



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga



Introducing the Sonic Home learning object



Welcome to Digistore

Digistore houses a collection of quality digital content (learning objects and resource assets) produced by The Le@rning Federation (TLF), a collaboration between the governments of Australia and New Zealand. By 2007, Digistore will provide access to some 4000 learning objects (LOs) covering a range of learning areas for years 1–11. This digital content is designed to engage, challenge, and motivate learners.

Jane Mitchell (junior syndicate leader) teaches a year 1–2 class at College Street School (Dunedin). She looks for new ways of incorporating ICT into the problem-solving and enquiry approaches she uses with her students.

Jane's integrated, year-long unit No Place Like Home (Social Studies, Place and Environment) incorporated other learning areas, resources, and experiences. Jane decided to use Sonic Home in her unit because this LO's setting (the home) was familiar and its content connected well to the music strands (arts).

Sonic Home is one of a series of LOs developed for middle to senior primary, but Jane was confident that, given appropriate scaffolding, her junior class could work with it: they "use ICT as a regular part of their learning – they really are digital natives".

Jane wanted her students to identify and create sounds associated with their home and classroom, then create and play a soundscape, and discuss how it made them feel. The class explored how sounds change (volume, repetitions, silences, and pitch). Jane then used the interactive

whiteboard to model using Sonic Home: "I can go through all the functions and the teaching points and give the students a chance to try it out before they go off to work in pairs." Possible extension activities could include Jane's juniors teaming up with middle syndicate students, using voice and instruments to create sounds, and recording these on a computer, or having her students tell stories based on their soundscapes.

Jane says that using Sonic Home was an "engaging way to get my students to learn". Teachers "need to value" LOs, Jane says, and "take time to get familiar with them, so they can use them more effectively".

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

To find out more about Digistore, go to www.tki.org.nz/r/digistore/index_e.php
Register at www.tki.org.nz/r/digistore/register_e.php
to receive login details and a free copy of The Learning Objects Collection CD-ROM.

To find out more about TLF, go to www.thelearningfederation.edu.au/11f2