

Where in the World Are We?

Approach: Station

Level: Year 4 and year 8

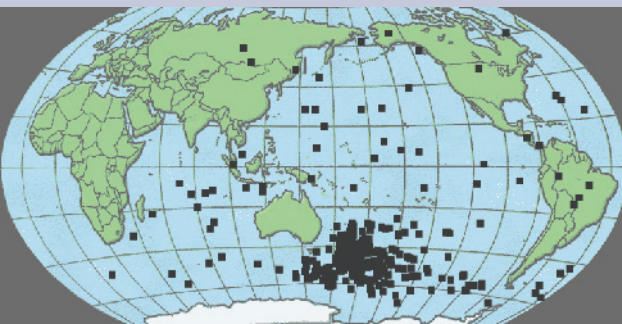
Focus: Knowledge of locations on a world map.

Resources: Laptop computer with a special programme.

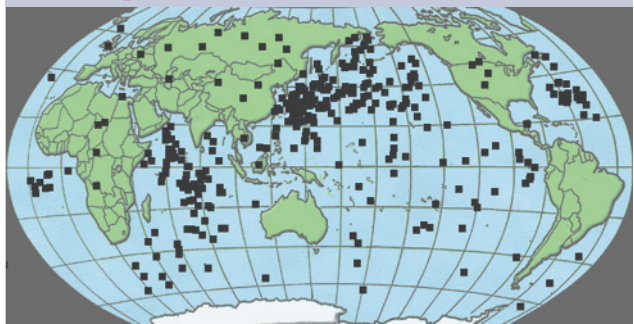
Questions/instructions:

Students were presented with a map of the world, with four countries deleted (New Zealand, Japan, Samoa, and the Cook Islands). These countries were available at the bottom of the map. Students were asked to drag these countries to what they believed were the correct locations. The computer recorded where the students left each country, on an East-West scale from 0 to 800 and a North-South scale from 0 to 600 (effectively actually 70 to 470). The index point for each country was the centre of the rectangle in which it was displayed.

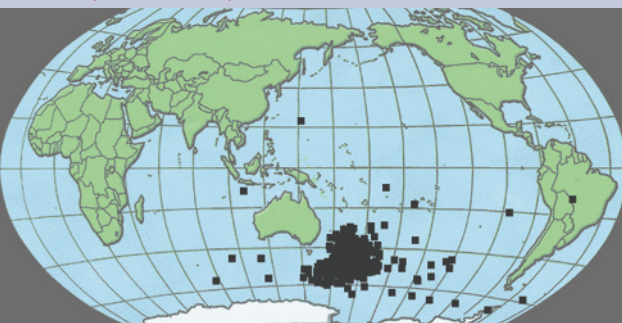
YEAR 4 (New Zealand)



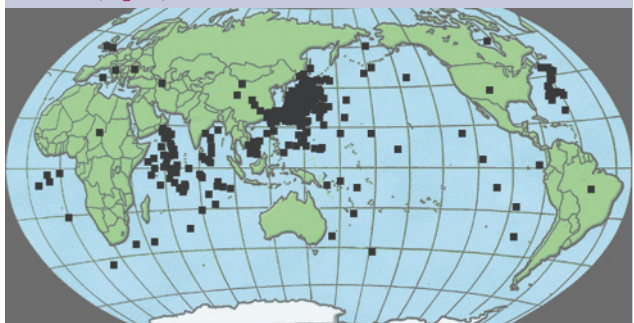
YEAR 4 (Japan)



YEAR 8 (New Zealand)



YEAR 8 (Japan)



	% responses	
	y4	y8

New Zealand:		
within 500km E-W and N-S	9	17
within 500km in one direction and 500-1000 km out in the other	21	32
500-1000 km out in both directions	3	10

	% responses	
	y4	y8

Japan:		
within 500km E-W and N-S	3	19
within 500km in one direction and 500-1000 km out in the other	4	12
500-1000 km out in both directions	3	5



New Zealand



Japan

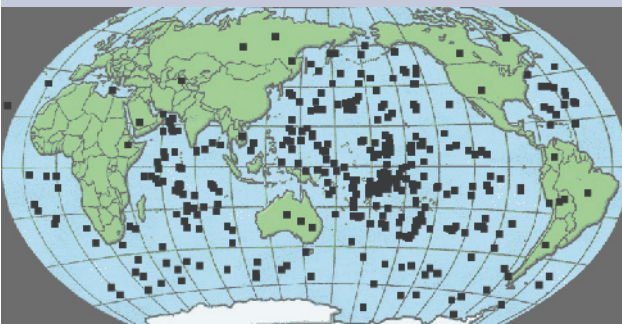


Samoa

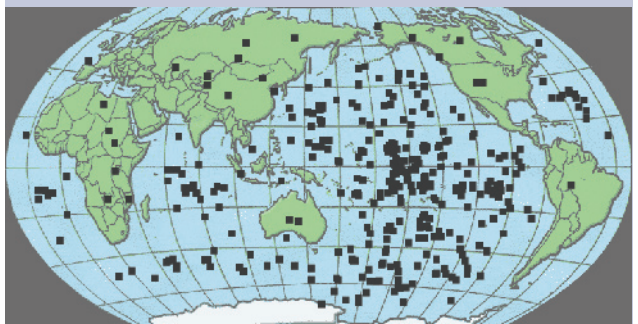


Cook Islands

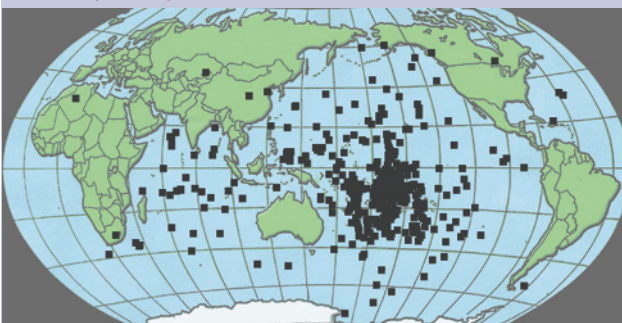
YEAR 4 (Samoa)



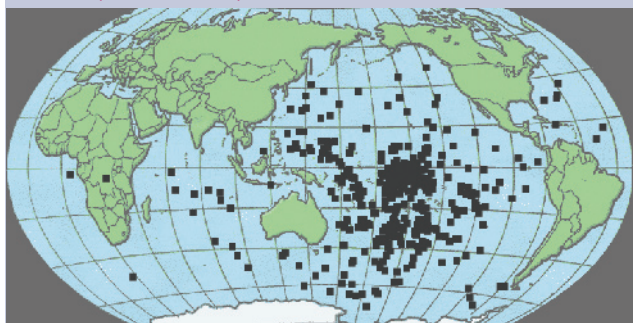
YEAR 4 (Cook Islands)



YEAR 8 (Samoa)



YEAR 8 (Cook Islands)



% responses
y4 y8

Samoa:	
within 500km E-W and N-S	2 9
within 500km in one direction and 500-1000 km out in the other	5 13
500-1000 km out in both directions	1 2

% responses
y4 y8

Cook Islands:	
within 500km E-W and N-S	1 1
within 500km in one direction and 500-1000 km out in the other	1 6
500-1000 km out in both directions	2 4

Total score:	8-12	1 3
	5-7	4 23
	3-4	14 24
	1-2	23 27
	0	58 23

Commentary:

About 59 percent of year 8 students could locate New Zealand reasonably accurately, compared to 33 percent of year 4 students. Predictably, year 4 students had little success with Japan, Samoa and the Cook Islands, but year 8 students who knew approximately where Japan is could locate it quite accurately using the strong clues available. Samoa and particularly the Cook Islands proved more challenging, given the lack of cues in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.