

Making links between Primary and Secondary

"Yes!" "No!" "Sí!" "It's Mayan" "No it's Inca!" A debate at an archaeological society, performed in a gymnasium? In a school? Teachers are causing arguments about ancient civilizations. "Well, do you know what a quipu is? Is it Mayan Or Inca?"

As a part of our continuing Bridge Topic to make Primary pupils familiar with the work and teachers they will meet in ESO, teachers from Vasco de la Zarza and Comuneros de Castilla organised a gymkhana for ESO I and Year 6 of Primary to meet for this purpose.

Both classes prepared activities for the others to do at a joint workshop in mixed teams of secondary and primary pupils. All the activities were to be carried out only in English at the gymkhana with each team responsible for instructing the players, in English. The chosen topic was the discovery of America and covered historical characters, events, the study of three ancient civilizations and geographical facts using maps and how to use ships in the past and now. Since most of the pupils and teachers had never prepared anything like this before, it involved a lot of extra preparation by the teachers and many classes on the history, geography and science before the workshop.

The two classes formed eleven mixed teams with a choice of fifteen activities so everyone was kept busy. Eventually two teams emerged as having completed the most activities with the best scores of correct answers and were duly rewarded with Easter chocolate!

The relationship between the classes and the team members were not left to chance. Early in the year they started a penfriend correspondence with a member of their team in the other class which continued to the end of the year.

In addition to the gymkhana, the Bridge Topic also had a science topic on a local environment. This started with a series of lessons, given by the ESO Secondary teacher, in the Primary 6 about *Park Life* and this led to a survey of a local park where pupils had to fill in the corresponding tree card. The work will continue in secondary school with identification of the examples of plants and animals, then classifying them in Taxonomy! This topic also had a geography focus as the group had to find their way around the park using a map they had prepared in Geography classes given by their future geography teacher.

The third link was forged through literacy. Previous groups of secondary transfer pupils had taken their class novels to the secondary school, but this year the book came the other way!

It was proposed to study the well-known story of *"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"* by CS Lewis in ESO I. This is available in several editions, some new ones based on the recent film, and playscripts. The story was read as a serial to the children and a lesson from their future secondary English teacher was given on the author's biography.

All the threads: Science, History, Geography and Literacy start in Primary 6 and continue in ESO I next year.

Let us work towards stronger links!!!