



## Teacher notes for The World in Infographics: The Human World

These teacher notes provide a summary of the themes covered by the book, detailed notes on its writing style and cross-curricular classroom activities.

### Synopsis:

*The World in Infographics* is a series that illustrates data, facts and figures in the form of visually appealing graphics. The aim is to convey information that might seem abstract to students in a concrete and visual way, thus making it more accessible. *The Human World* explores topics ranging from world population and water shortage to technological advancement and natural resources. The topics are dealt with on a spread-by-spread basis, with each spread providing an overview as well as thought-provoking aspects of the subject.

### Themes:

The purpose of *The Human World* is to illustrate the world humans live in and what impact humans have had on our planet. The main subjects covered in *The Human World* are as follows:

#### Geography:

*The Human World* covers both human and physical geography, ranging from population growth and distribution, city and country dwelling, types of settlements, trade, travel and transport, and tourism, as well as natural resources, water reserves, pollution and climate change.

#### History:

In order to lend certain facts and figures context, this title illustrates some topics with their historical background, mostly using a form of timeline; these include population growth, urbanisation, the height of man-made structures, long-distance communication and technological innovation.

#### Information and Communication Technology:

*The Human World* covers curricular areas of ICT by examining the rise and advancement of communication technology, from human runners in Ancient Greece to mobile phones, email and social networks in the twenty-first century. It also looks at the evolution of the computer from the Zuse Z3 (1941) to today's tablets.

#### Maths:

This title, by the nature of infographics as visual representation of data, explores proportions and proportional representation, percentages and measurements, as well as graphs and charts.

#### Business Studies:

*The Human World* examines the meaning of public debt per person in a country and per country, as well as market values of global companies, how these are estimated and how far their global reach is.



## **Citizenship:**

Topics in *The Human World* that link to the citizenship curriculum are poverty, work and employment, and globalisation of trade markets and communication.

## **Writing style:**

The text is written and structured in such a way as to hold the attention of the more reluctant reader. Sentences are succinct, and paragraphs are kept short, creating bite-sized passages of text. The majority of the text is written in non-chronological style, and passages dealing with historical developments and time lines are written as recounts. The typographical treatment of the text – having some key words bolder than the rest of the text – holds the attention of the reader, as well as highlighting central ideas. Each spread opens with an introduction to the topic, followed by the infographics themselves. These are accompanied by a very small amount of text, similar to an image caption. Occasionally, short paragraphs offer background information on an infographic.

## **Activities**

**Speaking and listening:** Each spread can be used as a discussion prompt. For example, looking at pp. 12–13, you can address the topic of debt with your class: What is debt? Why do people create debt? Why do countries create debt? Why do you think the richest countries are also the ones with the highest amounts of debt? Do you think public debt is linked to the amount of people living in that country (see also pp. 6/7)?

**Maths:** Ask your pupils to create their own infographics. Starting off with a simple exercise, they should measure the height of their family members and create an infographic that illustrates the data – perhaps a silhouette per person, all at the correct relative height to each other, or a simple bar chart. This will require them to work out a scale at which to illustrate the various heights.

Ask your pupils to work out alternative measurements for the tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa (pp. 10/11). For instance, how many elephants tall is it? How many football pitches fit into its grounds?

**ICT:** As a follow-up activity to creating an infographic (Maths), your pupils can collect more data on their family and present it in infographics created in Power Point Presentation or similar presentation programme software.

**Geography:** Ask your pupils to use an atlas to find the locations of the highest and lowest settlements in the world, as illustrated on p. 9. They can then investigate one of the locations (climate; landscape; native wildlife etc) and contrast it with their own locality.

Ask your pupils to create a map of water use around the world. They should use the data on p. 17, along with a world map. Creating a key for the various amounts of water used per person, they should then colour code the map. Are there any similarities between the countries with low water usage? And between those with high water usage? What other information might be useful to add to the map?

**History:** Ask your pupils to research what a semaphore line is and how it was first employed in 18th-century France.

**Science:** Looking at pp 16/17, discuss why water is vital for life on Earth. What would Earth look like if there was no water? What would happen to animals (and humans) if they didn't have access to water?