



# WHAT MAKES A GOOD SKYPE LESSON?

## Introduction

First, any lesson that involves being connected to an expert outside the classroom is exciting for students and teachers alike, so be reassured that you are making a big difference in the classroom already!

## How it works

Send your profile (100 words), photo and dates/times you are available to take a lesson during 9th-17th March to Digital Explorer at [helen@digitalexplorer.com](mailto:helen@digitalexplorer.com)

You will need a Skype account and an internet-connected device with the Skype application installed, a webcam and a microphone.

Digital Explorer will coordinate the timings, Skype ID and contact details of the schools taking part and point each class to the existing Frozen Oceans resources in advance <http://oceans.digitalexplorer.com/resources/>.

If possible, try to make contact with the teacher prior to the Skype lesson. Teachers will want to know that the discussion will be at the right level for the age-group of their students. Most guest speakers find that about 30 minutes is a good length for a discussion. Be aware that teachers and students may be constrained by class times and bells!

## The lesson

Here is an idea for a structure you might use:

5 mins – introduce yourself and tell the class a little about the work you do

10 mins - presentation or talk about a specific area

15 mins - Q&A (interaction and dialogue are really important). A virtual tour showing some 'behind the scenes action', or the area where you work can help to engage students.

5 mins - concluding the session: saying goodbye, wishing the students luck, providing some parting advice and/or setting a homework brief which the teacher can follow up

Remember to consider the vocabulary you use to ensure that it can be understood by the age-group involved.

Also, be aware that some teachers, especially those that are using Skype in the classroom for the first time, may be a bit nervous at the start of the call.

## Using multimedia and presentations

You may wish to use screen sharing to share your computer screen with the class. If you want to share your screen, check that you have sufficient bandwidth and close any applications that may slow your computer down.

As an alternative to screen sharing, you may choose to create a video to send to the class before the Skype call.

You might want to produce a short video containing information, or a quiz, or even a challenge for the students to find out more about a particular topic that you will ask them about during your call.

You may wish to simply include information about you and what it's like to do your job!

## Spreading the inspiration

Ask the teacher involved whether either of you can record the lesson using photographs and 'screen shots' or video. We'd love to see what's been happening, and use it to publicise the benefits of being involved!

Digital Explorer and Skype in the classroom would like to promote your lesson using Twitter (@de\_updates, @skypeclassroom), Facebook, and via e-newsletters to our users. It would be great if you could promote your lessons via your social media channels, blogs and websites too. Some suggested hash tags include: #arcticlive #scienceteacher #geographyteacher #exploringoceans #edtech