

Interactive comment on “Using PhET™ Interactive Simulation Plate Tectonics on Initial Teacher Education” by Bento Cavadas and Sara Aboim

Anonymous Referee #1

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The article is interesting to disseminate the use of simulators to teach geoscience, namely because there are very few virtual models to be used in geoscience classes. Nevertheless, it is written in an elementary way since the research instruments are very simple and not really explored in the article. The data analysis is too simple: content analysis and descriptive statistical. There is also no reference to the validity and fidelity of the instruments used to gather data. It is necessary to assure it is ethically possible to publish images from a simulator that is not the property of the authors of the study.

As such I considered the study can be published with a minor correction: - at least a better reference and a clarification of the instruments used to collect data - a more precise description of the results, namely with a discussion with reference to the literature in the area - with the certainty that the images can be published.

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I consider the article more as a classroom practice description than a research article.

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