



Mapping the world news

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Geography is a very pleasant subject to teach as everything that happens in the world is related to it. In my classes for 7th-9th grade students (age 13-16) I start every lesson by asking what has been in the news. We search the news in the internet and start by placing the events on a Google map. Then we look into what has happened. We discuss and learn about the phenomena. We divide the news into two categories: natural and cultural and mark them in different colors on the map on the classroom wall. Very often we study and learn about the phenomenon in question after seeing it in the news. For example, when there has been an earthquake, we remind ourselves what causes them, why they occur in the area in question etc. If there is a presidential election somewhere, we find information about the country and its geography, history etc.

I try to make studying Geography as fun and exciting as possible. With my students I have taken part in some citizen science projects, visited town planning unit, examined snow depth, defined rocks and minerals and made ice age formations with playdough. We use many online materials to find information and to create maps and presentations. We are also in co-operation with many teachers and students in other European countries. Hopefully more international partners will arise during this meeting.