

InThinking Geography Workshop

For Experienced IBDP Teachers

Berlin, Germany

Friday 5th - Sunday 7th March 2010

Workshop Leader: Richard Allaway

Overview

This will be a ten session workshop supporting experienced IBDP Geography teachers with the final stages of the 'old' syllabus and opening stages of the 'new' - as the two overlap for this academic year. The 'new' 2009-2017 syllabus will be the main focus of this workshop. It will have been being taught for six months so time to reflect upon the issues that have arisen and the successes experienced. Sharing will be key to this workshop plus additional support on Internal Assessment, Geography Extended Essays and Theory of Knowledge.

Agenda

Session 1 - Welcome, Introductions, Aims and using the Learner Profile

Welcome and introductions. How does the IB Learner Profile fit with 'Geographers'? How should we be using the IB Learner Profile as an aid to structuring our courses and coaching our students? How do we address preparing students for the IB Geography programme? Workshops provide a valuable opportunity to network. Time will be spent building a network of experienced IB Geographers to offer support for each other and possible development projects.

Session 2 - Teaching and Assessing IB Geography?

Suggestions on how to structure the two year course. How do we approach a new unit? Using the IB Geography assessment criteria to benefit your students? What does a level 7 extended exam question response look like, in our opinion? How do you educate your students to structure an answer to an extended response question? An opportunity to mark and discuss some exam responses.

Session 3 - The Core

Most people will have started teaching the Core. Time to reflect on the issues and the successes so far. Which case studies are educators using? How are we dealing with using case studies 'chosen from a limited number of countries (between three and five) of contrasting levels of development'? What content is 'completely new' and how are we resourcing it?

Session 4 - The Higher Level Extension

Paper 3 - the new exam. How are people incorporating the necessary teaching into their courses? Time will be spent collaboratively structuring and resourcing this section of the IB Geography syllabus.

Session 5 - The Optional Themes

Which Optional Themes are educators choosing? What is influencing these decisions? How are people resourcing the content? Are we maintaining a balance between physical and human Geography to benefit our students?

Session 6 - Internal Assessment

This session will focus on the new Geography Internal Assessment and how it differs from the existing syllabus. What titles do people plan to use? How can we best support our students in completing their Internal Assessments without doing too much? An opportunity to do some standardised marking.

Session 7 - Teaching Approaches for IB Geography

Not intended to be a return to teaching college but more a review of teaching methods that have worked in the classroom. There is a lot of content in the IB Geography syllabus - how can we approach teaching it in a engaging and efficient manner?

Session 8 - Geography, Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essays

Input from Dr. Richard van de Lagemaat focusing upon incorporating Theory of Knowledge themes into IB Geography classroom teaching. How do we best support those lucky students who chose to do their Extended Essay in Geography?

Session 9 - Information and Communication Technology Opportunities for IB Geography Teachers

This session will be based around '45 Slides, 45 ICT Ideas for IB Geography Teachers in 45 Minutes' exploring a whole host of Information and Communication Technologies to aid you as an educator and support the learning of your students. The remainder of the session will focus on the social bookmarking service Diigo as a tool for sharing, reviewing, annotating and finding resources. Participants will come away from this session with ideas about how to take their teaching of IB Geography forward through a range of ICT and classroom based ideas.

Session 10 - Where do we go from here?

Summary and review session looking at support available for IB Geography teachers via the 'Online IB Geography Community'. Reflecting upon the network created in Session 1 and ideas for developing projects. A final opportunity to share good IB Geography practice. By the end of this session participants will have a digital copy of all the programme of studies, assessments etc that have been produced during the workshop.