Lesson overview

Students will conduct their first Skype lesson with their partner school. During this call, students will exchange information about their life and learning in their different communities. The students will cover three main topics: hobbies and pastimes; home and family; and school and education. The first two are important for breaking the ice between the two classrooms, with the third topic on education more central to the joint project between the classes.

Lesson steps

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<td>5 mins</td>
<td>Preparing for the Skype call</td>
<td>Students know how to prepare for the Skype interview.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>Skype Call</td>
<td>Students use interview skills to learn from others.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Students reflect on using ICT to communicate across borders.</td>
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Extension

There are a range of communications and assessment opportunities for this lesson. Students may wish to write a blog post about the Skype call and include their reflections. These can be posted on the Digital Explorer website. Simply, email them to info@digitalexplorer.com.

A word cloud idea is used for the final review, asking students for their view of the Skype call by choosing three words. This can be extended by asking students for three words before and three words afterwards. A word cloud can be generated to visualize any change in perceptions and views using a tool such as Wordle [wordle.net].

Further ideas for a structured essay, reflecting on the Skype call are included in the Teacher Guidance and Slideshow and Literacy Assignment 3: Skype call reflection.

Details

- **Time**: 60 minutes
- **Skills development**: - Use interview skills to learn from others - Use ICT to communicate across borders - Compare their education experience to that of others
- **Age**: 13+

Resources

- **Slideshow**: Slideshow 3 (from [bit.ly/MVMS_Res])
- **Activity Overview**: Activity Overview 3: Skype call preparation
- **Subject Updates**: Subject Update 1: Class debates with Skype Subject Update 2: Skype technology guidance Subject Update 3: Working with sensitive issues
- **Literacy Assignments**: Literacy Assignment 3: Skype call reflection
Step

1. **Learning objectives**
   
   You will be able to:
   
   1. Use interview skills to learn from others
   2. Use ICT to communicate across borders
   3. Reflect on your education experience

   - Successful preparation for a Skype call involves six elements: logistics, technology, student knowledge, student skill, teacher skills and call structure. Work through Activity Overview 3 to ensure that you have all these elements in place.

   - Explain the learning objectives for the lesson. Students may wish to note these in their books to reference at the end of the lesson.

   - Ensure that your Skype connection is online and that you have your partner school’s contact page open.

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Using Slide 3, set up the classroom and arrange students. Remind them of their agreed guidelines from the previous lesson and ensure they have their questions ready.

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Using Slide 4, remind students of the four parts of the Skype call. Also remind students that they should have a pen and paper to keep notes during the Skype call.

In terms of timings for the different sections, you will probably have 40-45 minutes for the whole Skype call. There are two main priorities: breaking the ice using the hobbies and pastimes and home and family topics; and then getting into deeper discussion about school and education.

The following framework may prove useful:

- 5 mins - introductions
- 15 mins - hobbies and pastimes and home and family. Use your judgement to move between these topics based on the flow of the conversation
- 20 mins - school and education, with a view towards the next lesson
- 5 mins - goodbye
**Step 2**

**45 mins**

Send a text chat message to your partner school when you are ready. Decide who will make the video call. Then click / answer the video call.

Students introduce themselves to their partner school. If they don't know what to say, a simple 'hello' will do plus their name.

Try to learn a greeting in your partner school's language and make sure that each spokesperson introduces themselves by name.

Decide with the teacher in your partner school who will ask questions first.

Students in Group 1 - 'Hobbies and pastimes' start the interview. The student spokesperson for Group 1 uses the questions prepared from the previous class to interview the three students in their partner school. After 7 minutes, they swap and the partner school student asks the questions.

Repeat the above process, and this time the student spokesperson for Group 2 - 'Home and family' leads the interview.

Repeat the above process, and this time the student spokesperson for Group 3 - 'School and education' leads the interview.

Don't forget to say 'bye'!

Try to learn the phrase in your partner school's language. This is also an opportunity for students to share one thing they have enjoyed or learned during the Skype call.

**Step 3**

**10 mins**

Review the Skype call using **Slide 5**, asking each student to come up with three words to describe the Skype call.

Discuss the chosen words in a plenary discussion, asking students to justify their choices.

If you are setting an extended writing task for students to complete as home learning, use **Slides 6 and 7** to go over a possible structure for these reflective essays. See Literacy Assignment 3 for further information.
Work through the following six sections to ensure you are fully prepared for your Skype call.

### 1. Logistics

Have you confirmed the time for your Skype call, bearing in mind any time zone differences and daylight savings? Have you made contact with your partner school teacher to go through the structure of the Skype call and any issues you think may arise?

### 2. Technology

Have you contacted IT support at your school or school district level to ensure that you will have access to sufficient internet bandwidth and power for the Skype call? Are all technology hardware and software items in place and tested (see Subject Update 2 for more information)?

### 3. Student knowledge

The student knowledge for this first Skype call will come from watching the Student Voice films to gain an initial insight into the lives of students living in different places. You may wish to refer to some of the videos that you watched in previous lessons. The second item of student knowledge is the idea of quality education and the Global Goals. Refresh students' knowledge from the work completed in Lesson 1.

### 4. Student skills

Student interview skills were developed in Lesson 2. You may wish to remind students of the use of open and closed questions, empowering and emotive questions, as well as follow up questions. This is also an opportunity to refer to the class guidelines for the Skype call.

### 5. Teacher skills

Are you comfortable with your role as facilitator? Role play some of the situations that you think may come up with a colleague. Consider how you will manage different scenarios, eg if one student is dominating, if the call drops out, if the conversation is not flowing. Refer to Subject Update 1 Class debates with Skype and Subject Update 3 Working with sensitive issues for further background information.

### 6. Structure

The structure for the lesson is outlined in Teacher Guidance 3. Familiarize yourself with this before the lesson.