

Students Direct Online Expedition Through Greece and Turkey to Discover The True Origins of Western Civilization; Classroom Connect's Real-Time Online Learning Adventure, GreeceQuest, Encourages K-12 Students to Uncover Clues From the Past That Will Help Shape Our Future

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Most textbooks portray ancient Greece as the source of the defining elements of Western Civilization including literature, democracy, science, and philosophy. However, mounting evidence suggests that the Greeks were heavily influenced by the earlier civilizations of Egypt and the Near East. During GreeceQuest, Classroom Connect's Quest team of explorers and scientists will bicycle through the ancient lands of Greece and Turkey to explore the true roots of Western Civilization, and challenge K-12 students to find the answer to the question, "Are the true origins of Western Civilization to be found in the East?"

Classroom Connect's GreeceQuest, which runs February 25, 2002 to March 22, 2002, will enthuse K-12 students across the nation and abroad to explore ancient Greek and Turkish contributions to mathematics, art and literature, science, and the origins of democracy. Students will also learn about the modern-day Greek and Turkish culture and environment while they direct the Quest Expedition Team to take action on important issues.

In the spirit that made the Greek civilization great, GreeceQuest will seek to break down barriers between East and West, Muslim and non-Muslim, by focusing on mutual understanding and our shared heritage. GreeceQuest will help school students develop online dialogues with other children who are different than themselves, be it Muslim and non-Muslim or urban and rural.

"It's more important today than ever before for our children to grow up with a greater understanding of the people and places around them," said Judith Hamilton, president and CEO of Classroom Connect. "Through our Quests, students in the U.S. are exposed to people, cultures and experiences around the world, and then have the opportunity through the daily learning activities to explore ways in which we are all the same."

World-renowned adventurer Dan Buettner, and the Quest team archaeologist/anthropologist Dr. John Fox will lead Classroom Connect's Quest Expedition Team. The team also will include Nick Buettner, the expedition executive producer and technologist, Emily Sohn, the team's science writer, and additional team members from the U.S., Turkey and Greece.

Using the latest in satellite modem technology, the Quest team provides a daily "cyber-presence" in the classroom and gives students the opportunity to: access daily videos, audio, and text reports; vote on the direction of the team's travel; develop hypotheses about scientific and historical dilemmas; and learn important problem-solving and decision-making skills. The student explorers will interact with the Quest expedition team through Classroom Connect's The Quest Channel Web site (<http://www.classroom.com>).

A subscription to GreeceQuest includes a password that opens online voting opportunities for students, as well as a teacher's curriculum guide with step-by-step classroom management strategies, standards-based lessons, background information, and a poster to trace the team's route.

Through a unique partnership with Lifetouch School Portraits, schools can participate in GreeceQuest at no cost to the classroom teacher. Schools may learn about the details by contacting their Lifetouch representative or by calling Lifetouch at 800-736-4741.

GreeceQuest is part of The Quest Channel, a series of online learning adventures, consisting of two live Quests per year, and all previous Quests, including AfricaQuest, AmazonQuest, AmericaQuest, AsiaQuest, AustraliaQuest, GalapagosQuest, IslandQuest and MayaQuest. For more information about The Quest Channel, visit Classroom Connect's Web site at www.classroom.com and click on The Quest Channel, or call 800-638-1639.

About Lifetouch

GreeceQuest is the third spring Quest sponsored by Lifetouch School Portraits. Established in 1936, Lifetouch is the nation's largest portrait photography company, with school, church and retail studio divisions. Lifetouch National School Studios, the school photography division, includes Lifetouch School Portraits, Lifetouch Prestige Portraits for high school seniors, Lifetouch Special Events Portraits, Lifetouch Sports Portraits, and Lifetouch Preschool Portraits. For more information about Lifetouch, visit www.lifetouch.com.

About Classroom Connect

Classroom Connect, Inc., a business unit within Harcourt Inc., is a leading provider of professional learning and classroom learning resources that foster successful use of the Internet in K-12 education. Headquartered in Brisbane, CA, with offices in El Segundo, CA, Minneapolis, MN and Abilene, TX, Classroom Connect has more than 170 employees. Its primary product brands include: Connected University(R) (online professional development); Classroom Today(TM) (online classroom resources); The Quest Channel(TM) (online adventure learning expeditions); Connected Conferences(TM) (live, nationwide events); Connected Workshops(TM) (on-site seminars); and the Classroom Connect Newsletter(TM) (monthly Internet education journal). Its partners include some of the nation's most respected organizations, including the American Museum of Natural History, The Franklin Institute Online, the Library of Congress and NASA. For more information about Classroom Connect, visit the company's Web site at www.classroom.com.

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