

“Journey through the Alps”

An Online Educational Companion

“Journey through the Alps” is a one-hour educational companion to the MacGillivray Freeman film *The Alps*. This media-rich and highly interactive content takes students through the entire span of human history, allowing them to experience the incredible impact the Alps have had on human endeavor. The companion—designed for middle and high school students—is accessible via the Internet at no cost. An accompanying teachers’ guide facilitates its incorporation into a wide range of classroom settings, making it a great way to extend the cinematic experience.

“Journey through the Alps” begins over 200-million-years ago, with the geological events that gave birth to these mighty mountains. From there, students are taken on an epic journey: they will meet the Alps’ first inhabitants, who struggled to survive in this inhospitable environment; they will come under the spell of great conquerors—Hannibal, Charlemagne, and Napoleon—who led great campaigns over these peaks; and they will experience how this great mountain range became a muse for some of the world’s greatest artists.

A series of animated maps help students explore the geography of the Alps. Interactive exercises encourage them to witness the profound interaction humans have had with these peaks. Near the end of their journey, students will experience humankind’s struggle to harness the power of the mountains, as they engage in the intricacies of the alpine water cycle, culminating in the creation of hydroelectric power. A series of short quizzes help secure the new knowledge the students have gained.

“Journey through the Alps” is also designed for teachers. Rather than devote itself specifically to any one subject or discipline, the media focuses on ‘human geography,’ connecting it to a wide-range of subject areas and classroom scenarios. It will assist geography teachers in answering that fundamental question posed by all students: “Why do we have to study geography?” While interacting with the content, students will quickly find the answer: because geography affects all aspects of human experience, and is at the heart of our greatest endeavors.

Guiding students throughout their journey is mountaineer John Harlin, the film’s hero, whose powerful family history, and endless passion for the mountains, provides students with a compelling ‘hook’ into this complex but rewarding story. In the end, John reminds them that despite how far we’ve come in conquering the Alps, the peaks will always call out to people who want to escape the fast-paced world, and try to overcome nature’s awesome power.

“Journey through the Alps” is the perfect educational companion to an epic cinematic event. The media will be available in March 2007, to correspond with the launch of the film.

www.AlpsFilm.com