

The World in our Classroom

Almida Cercizaj
Vlore, Albania (cerciziida@yahoo.it)

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15 Tetori School, Vlore, Albania, (cerciziida@yahoo.it)

Nowadays children get the information in different ways and it is getting harder to attract their attention at school and lead them to learning. Especially when you have children in Elementary Dropping School like I have in my class.

Because of poor economical, social and educational conditions it was hard to bring some pupils to school. I'm involved in different educational online platforms and this helped me implementing new ideas and techniques in order to have children coming to school every day.

One of the methods is Mystery-Skype, a lesson from Microsoft in education. Mystery-Skype is an education game, played by two classrooms of different countries on Skype. The aim of the game lesson is to guess the location of the other classroom by asking each other questions.

Mystery Skype is a 45-minute critical thinking challenge that our class takes part in while Skype with another class somewhere else in the world. My students' goal is to guess the other school's location (country, state, city) before they guess ours. We do this by asking questions yes and no. It transforms totally the way the students learn about the world in class. It is not only engaging students, but it excites us as teachers to teach a topic that has long been a short look through atlas and a glossed over part of the curriculum. It is also an excellent way to integrate technology. English language is used in the classroom.

By doing Mystery Skype we help the students to improve:

- Geography skills
- Map Orientation
- Critical thinking
- Listening and speaking skills
- Students -Led
- The use of resources to find information
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Challenge-Based Learning
- English language