLE.COM

- ▶ *Website made entirely on timed quizzes on any subject manner (school subjects to pop culture).*
- ▶ *Each quiz is timed differently. You can “give up” after 7 seconds, revealing all the answers.*
- ▶ *You can pause the timer if needed. Page will go blank during the pause.*
- ▶ *Does keep track of the percentage you got right.*
- ▶ *You do need to know how to spell the answers correctly or they do not count.*
- ▶ *Does not emphasize capital letters.*
- ▶ *Make sure to monitor students as quizzes are numerous.*

SITE #3: SPORCLE.COM

- ▶ *You can join as a member or enjoy the quizzes for free. Members can even create quizzes subject to approval from the website.*
- ▶ *Members can also challenge other members to compete for the best times.*
- ▶ *Since the time limit goes down to zero, you have to remind your students to subtract the time remaining from the start time to get their official time.*
- ▶ *There is a comments section at the bottom but they are hidden unless you click to reveal them. I'd tell students to not look at those comments. 😊*

SITE #4: DUCKSTERS.COM

- ▶ *Website can be used for U.S. & World History as well.*
- ▶ *Has games to play to check for understanding.*
- ▶ *Print off coloring maps for students to create.*
- ▶ *Other subjects available (science, math)*
- ▶ *Even has a jokes section (knock, knock jokes included) 😊*

SITE #5: WORLD-GEOGRAPHY-GAMES.COM

- ▶ *Great site for learning countries, capitals & flags.*
- ▶ *Should have some background knowledge before trying.*
- ▶ *Basically click the area until you get the right answer.*
- ▶ *Does have a “give up” feature.*
- ▶ *Tests on other subjects, such as:*
 - Continents, Atmosphere, Flags, Oceans, Seas, Rivers, Mountains, Deserts, Volcanoes, Lakes, Islands, Metropolitan areas, etc) 😊*

SITE #6: PLACESPOTTING.COM

- ▶ *Just starting using this site.*
- ▶ *Use either the map or satellite to find a single image on the globe. You have to have the exact latitude and longitude.*
- ▶ *They usually give you hints to narrow down your search (some do not).*
- ▶ *Can create an account and create your own quiz.*
- ▶ *People from all over the world create quizzes, so some might not be in English. 😊*

**DO YOU USE ANY WEBSITES/RESOURCES IN YOUR
CLASSROOM?**

*Feel free to contact me with any
suggestions:*

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*Thanks for coming to my sectional!
Enjoy a Dum-Dum on your way out!!*

SOURCES

- ▶ www.lizardpoint.com
 - ▶ www.shepphardsoftware.com
 - ▶ www.sporcle.com
 - ▶ www.ducksters.com
 - ▶ www.world-geography-games.com
 - ▶ www.placespotting.com
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