

MYSTERY

SKYPE

In the Classroom

MYSTERY SKYPE

A 45-60 minute critical thinking challenge that your class takes part in while Skyping with another class somewhere else in the world. Your students' goal is to guess the other school's location (country, state, city, school name) before they guess yours. We do this by asking yes and no questions.

skype in the classroom



#MysterySkype

The global guessing game that gets kids learning with Skype. Sign up to join our new Mystery Skype community.

Register to take part

Get started with Mystery Skype



1. Find a class

Join the list and message or tweet teachers you'd like to connect with. Our community is full of teachers who want to arrange Mystery Skype lessons with other classes.



2. Arrange a time

When you've found a class you'd like to Mystery Skype with, agree on a date and time for your lesson. Make sure you add each other as Skype contacts before your call too.



3. Share your story

We love to see your Mystery Skype stories, photos and videos. Share them on Twitter by mentioning @SkypeClassroom and using the #MysterySkype hashtag.

Find a #MysterySkype now

Learn how it works

Find a #MysterySkype class

Location	Class ages	Teacher	
United States	6-11, 12-15	nmlslibrary	 
United States	6-11	Shortt 2nd Grade	
United States	6-11	pattyprolibrarian	
United States	6-11, 12-15	berzonland21	
United States	3-5, 6-11	hoganprimer	

Age group

6-11

Location

United States

Results Order

Most active

Generate a List of Questions Before we Skyped for the first time, we looked online at other classroom's Skype suggestions and came across many great resources. The incredible suggestions and ideas from Wisconsin teacher and blogger, [Pernille Ripp](#) saved the day, helping my class understand the types of questions they needed to ask. My class now works together to generate a list of questions that would help them narrow in on their state quickly. For example, they usually begin with, *Are you east of the Mississippi River?*, knowing the answer will automatically rule out half the country. I have typed up our starter [questions](#) which are found on the same sheet of paper the trackers and mappers use to chart how each question has been answered.

Discuss Skype Rules and Etiquette

The list my class developed after having a few sessions under our belts:

- Speak loudly and clearly
- If you are not speaking, work in quiet whispers
- Listen to what both sides are saying so you can track the clues
- Do not shout out answers — indicate your answer to the speaker using your Yes/No cards
- Be polite when asking and answering
- This is no time for silliness, take it seriously
- Remember you are part of a team
- Ask for help when needed and give help when asked
- Don't over-cheer if you guess first and be happy for them if they guess first
- Do your job and stay busy

Other Tips

We played several deductive reasoning games during carpet time like *Guess the Number Between 1 and 500* and *Guess My State*, to help students understand how some questions narrow down the possibilities much better than others. This helped them understand why their first questions should never be "Is your state Virginia?" (Yes, we did that once!)

Do a quick test with the teacher of your mystery class to make sure all the equipment is working properly. I skipped this set last time and found out a bit too late that my Apple TV speakers weren't working. The kids waited patiently while we quickly worked out that glitch the old-fashioned way — a call using the speakerphone!

Remember this is a learning experience for your class (and you). Your session will most likely not be perfect. While I secretly wanted to die when they answered that yes, Michigan bordered the Mississippi River, our mappers quickly jumped in and helped correct the error — student collaboration at its best.

Send the mystery class an email afterwards thanking them and telling them any other information about your state you may not have had the chance to share.

Mystery Skype has turned out to be an incredibly fun and meaningful experience for our class, I hope you will give it a try. If you have used Skype for Education in your classroom, I'd love to hear about it in the comment section below.

Skype Manners

- Use a loud, clear voice
- Whisper talking unless you're at iPad
- Be a worker
- Be responsible - No time for SILLY
- Do not shout out answers -
use your Y or N cards
- Questioners/Answerers - Get help if you need it! You are not alone!
- Be polite to classmates and to mystery class
- Don't cheer if they get a NO

skype™ jobs

Greeters--say hello and get the Skype going

Questioners—these students ask relevant, *yes/no* questions at the camera. Every student who wants a turn as a questioner gets one in my class. We write a list on the board that they follow sequentially and when we get to the bottom of the list, the first person goes again.

Answerers—these students discuss the question, come to consensus, then reply with the mutually agreed upon answer.

Trackers—these students keep track of the answers that the other class has given. They confer with the mappers and share their deductive reasoning with the answerers.

Mappers—these students work in teams using regular maps and atlases.

Google Mappers—these students work on the iPad using the map app that allows them to zoom in on areas of the country based on clues that they hear.

Googlers—these students use the search engine and the information that has been provided to help find the mystery state. They also research questions that the answers need help on, such as "Does your state have any cities with a population larger than a million people?"

Runners—these students move between the different groups, passing messages and information along via whispers and notes.

Managers—these students keep everyone on track. They check in with the mappers and trackers.

Photographers/videographers—these students move about the room taking photos and videos for our class website. After the session, they give a report using their footage, of the sights and sounds of the event.

Mystery skype Roles

Print and pass out to your class
before a Mystery Skype Session









It Takes Many Stars to Make a Difference

Math is the question?

Have

4	15
9	
14	
19	
24	25
29	





Mystery Skype Questions

If the answer is **yes**, ask another question.

If they answer **no**, it's their turn.

Answer Y or N	Possible Questions
	Is your state east of the Mississippi River?
	Are you in the (eastern, central, mountain, Pacific) time zone?
	Does your state border the Atlantic/Pacific ocean?
	Do the Appalachian/Rocky Mountains run through your state?
	Do you have cold, snowy winters?
	Are you in the (NE/SE/Midwest/W/SW) region?
	Does your state border Canada?
	Does your state border (body of water)?
	Does your state border (state name)?
	Is your state (N, S, E, W) of _____?
	Does your state have any cities with a population greater than one million?
	Is your state _____?





