

Using mobile phones and electric learning environment in field studies (for example exploring landforms created by continental glaciation)

Mari Lehesvirta and Sirpa Tarvainen

Hyvinkään Sveitsin lukio, Teerimäenkatu 2-4, 05900 Hyvinkää, Finland

The nearby forest area of our upper secondary school is a very good place to witness many of the landforms created by continental glaciation. We use an electric learning environment called peda.net where we have the books and the interactive tasks in geography. It is possible for student to do the tasks by mobile phone so we can go and observe the nature outdoors. We have given the students a map with places he/she should find nearby. Each of the points represents some geologic features such as terminal moraine, esker, kettle hole and erratic blocks. We ask the students to deduce what the geologic features in the map are based on their information, directions of the compass and how the place looks like. From the peda.net they also find links to additional information concerning each place and question. They also have to take photos of those places and check also the coordinates. The photos and the writings should be returned to peda.net by mobile phone. This method helps the learning by discovering and doing.

The mobile phones are good tools in different kind of field studies in geography. They can also be used for example measuring the decibels of the environment and marking them on the map. There are also apps available for observing the stars.