



**A great new teaching resource
...and a fun place for kids**



Learning through fun

Few industries offer more educational potential than quarrying. For children, the rugged environment and massive machinery creates natural excitement. For teachers, it's one of those industries that is relevant right across the curriculum – especially in science and geography. Add the availability of local quarries throughout the UK for class visits, and you have a rare opportunity.

The Quarry Products Association has now packaged all that potential into a website that provides an interactive experience for youngsters and a substantial resource for teachers.

Virtual tour

The Virtual Quarry is a unique interactive experience that children will love. It is staffed by a team of animated characters who talk you through the rock production process.

The tour opens on a building site in a small town. You then take the wheel of the rock delivery truck as it heads back to the quarry. There, you meet quarry manager Pat who guides you around his quarry and introduces you to his staff. Along the way, you can blow

up rock, examine fossils and transform an old quarry into a nature reserve.



Rock Cinema

At the end of the virtual tour, you can settle down in the Rock Cinema and watch a series of short videos which show you different types of quarries and tell you more about their contribution to biodiversity and archaeology. You can also see how gravel is quarried from the seabed.

Rock Spot

The Rock Spot offers a host of follow-up activities with information on wide-ranging events around the UK that relate to quarrying. It also links you to a variety of fun places to visit such as the National Stone Centre in Derbyshire and the Natural History Museum in London.



Teachers' Resources

The Interactive Virtual Quarry has been developed by the Quarry Products Association (QPA), with the support of its members and other partners, including English Nature, Waste & Resources Action Programme, University of Leeds, Camborne School of Mines, Earth Science Teachers' Association, Earth Science Education Unit and the National Stone Centre.

The project has been substantially supported by the Mineral Industry Research Organisation which distributes funding from a government tax on aggregates through its Mineral Industry Sustainable Technology Programme.



The QPA is the trade association for companies involved in supplying stone from land, marine and recycled sources. Its members are also involved in the production of asphalt and ready-mixed concrete.



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The Virtual Quarry has much to offer teachers, providing access to a set of comprehensive teaching units developed against the schemes of work recommended by the Department for Education and Skills. Each has been written by a qualified teacher and vetted by a group of other teachers. Although the emphasis is on science and geography, the units also draw on the relevance of quarrying to the citizenship and sustainable development aspects of the curriculum. A comprehensive set of supporting resources is available, including an image library and guidance on organising visits to real quarries.

Key Stages 1 and 2

GEOGRAPHY

Title	Curriculum link
We're wonderful wall watchers	Unit 1: Around our school
What's hidden beneath our feet?	Unit 6: Investigating the local area
The Sustainable Olympics	Unit 16: What's in the news?
What's going to happen here?	Unit 20: Local traffic - an environmental issue?

SCIENCE

Does that really come from a quarry?	Unit 1C: Sorting and using materials
The Quarry Mouse & the Woodland Mouse	Unit 2B: Plants and animals in the local environment
We're living in rocks and soil!	Unit 3D: Rocks and soils
Herbivore Heaven	Unit 4B: Habitats
Peregrine Paradise	Unit 5B: Life cycles
Toothpaste Technology!	Unit 5/6H: Enquiry in environmental and technological contexts

Key Stages 3 and 4

GEOGRAPHY

Title	Curriculum link
Quarries – a fieldwork approach	GCSE Pilot option 7: Investigating geography through fieldwork
Exploring restoration options	Unit 8: Improving the environment
Limestone landscapes of England	Unit 13: Limestone landscapes of England
Between a rock and a hard place	Unit 14: Can the Earth cope?

SCIENCE

It's the pits!	Unit 7C: Environment and feeding relationships
I'm in bits and pieces!	Unit 8G: Rocks and weathering
Round and around we go!	Unit 8H: The rock cycle
Portland Stone	Unit 9G: Environmental Chemistry
Woodland regeneration	Scientific Enquiry 2

CITIZENSHIP

Marine aggregates	Unit 12: Global issues, local action
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