

Mystery Skype with Nikolai

Developed by: Erin Montgomery, 2015 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Discipline: Geography/Technology/Speaking/Listening

Topic: Alaska geography

Grade Level: Any grade level

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

1. Computer with web camera
2. Skype - <http://www.skype.com/en/>
3. Camera (optional)
4. Video camera (optional)
5. Computer access for students
6. Google Earth - <http://www.google.com/earth/>
7. Maps of Alaska
8. Class blog site (optional). My class uses WordPress - <https://wordpress.com/>
9. Twitter (optional)

Lesson Summary: Determining the location of an Alaska town through student-developed questions while Skyping with that specific town. Students will be in small groups – each group has a different responsibility.

Standard's Addressed: *Common Core Standards*

1. SS.6–8.G.1: Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.
2. 21.6–8.TL.2: Collaborate with peers, experts, and others using interactive technology.

Learning objectives:

1. Students will be able to develop relevant questions about Alaska geography.
2. Students will be able to locate an Alaska town through the use of elimination and questions and answers.

Procedural Activities:

1. Assign *Mystery Skype* jobs (see Mystery Skype Jobs PDF file)
2. Using Skype call the class/person you will be Skyping with.
3. Have your *Greeter* student introduce the class.
4. Begin *Mystery Skype* session - *Q&A* group will ask and answer the yes/no questions.
5. Groups are working on locating the other class.

Materials Students Need:

1. Computers
2. Atlas/maps of Alaska
3. Google Earth
4. Class blog
5. Class Twitter
6. Camera (optional)
7. Video camera (optional)

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

1. Skype
2. Twitter
3. WordPress: Blog
4. Google Earth

Other Information:

1. Create a *Skype in the Classroom* account to help you locate other schools interested in Skyping with you. <https://education.skype.com/>
2. *Skype in the Classroom* offers many guest speakers. Dog mushers, experts on Alaska, etc.

Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:

1. Have a student create a detailed account of the entire Skype session.

Notes: I contacted the Nikolai teacher ahead of time so we were both on the same page.