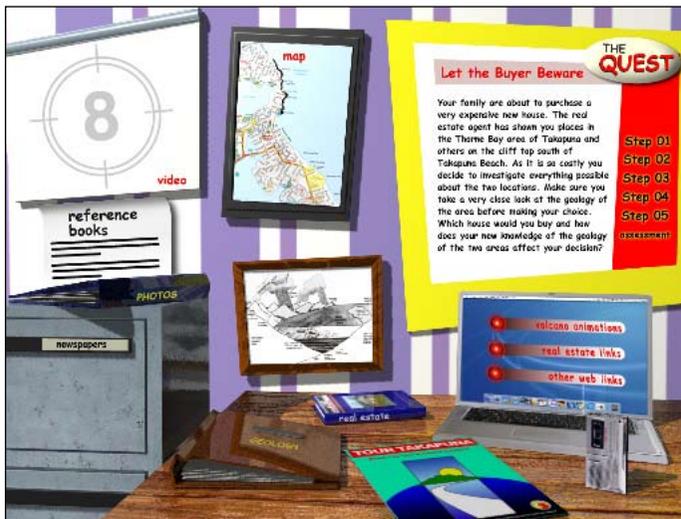




Let the Buyer Beware!

Scenario

Your family is about to purchase a very expensive new home. The real estate agent has shown you homes in the Thorne Bay area, Takapuna and others on the cliff top south of Takapuna Beach. As it is so costly you decide to investigate everything possible about the two locations. Make sure you take a very close look at the geology of the area before making your choice. Which house would you buy and how does your new knowledge of the geology of these two areas affect your decision?



Exploratory Environment

Parent's Quest Guide No.1

Dear Parents

We are about to start a new science Quest called 'Let the Buyer Beware!' This unit of work has been developed here at Birkdale Intermediate. Our students work in pairs to answer the question posed in the scenario.

They search a multimedia resource called a Quest, listening to interviews, reading articles, viewing animations. The Quest is used to teach the 'Planet Earth and Beyond' section of the National Science Curriculum. Our students collect and use evidence to describe the geological history of the North Shore, concentrating on our volcanoes and coastal sedimentary cliffs.

The students are being asked to choose a house and explain the choice with regard to their knowledge of North Shore geology.

Ways in which you could support your child during this study:

- Visit the Auckland War Memorial Museum and look at their 'Volcanoes' section.
- Visit volcanoes in other parts of Auckland, One Tree Hill, Mt Eden and Mt Wellington give good views out over Auckland's volcanic field.
- Ask the public library for a copy of the children's book 'Under the Mountain' by Maurice Gee.
- Obtain a copy of 'Fountains of Fire' by Geoffrey J. Cox. You might like to visit some of the interesting places around Auckland mentioned in this book. It's an easy read and the illustrations and diagrams really bring the geology to life.
- If you are adventurous you might like to make a trip out to the Ihumatao fossil forest in Mangere, A forest was knocked over when the Maungataketake volcano erupted 20,000 years ago. It is at the end of Renton Road off Ihumatao Road, south of Mangere Bridge. Remember to check Manukau Harbour tide times. More at www.mangerebridge.co.nz/ToDo.html

- Although the classes will be visiting Takapuna Beach to look at the geological formations you might like to make a follow-up family visit. It would be a good time to take additional photos to be used in the concluding performance.



Although they are different volcanoes to the Auckland ones the volcanoes featured at the Volcanic Activity Centre near Huka Falls, Taupo are worth a visit if you are passing on holiday.

Quest Awards



Online Learning Award

Recognizing creative teachers for their pioneering use of telecommunication networks to provide innovative learning opportunities for school-age students.



Presented at the National Education Computing Conference, New Orleans, United States of America.



Finalist Computerworld Excellence Awards.



Presented at the ULearn Conference, Auckland.

Yours sincerely

Richard Coote
Principal