

7. THE MODERN WORLD

Pages 220-288

HOW EVERYONE GOT THE VOTE (P220)

RESEARCH: Discover more about women's suffrage, the 1840s factory strikes or the American Constitution. Create a PowerPoint presentation. What do these events tell you about politics and fairness?

ACTIVITY: Encourage your school to hold an election for a student council, if they don't already have one. Think about the rules of your election. Is it a democracy? Can anyone vote? Do some people's votes count more – staff, upper years? Is it difficult to organise? How do you stop people voting more than once, or influencing another's votes?

RESEARCH: Now investigate different systems of government around the world. Which countries have democracies? Are there different types of democracies? Which is your favourite and why? Is it flawed? Can you think of a better system of ruling?

DISCUSS: Where else do we find examples of the incompatibility of goods?

WHY IT MATTERS WHAT WE COUNT (P229)

DISCUSS: After reading page 230, think about what statistic you would like to know. Is it the amount of chocolate sold in the UK?

ACTIVITY: Draw up a statistical analysis of your house. You may wish to use a type of chart to do this, perhaps a pie chart or bar chart. What are you measuring? E.g., How much food is eaten, how many items of clothing are owned?

Look at the information you have gathered. What does it really tell you?

DISCUSS: If you could measure anything in the world, what would it be?

THE RISE OF NEWS (P232)

ACTIVITY: Write a message in semaphore. How long does it take?

ACTIVITY: Create your own newsletter or newspaper. This could be for your family, your street, neighbourhood or local community. Do you have both serious and crazy stories? What will make people read it? Think about what makes a school lesson engaging. How can you engage your readership?

RESEARCH: Find the craziest story in today's national newspaper. Share it with your class or friends. Find a good 'happy' news story. Have a look at The Happy Newspaper: <https://thehappynewspaper.com/>

ACTIVITY: Write a guide for your friends who have news pessimism.

ACTIVITY: Sort the television programmes you watch into three categories: exciting, helpful and exciting and helpful.

THE INCREASING POWER OF ADVERTISING (P239)

ACTIVITY: Write an honest advert for a product you have. Now write another advert for the same product, this time selling it as hard as you can. Compare the two.

ACTIVITY: Create an advert for a best friend, in whichever media you prefer, audio, visual or paper. What makes a friend appealing?

DISCUSS: Are there already rules for advertisers? Should there be further rules for advertising? Should rules apply to influencers on social media too?

DISCUSS: Think about something you have been influenced to buy because of an advert. How did the advert appeal to you? Was the outcome from the purchase the same as suggested by the advert?



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HOW WE INVENTED COMPUTERS (P271)

ACTIVITY: Find things in your home that are operated by a computer. Make a list. Which room in your home has the most 'computer-operated' items?

ACTIVITY: Write step-by-step instructions for making a sandwich, as if you are instructing a computer.

Watch the 'exact instructions challenge' video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ct-IOOUqmyY>

How do your instructions compare?

DISCUSS: If you could program a computer to do anything, what would you have it do? Tidy your room?



INDEPENDENCE IN AFRICA (P282)

RESEARCH: Find a map of the continent of Africa. Look at the border lines between countries. How would you describe them?

DISCUSS: Think about ideas for ways of living. What are the good ideas we have in our society? Are there other ideas you have for making our society better?

ACTIVITY: Write a manifesto of your good ideas. Can you get everyone in your class to agree with your manifesto?



THE PROBLEM OF RICH COUNTRIES (P277)

ACTIVITY: Do you have any 'First World Problems'? Can you turn them into 'gratitude statements'?

ACTIVITY: Write a small plaque to hang on a wall, which explores what you are most grateful for.

DISCUSS: Which job would you like to have when you're older? Does the job exist? Is it something your society needs or someone would pay you to do? How would you make yourself desirable for that job?

ACTIVITY: What is your personal style? Create a collage/mood board/graffiti board showing your style.

I wish my main course would hurry up!

I'm so grateful that someone else is cooking me a meal!

EXOTIC HISTORY (P288)

'Have you ever felt there was a time or place in history that you'd like to live in?' (Page 289)

ACTIVITY: Write about which period of history and why you'd like to live in it. Look at pages 292-293 for inspiration. Write a diary entry as if you are living then. What is your day like?

The author suggests that what you like about that period in history might be what's missing from your life today. What can you do in the here and now to give you that something that's missing?

ACTIVITY: Explore this in a final paragraph in your writing.

'You don't really understand about 1968; the hippies were the privileged children of the well-to-do; the real questions were about technology and workers' rights and they didn't even think about those issues.'

'Pirates were actually criminals and they often got sick because they didn't eat vegetables.'

'It's all very well being a hunter-gatherer but what if you got toothache? There were no dentists. What if another tribe comes along and attacks you?'

