 Mapping Festivals

Lesson 5: Mud Glorious Mud!

Key ideas:
a) Flooding can affect major events such as music festivals.
b) Flood maps can be used to assess the flood risk for potential festivals.

Starter activity:
Flood!
The starter resource presents students with images of Glastonbury in 2005 and 2007, when heavy rain and flash floods created rivers and mud-baths through the site. The resource has been provided as a WORD document which can be printed and distributed and as a PowerPoint presentation which can be projected onto the board at the front.

Their first task is to imagine that each picture is being used in a newspaper article and they must write a caption to go with each one – this should summarize what it shows, in a short, snappy and catchy sentence.

Secondly, they should imagine they are the person sitting on the deck chair, in the tent as the water flows through and write a short paragraph, from his point of view, saying what he's thinking and feeling.

Some students could be selected to read their captions and/or paragraphs.

Main activity:
Flood mapping
Introduce briefly the role of the Environment Agency (there is more information on the fact sheet!) Guide them to the 'what's in your back yard?' section of the Environment Agency website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

It will be easier to go through the process of finding the flood map for the Glastonbury Festival site as a class. Click on the 'flood risk' icon. On the next page, you must enter the postcode for Glastonbury Festival – NA4 4BY – into the 'search' box and click 'search'. When the map appears, zoom right in to 1:20,000.

Hand out the 'flood map – main activity resource' sheets and ask students to compare what they can see on the flood map with the map they have, of the festival site, on the sheet. As a class, discuss the risk of flooding presented on the flood map and write a 'flood risk report' for the festival. Students write this onto their sheet next to the map.

On the activity sheet, students are provided with a series of other maps for festival sites in the UK. Using the postcodes provided, they should use the 'flood map' tool on the Environment Agency website to find a flood risk map for each. Students then write a 'flood risk report' in the same way as that done together for Glastonbury. In all, six festival maps have been provided – the number 'investigated' could be adapted for more/less able students.

Encourage them to be precise in their reports – they should describe the likelihood of flooding, the possible extent of flooding and the areas of the festival site which are most likely to be affected.

Plenary:
Flood Reports
Taking each festival in turn, individual students can be selected to read their 'flood reports'. If possible, display the flood map on the board, for the class to see together and discuss the 'report' for each site, so that students can amend their reports as you go.

The lesson could be finished by asking students which site is *most at risk* and which site is *least at risk* from the festivals they've looked at or even to 'rank' the six sites from most at risk to least at risk.