TIES MysterySkype Resources

Schoology Course:
Sign up for a FREE account on Schoology.com OR use your school sponsored account access code to join course: 5WD7W-K7469 to get all resources.

OR if you prefer use information and links given below:

High Overview of MysterySkype:
Invented by teachers, Mystery Skype is an educational thinking challenge played by two classrooms using a video conferencing software/app. The aim of the challenge is to determine the location of the other classroom by asking each other yes/no questions and completing research. Mystery Skype is engaging and inspires learning through the use of authenticity, the 4C's, literacy and more.

Know Your Why:
MysterySkype is instrumental in fostering the skills of Collaborator, Critical Thinker, Communicator, Seeker of Perspectives, Contributing Citizen, Content Master and any of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authentic Task</th>
<th>Standards Based</th>
<th>Creates global community of learners</th>
<th>Problem Solving</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authentic Purpose</td>
<td>Listening and Speaking skills (ELA)</td>
<td>Creates partnerships for collaboration on other projects/learning</td>
<td>Integration of Purposeful Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>(for use of resources, questioning, listening, research, +)</td>
<td>(search engines, maps, atlases, +)</td>
<td>(research: finding credible information)</td>
<td>Engaging</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authentic Resources</td>
<td>Geography (social studies)</td>
<td>Challenge based learning</td>
<td></td>
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<td>(audience is outside of the evaluator)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Student Centered</td>
<td>Learn about locations you may or may not travel to</td>
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Nuts and Bolts of #MysterySkype:

(some) Needs
- Another Class
- Maps, atlases (for research)
- iPads (for research)
- Place to Record Questions asked by opponent (with answers) and asked by us (with answers)
  - Examples: chart paper, white board, google doc, other ideas...
- Highlighters/Writing Utensils
Information to share about state or city once #MysterySkype comes to a close

Questioning:
Asking "good" questions is the hallmark of a successful Mystery Skype. Students need to be able to ask specific questions to solve the task at hand. Mystery Skype is not about "guessing." Suggest scaffolding, Mini Lessons OR Gradual Release of Responsibility with modeling "good questions" for students. May need to be done several times, over the course of several days.
- Use of Only Yes/No Questions
- Use of 100's Chart goo.gl/73mu9w
- Use of Mystery Object: students guess an object in the room, in a drawer, in a box
- Use of Topics that require students to do research to find answers and new questions
  (examples: sports teams, US landmarks, geographical areas or features {borders, rivers, oceans, population or land size, +}) US Landmarks goo.gl/45SWe9
- May need to scaffold the use of an atlas - to determine specific questions.

#MysterySkype Roles

EACH student has a specific role(s) to accomplish during the #MysterySkype. Suggestions for roles are as follows:

<table>
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<th>Roles</th>
<th>Descriptions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researchers:</td>
<td>This is the most important job and one that everyone needs to do. Looking up the answers to questions we are asked when we don't know how to answer them by memory. Everyone needs an atlas and iPad. Come up with questions to ask the other class by adding them to note taking document. We can use Google Maps, search engines, and any other tools that will help us find where they are located that is allowed by our school district. Give polite feedback to others as needed. (Everyone does this in addition to their other role.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Facilitator:</td>
<td>Facilitates each small group of researchers and shares information with the other facilitators. The facilitators collaborate in regards to each small group response. If everyone is in agreement, the information is shared with the Question Answerer. If there is disagreement with the information, facilitators work with small groups to come to a consensus. (3-4 students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeters/Sharers:</td>
<td>Greet the partner school/makes initial introduction. Offers the other school a chance to introduce themselves &amp; ask the 1st question. Be specific by stating our own names, introducing the sharers by name and the questioners by name. Share something special about our school, city, or state. It could be a song/dance, souvenir, but nothing that will give anything away. Feel free to practice before we have to do it for real. (2-3 students)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Videographers: Responsible for videotaping the entire event, especially the dialogue between schools. Never press PAUSE! The only time the video camera is toward the projection screen is when they are talking to us. The rest of the time, the video is of us working. Also, it cannot be so shaky - move slowly from one place to the next. Don't zoom in and out - there's no need for it! (2 students)

Photographer: Responsible for taking many high-quality photos while everyone is working. When the Mystery Skype is over, we will share photos with our class! (2 students)

Question Askers: Ask the other school questions that help us learn their whereabouts. You are responsible for keeping the conversation going. Questions are kept on our chart paper and notebooks. This allows everyone in the room the opportunity to see the questions. Be aware of whose turn it is to ask questions (ours or theirs), and be quick to decide our question when it is our turn (read the chart paper and decide while the other team is thinking or speaking). (2 students)

Question Recorder: On chart paper, write the questions we ask and record answers from other class. Another recorder will write the questions from the other class and record our responses to each question. (2 students)

Question Answerer: Answers "yes" or "no" to the question asked from the other class after Researchers find the correct answer! (2 students)

Observer: This student oversees the entire operation and takes notes on what works and doesn’t work. They lead the debriefing we have after every Skype call to discuss what we need to work on and be proud of in regards to learning.

Making Connections: #MysterySkype

Hashtag is #MysterySkype
Tweets typically include date or date range, time (including time zone), grade level desired, and sometimes region of the country desired.

Skype in the Classroom (Microsoft)
Process involves signing in, creating a profile, searching for classes, viewing classroom availability, requesting a Mystery Skype and waiting for a response.

Resources for MysterySkype:

Helpful #MysterySkype Blogs/Websites
- [Paul Solarz's Website](http://goo.gl/k21Ue7) for Mystery Skype
- [Roles for a Mystery Skype](http://goo.gl/cG7BPZ) Pernille Ripp
- [Roles for a Mystery Skype](http://goo.gl/VkCcyi) Silvia Rosenthal Tolisano
- [Questions to Get You Started in MysterySkype](http://goo.gl/fMJSzW) Pernille Ripp
- [Mystery Skype - Microsoft in Education](http://goo.gl/k21Ue7) AT
- [Mystery Skype Global Connection Data Base](http://goo.gl/W1LBEP) by Mr Kemp

Videos About #MysterySkype
- Mystery Skype [https://youtu.be/aI3sVBFDHGQ](https://youtu.be/aI3sVBFDHGQ)
- Sarah Rich @edtechSAE [https://youtu.be/SQzAh1mGmzI](https://youtu.be/SQzAh1mGmzI)

#MysterySkype Materials:
- US Map (States) Labelled [goo.gl/Y4HRF6](http://goo.gl/Y4HRF6)
- Yes/No Responses (good in case your volume is not working/class is loud/accents) [goo.gl/vHCmM2](http://goo.gl/vHCmM2)
- We're Thinking [goo.gl/aSYRKx](http://goo.gl/aSYRKx)
- Our Turn/Your Turn [goo.gl/5u71xw](http://goo.gl/5u71xw)

Variations of MysterySkype:

Traditional #MysterySkype:
Find the country/state, province/city, or country/city of the other classroom by asking only YES/NO questions. 20 questions maximum.

*Optional: A “YES” answer allows to ask another question.
*Optional: Can locate a city within a state.
Other Variations:

1. Traditional #MysterySkype imposing parameters in the questions that can be asked:
   - Regional Questions only
   - Landmarks
   - Habitats/Ecosystems

2. Guess a Number from the 100's or 1000's chart.
3. Identify an Animal based on characteristics.
4. FIVE (5) Clue Challenge:
   - Students curate or create statement, videos, audio, picture, + clues about their state.
   - The clues are revealed/exchanged with another class one at a time.
   - When a classroom gets a clue, students have a set amount of time to do some research to try and solve the mystery.
   - The hope is to solve the mystery using no more than the 5 clues given.
   - Potential Questions:
     - Our time zone is ...
     - We are north/south/east/west of ....

6. Alternative Time Zones that don't "jive" with your own.... for instance Europe +8, +12 hours... (i.e. their time zone does not allow you to have a global connection during the school day). Can #MysterySkype through questions over email or Twitter, + Each classroom asks a question each day until the country/state, province/city is correctly identified. Videos are shared about the county/state, province/city, or country/city reveal.