

Junior FLOODsite A website for secondary schools



FLOODsite Task 29 has produced:

- A website designed to make scientific knowledge available to secondary school children. This is currently available in English and Dutch.

The website is intended for:

- Students in their final years at secondary school;
- Secondary school teachers; and
- Anyone interested in seeing information about flood risk presented in an accessible, simple and stimulating format.

Where to find the website:

- <http://www.floodsite.net/juniorfloodsite/>

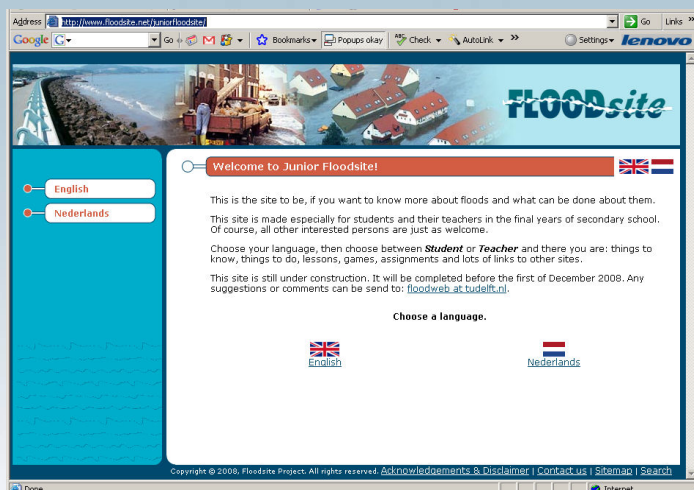


Fig. 1. Welcome page of website

In Brief

FLOODsite Task 29 was tasked with making scientific knowledge regarding flooding and flood risk available to secondary school children across the whole of Europe.

It was decided that a website would be the most effective medium for this knowledge and, after substantial consultation with students and teachers, the following features are included on the website:

- Things to know – information on: flood risk in Europe; climate change; hurricane Katrina; risk, probability, consequences and measures; flood types and hydrology.
- Quizzes – fun ways to test your knowledge of “the things to know”.
- Games - downloadable games on evacuation and flood risk management and links to other sites for further games.
- Assignments – geography, water storage, make your own virtual tour, role-playing, debate, essay.
- Virtual tour around Europe taking you to significant places, giving information on types of flooding, flood events, their consequences and some protective measures.
- Lesson themes – to facilitate teachers the elements have been grouped around three themes: flood risks and management, flood types and hydrology, forming an opinion and debating about flood risks.

Example website features

The virtual tour is a tool for locating real-life flooding problems closer to home. There are ten locations across Europe to view that have experienced flash flooding (such as Boscastle, UK), urban flooding, river flooding or tidal/coastal storm surges.

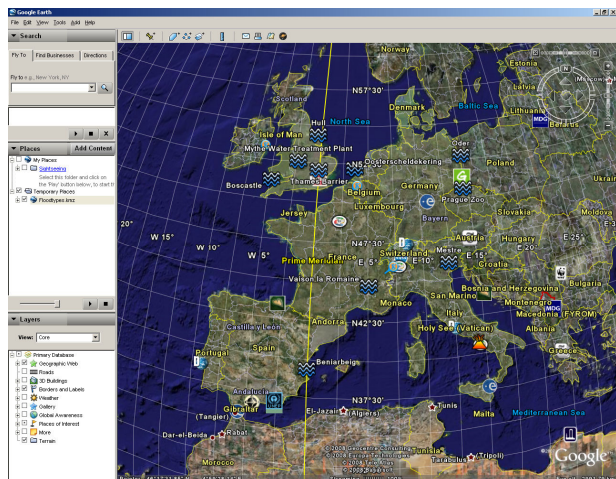


Fig 2. Virtual tour Europe-wide view

Boscastle

Boscastle is a small village in the Valency valley in England. The slopes of the valley are steep and the river channel is narrow. After a few wet weeks there was a fine hot morning the 16th of August 2004, but in the afternoon a thunderstorm hit the area. It rained about 200mm that day. Within a few hours the water level of the Valency rose to extreme heights. The water spilled over the banks with great speed, taking cars and trees with it.

Property was destroyed. Roads were blocked. People had to take refuge in higher parts of the village or on the roof of their house. About a 100 people were lifted out of their houses by rescue teams in helicopters. Eight hours after the start of the flood the river was back at its usual level.



Fig 3. Example of information available at a flooding location – Boscastle

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Fig. 4. View of flooding location - Boscastle

The online quizzes are a fun way to check whether the information on the website regarding hydrology and flood types has been understood.



Fig. 5. Flood types quiz

The FLOODsite project

FLOODsite is an interdisciplinary project integrating expertise from physical, environmental and social sciences, as well as spatial planning and management. The project has over 30 research tasks across seven themes, including pilot applications in Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK. The EC has identified FLOODsite as one of its contributions to the European Action on flood risk management. Further details can be obtained as follows:

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 Website www.floodsite.net