

HAVE A SKYPE SKETCH-OFF

Try this video call game to sharpen your section's digital communication skills

SUITABLE FOR ALL

1 Set up two Skype accounts for your section, or use two from different members of the leadership team. If you don't want to use Skype, you could always use Face Time on an Apple device or video call from an Android device.

2 Divide your Group into teams of two or three people and give two of the teams a laptop or tablet device, a piece of paper and a pen or pencil and send them into different rooms.

3 Each team then has a minute to draw a simple picture. It can be of anything they choose, eg a mug, a rugby ball, a boat, the moon, a dog, cat or fish.

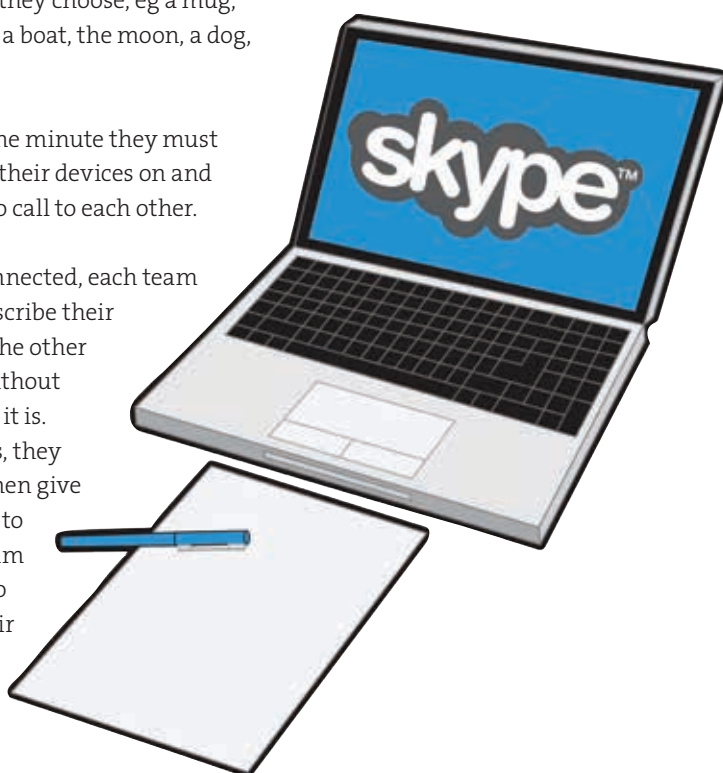
4 After one minute they must switch their devices on and make a video call to each other.

5 Once connected, each team must describe their drawing to the other team, but without saying what it is. Taking turns, they then must then give instructions to the other team about how to replicate their

drawing (eg 'Draw a semi-circle in the middle of the page', 'draw a vertical line of about eight centimetres down from the left bit of the semi-circle').

6 Once the teams have finished describing their illustration, bring them together to compare the drawings and find out which team gave the better instructions.

7 Take it in turns to allow all the teams to have a go at giving and receiving instructions. You could also create a league table to identify the strongest teams.



TIME NEEDED

10 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Tablet, laptop or a large screen, video-call enabled mobile phone
- Wi-Fi access or a 3G signal if using a tablet or phone with a sim card
- Paper
- Pens or pencils

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver, Cub and Scout Communicator Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

This fun activity will allow your Group to exercise their IT skills (some may have never used Skype or Face Time before), while also sharpening their communication skills. The game requires them to find ways to describe an object in an indirect way.

TAKING IT FURTHER

For the next level, why not divide your Group up into three teams for a Skype/video call version of Chinese whispers? Give each team a piece of paper and a pencil. The first team must draw their picture and describe it via Skype to the second team. When they have finished, the second team must describe their version of the drawing to the third team. All three teams then compare their pictures.

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