

A PARTNER SCHOOL'S VIEW

"In my opinion yTeach should be reviewed by all practicing teachers who want to inject ICT into their lessons"

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Introduction

yTeach is designed for teaching and learning using interactive ICT. On first seeing the product, I was immediately engaged. Feedback from students has been very positive. I have been able to find an appropriate Science resource for any topic covered this term at Key Stage 3. **In many cases, the resources take students from basic understanding toward higher thinking.**

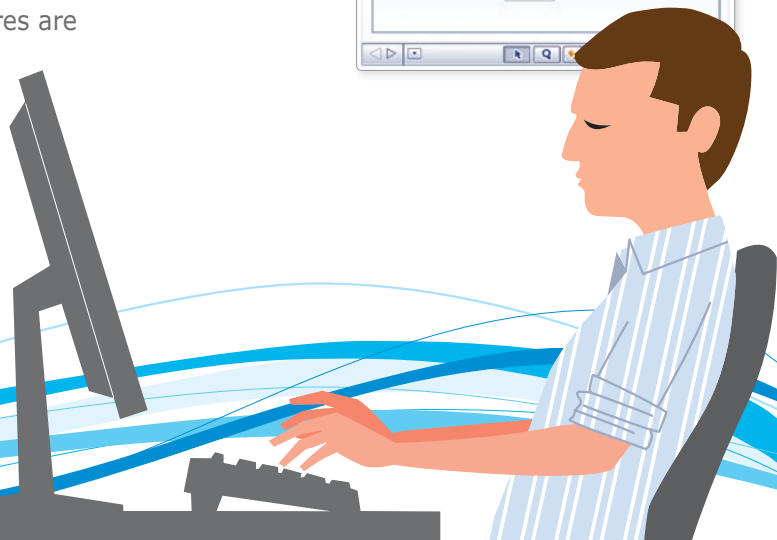
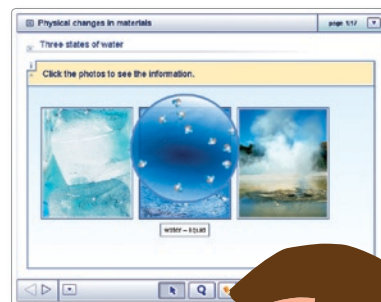
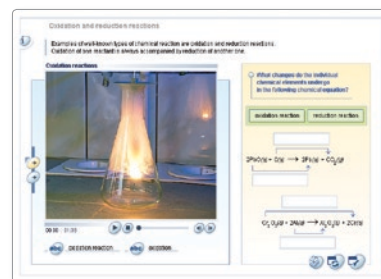
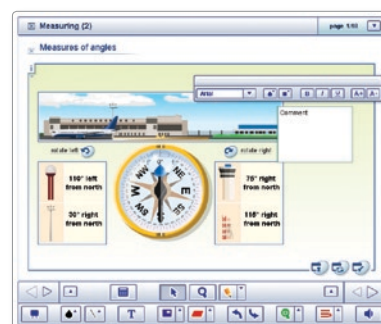
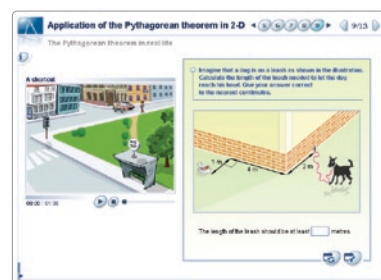
A data projector has enabled whole class use of yTeach. Students have worked individually on assignments using yLearn.co.uk, the sister site. The science content compliments the new skills-based KS3 curriculum. In addition, there is material available for KS3, KS4 and A level which can be browsed by Resources, QCA structure, AQA structure or by Categories. The resources match the QCA structure. The terminology and detail for KS4 and above must be previewed to ensure tight matching to the chosen syllabus. (Key terminology and concepts may differ between exam boards.) I have found some marvellous resources available for my students.

Teaching

One of the strengths of yTeach – from the teacher's point of view – is the ability to search easily for resources. They are matched to a breakdown of the curriculum and can be previewed from thumbnails. It rapidly becomes apparent that a huge variety of resources exists to enable different styles of learning.

yTeach understands the heavy demands placed on the teacher. After registration, the user can build playlists and assignments from the searchable resources. It then becomes easy to set up yTeach for whole class teaching and learning. The resources can be used with a data projector or whiteboard. The great variety of interactive resources engages the pupils in the lesson: eg. visual drag and drop to movie clips, animations and short quizzes. The pupils can interact with the resources and see the actions and outcomes of their own and peer choices.

Another strength of yTeach is the ability to set assignments for personalised learning or homework. Following the instructions on the website, the teacher can select a resource and set it as an assignment. The assignment is given a unique access code. The pupil can then work through the assignment at home through yLearn.co.uk. They must have the access code and have a suitable computer with the necessary technical requirements. Scores are recorded in an online mark book which can be accessed from yTeach. (It would be helpful if the class set of marks could be downloaded, as this could then be included in the teacher's own mark book.)





Learning

My pupils have thoroughly enjoyed accessing the assignments. They appreciated the high quality of sound, graphics and animations. Good linking of resources developed topic understanding. Short, varied activities culminate with simple and enjoyable assessments. The cartoon animation, given as a 'reward' for completing a set of activities, is the icing on the cake for KS3 pupils! **This kind of attention to detail identifies yTeach as a quality learning resource.**

As the students are the main users of this collection of multimedia resources, it is only appropriate that their feedback is considered. After my Y7 group used an assignment on cells, they were surveyed. A representative sample of their comments is given below.

Many pupils stated benefits of using yTeach:

"It's a really good and a fun way to do science"

"I wanted to do it"

"It lets you work at your own pace"

"You can learn by doing the questions"

"Lots of different things to do so it's more interesting"

"More fun and easier to remember"

"Quicker than writing out by hand"

"Pictures and sound helped me remember things"

"Little animations were great!"

The overwhelming majority of my class found it easy to access assignments:

"I found yLearn.co.uk very easy to use"

"Easy to use and follow"

"Easy to use because it is clearly marked"

In later discussion, it became apparent that the pupils could 'look back' and 'improve' their score which **helped to promote personalised learning.**

One student had problems accessing the internet at home and one did not have sound needed for the assignment. These are technical problems for any ICT online resource.

Summary

yTeach is a modern source of ready made ICT activities for Science and Mathematics. It uses excellent graphics and multimedia tools, navigation is clear and assignments are based on a consistent layout for the learner. My students have found the work engaging. **The tasks are accessible and consolidate learning in an interesting way.** Activities can be downloaded to a VLE or used online via yTeach.co.uk and yLearn.co.uk.

Additionally, **there is great flexibility in purchasing these quality resources** either individually - to focus on areas that need support (due to misconceptions, lack of resources or difficulty of teaching) - or whole packages for a particular Key Stage. In my opinion yTeach should be reviewed by all practicing teachers who want to inject ICT into their lessons.

Tony Stevens has been teaching KS3 and KS4 Science for over 20 years. **Trinity School and Performing Arts College** is a community comprehensive based in Newbury with almost 1000 students between the ages of 11-18.



What is yTeach.co.uk?

yTeach.co.uk is a brand new service packed with 30,000 fantastic interactive resources for Science and Maths. To find out more, please visit www.yteach.co.uk or email us at info@yteach.co.uk. Register now to enjoy 30 days free trial access to all 30,000 interactive Maths and Science resources.

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