Activating prior knowledge reminds learners of what they already know, it readies the mind to accept and retain new information.

Discovering and experiencing knowledge first hand, instead of hearing or reading about other’s experiences.

Learning through reflecting, creating and connecting to prior knowledge and the actual experience.

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Pre-Activities

• Familiarize with geographic location, language, culture, age group, etc.
• KWL
• Information Literacy (locate)
• Google Earth (distance)
• Google Maps (Street view)
• Formulate questions
• Distribute job responsibilities

During Skype Call

• Interview
• Q & A
• Image & Video recording
• Blog (summarize)
• Backchannel
• Data Collection
• Present
• Share

Post Activities

• Debrief as a group (backchannel log)
• Information Literacy (evaluate, analyze, categorize)
• Create documentary (video clip)
• Photo Slideshow
• Blog post (reflective)
• Embed images and video
• Share with parents
• Present to larger audience

Skype Call

Learning Call

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Pre-Activities

- Geographic location, culture, language culture, age group, etc.
- KWL (Know, Want to Know, Learned)
- Information Literacy (locate)
- Google Earth (distance)
- Google Maps (street view)
- Formulate questions
- Distribute job responsibilities

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Collaboration Coordinator

- Responsible for contacting potential Skype partner via e-mail and set up a day/time.
- Follow-up email a day ahead of scheduled call to confirm.

Calendar

- Responsible for adding scheduled Skype calls to embedded calendar on classroom blog.

Google Earth

- Finds location of Skype partner and measures distance in miles and kilometers.
- Responsible for taking screenshot of both location.

Google Maps

- Responsible for adding placemark of Skype partners’ location to embedded map on classroom blog.

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During Call

Greet

- Greets the partner school. Makes initial introduction. Talks about geographic location.

Share

- Shares something special about school, city, state or country. Could be song, dance, souvenir, project, sports team, etc.

Q & A

- Asks specific questions for data collection
- Responsible for keeping conversation fluid.

Photographer

- Responsible for documenting connection via still images.

Videographer

- Responsible for documenting connection via movie clips

Backchannel Writers

- Documenting conversation, questions, answers and classroom happenings during the connection with backchannel chat

Blogger-Skype

- Live blogs Skype connection on classroom blog.

Elapsed Time

- Responsible of noting time Skype call started & ended as well as calculating elapsed time.

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Post-Activities

- Debrief as a group (backchannel log)
- Information Literacy (evaluate, analyze, categorize)
- Create documentary (video clip or photo slideshow)
- Data evaluation
- Blog post (reflective)
- Embed images and video
- Share with parents, present to global audience

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Photographer
- Responsible for downloading, saving and categorizing images taken during call.
- Collaborate with Blogger to embed images.

Videographer
- Responsible for downloading, saving video clips.
- Collaborate with creation and editing video documentary of call.

Backchannel Cleanup
- Responsible to save backchannel chat as Google document and cleaning up duplicate comments and mark questionable statements to be verified.
- Shares Google doc with teacher and classmates.

Blogger- Call
- Collaborates with Photographer to embed digital images on blog post.

Blogger-Word Problem
- Creates a Math word problem from data, questions and answers from the Skype connection.

Google Earth
- Responsible for passing screenshot on to blogger to be embedded in post.

Data Entry
- Responsible for entering data collected into embedded form on classroom blog.
- Ex. Distance in miles/km, temperature in F/C, etc.

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Preparing for a Skype Call

We will connect with a  □ School  □ Teacher  □ Expert
In City, State, Country: ________________________________

Questions Starters

*We learned about...what do you...?
*Can you describe...to us?
*How is...like...?
*How do you feel about...?
*Can you explain to us...?
*Can you tell us about an experience you had with...?
*Have you ever...?

Remember, no questions that you can answer with a yes or no.

Question #1

______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

Question #2

______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

Question #3:

______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

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We Skyped Today!

We connected with a  

[ ] School  [ ] Teacher  [ ] Expert in  
City, State, Country: _________________________________

What information can you share with your classmates, teacher, parents?

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

I was surprised to learn:

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

What would you like to investigate further? :

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

_______________________________

My Job Today was:

[ ] Collaboration-Coordinator  
[ ] Calendar  
[ ] Greeter  
[ ] Share  
[ ] Q & A  
[ ] Photographer  
[ ] Videographer  
[ ] BackChannel  
[ ] BC Clean-up  
[ ] Google Maps  
[ ] Google Earth  
[ ] Blogger  
[ ] Data Form  
[ ] Timer  
[ ] Info Station

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We will connect with someone in ______________(City) ______________(Country) _________________ ( Continent)

Country’s Capital
________________

Time Zone
_______________

Season of the Year
☐ Spring   ☐ Summer
☐ Fall     ☐ Winter

Native Language Spoken
________________

Other Comment
________________
________________
________________
We will connect with someone in _____________(City) _____________(State).

State Capital
______________________

Weather Conditions?
______________________

Estimate the distance (miles)
______________________

Time Zone
☐ EST ☐ CST ☐ MST ☐ PST

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