

LESSON PLAN 68: FAKEBOOK

Objective: Create social networking profiles for historical figures

Age range: 12-15



INTRODUCING FAKEBOOK

This is a great way to use the successful concept of Facebook, the hugely popular social networking site, in your classroom. How Facebook works is that people create a webpage on the site with information about themselves. Friends can then assess this page to see what you're doing, and share info and photos.

Created by Classtools.net, the idea behind 'Fakebook' is to allow teachers and students to create imaginary profile pages of historical figures for study purposes.

YOU WILL NEED

Computer and internet access.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

History, research, presentation, social networking, computer skills.

METHOD


1. Explain the concept of social networking, what it is, how it's done and why people do it.
2. Describe ways that people network, not just online but more traditional methods as well.
3. Introduce the Facebook website and explain how it operates. (There are several videos on lookah.tv that may help with this.)



ABOUT FACEBOOK

Launched in February 2004, the site has more than 600 million active users. They create personal profile pages, add other users as friends, and exchange messages. Facebook users must register before using the site. Additionally, they may join common-interest user groups.

facebook.com



4. Discuss with your students what the Facebook pages of historical figures would be like. What information would they include? What would the profile look like? How would they use the page?

Staying safe online – this is also a good opportunity to remind students about how to stay safe online and discuss what sorts of information should be kept private and not be included in a profile, things like addresses, telephone number, and other personal details.

5. Ask them to identify someone they would like to create a profile for (or choose one for them), get them to research that person, and collect information for their page.

6. Explain why you wouldn't create a fake profile on the real Facebook site – but there is an alternative, Fakebook.
7. Visit Fakebook (fizurl.com/fakebook).



8. Create your fake profile. Start by entering a name at the top of the page, and then proceed to edit the profile, add friends, posts, comments and other information – just like you would on a normal Facebook page.
9. Review and compare Fakebook profiles created by the class. Discuss the content and why people have included information. Talk about what else could be added. Would the person be happy with their profile?



10. Check out Fakebook profiles that people have already created on historical figures, from Julius Caesar and Charles Darwin, to Marie Curie and Lenin.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO USE FAKEBOOK

A fake profile doesn't need to be confined to a historical figure. You could create profiles for:

- Characters from literature
- Famous people – politicians, sports people and celebrities

Or you could use them as a way to document and research events and activities, such as:

- Charting book plots
- Reviewing a series of historical events
- Following news stories
- Epic journeys
- Scientific discoveries
- Results in a sports event
- Family trees

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