

## **Oddizzi - Perspectives from the Geographical Association - August 2014.**

"Having Oddizzi's range of content from a variety of sources and presented in a number of ways does make lesson planning an interesting experience. The only problem, but it's a fun one, is getting immersed in the materials and losing yourself in the journey"

**John Lyon, Programme Manager, The Geographical Association**

**Independent Review of Oddizzi.com – Jessica Hill, Consultant to the Geographical Association, Primary Geography Specialist.**

### **Summary**

As a primary geography specialist I am thrilled to have access to Oddizzi. I have used the resource widely across KS2 within my own setting for teaching and supporting teachers in their planning and delivery of outstanding geography lessons. I have also used it as a tool when delivering inset across our alliance schools and for geographical association courses which I have facilitated.

I find Oddizzi an invaluable resource as the content complements key messages from the primary national curriculum. I have studied the content of Oddizzi in depth and have cross referenced the content to the objectives of the new national curriculum. Oddizzi offers a user friendly resource to pupils and teachers and the content is pitched at a level appropriate enough to challenge, engage and more importantly enthuse pupils about geography.

As a keen geographer I used to dread wading through dated resources and come up with ways to present information in a way that would portray the world in a true manner. However Oddizzi has changed that for me. The content is presented in a number of ways from a number of sources and using this in school has helped our pupils to foster a love and understanding of geography. Children need to develop a level understanding of the world. They need to know about diversity across the globe and about how and why places are changing. This resource is one I would not be without.

The addition of classpals is one which the pupils value. They enjoy talking with peers from other places far and wide. They like to ask questions about places and classpals provides a safe platform in which they can exercise these skills. It also is a time for provoking thought about their own locality and how they can showcase it to people who have never visited before. In this sense I have found using classpals often encourages pupils to see things in their local areas which they have never noticed before.

### **Key Strengths in Oddizzi**

- The range of coverage. It is well matched to the new national curriculum and can support other agendas, GLP, send my friend to school etc
- The depth of the content. It is informative for pupils yet does not overload them with information
- The range of styles in which information is presented: photos, videos, games etc
- The visual appeal
- Odd an Izzie appeal to the pupils and are used consistently throughout the site.
- The support from Oddizzi staff. They are always happy to help.
- Resources regularly emailed out to school. They can assist in keeping geography visible in schools, especially in terms when the topic may not have a geography focus
- The fact it is regularly updated and so it is appealing and relevant
- The development of materials to support teachers in seeing where Oddizzi can support whole units of work.

