
Overview

In this 60 minute activity, students have the opportunity to consider the impact new inventions they may have on people's lives. The two inventions detailed here are Google Glass, a pair of glasses that allow you to interact with the internet by using the lens as a screen, and James Cameron's Deep Sea Challenger Submarine that allows him to travel to approximately seven miles below the surface of the ocean. The students are encouraged to consider the value of both inventions and imagine they were responsible for one of them. Additional time will be needed for students to present their ideas to the class who they try to persuade to sponsor their project.

Materials

- Access to internet footage that explains the two inventions – Google Glass and the Deep Sea Challenger
- Sugar paper and felt tip pens
- Organise the students into mixed ability pairs and fours

Lesson Structure

0 - 15 minutes – Explain to students that in the field of science, new inventions are being made daily and there are two that you are going to think about as a class. Firstly show some footage of James Cameron's Deep Sea Challenger Submarine and ask the students why they think it is such an important scientific breakthrough. Elicit the fact that no one has ever been able to go that far below sea level before and that because of this, scientists will be able to find out more about what life exists seven miles below sea level. Ask the students to think about why James Cameron wanted to do this and encourage them to think about qualities such as curiosity, challenge and adventure.

15 - 25 minutes - Then show the students the footage of Google Glass and ask them if they think they are a good idea and why they were invented. Encourage the students to consider whether there would be any risks involved in wearing a pair.

25 – 35 minutes – Ask students to consider which idea they would have wanted to invent and why. Give them time to think this over with a partner and then share their ideas with the class.

35 – 50 minutes – Explain that when someone invents something, they write a rationale about why they invented it. In groups of four, ask students to select their favourite invention of the two and to draw up a presentation to try to convince others of its purpose and value. As the students do this, circulate to elicit their understanding and provide additional support for those who need it.

50 – 60 minutes – Draw the class back together. Ask the children what main points they used in order to persuade others to invest in their invention.

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Video links for Google Glass and James Cameron's Deep Sea Challenger Submarine are available on youtube.com