

Description of lesson activity

Grade level: the lesson is designed for the second year of Dutch secondary education (12-14 year olds) of the pre-university track. The lesson is part of a geography class (mandatory)

Overview of the activity: Students will learn about their local environment by identifying several places that play key roles in their lives and map these.

Learning outcomes: Students will be able to identify their most frequented places (objective 1) and identify parts of the places they like most (objective 2).

Reasons for changing and improving the activity: Students find it hard to describe their most frequented places with data. Currently they often use anecdotal evidence to support their claims.

Technology implemented

Name of technology: Pinterest/Foursquare

Why this technology: Pinterest will allow students to easily record the places they frequent the most and publish them. Foursquare will allow students to track their movements and quantify the visits they made over the course of the assignment at various places.

How will this enable students reach their learning goals: Students will be able to quantify their visits as well as easily post pictures from their favorite places and publish them for other students and the teacher to access. This can spark conversations about why certain places are more frequented than others.

Challenges: The main challenge here is the requirement for mobile devices. Our students do not all have a smart phone or tablet which is needed to check in at locations with Foursquare. Furthermore, students might forget to check in at places which can skew their results.

Assessment

Assessment of student work: Students will be assessed on their (private) Pinterest page they develop as part of this exercise. Grading is based on the display of data and pictures of the places students like most of their most frequented places.

Assessment of the activity: The activity will be assessed by means of a questionnaire that the student will answer after the activity is completed. To ensure students fill out the questionnaire a small percentage of credit (3%) will be awarded for this.