Holiday time

Holiday activities to do
with young digital citizens

For teachers

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

🛜 **Being online**

Access and Inclusion

Holidays are a time when we often meet lots of people, and can learn more about other countries, cultures, races and religions..

🛜 Have students choose a country they would like to go on holiday. They can then do an online search to try to find out if people living in this country really have equal opportunities, regardless of gender, race, culture, disability…

Learning and Creativity

The holiday season can be a great opportunity for children to learn new things and exercise their creativity.

🛜 Ask your students to visit a museum, a local fair or an exhibition at the place where they will be spending their holidays. Once back in school, they can use the internet or written material to get some background information to write a short story about the experience. Don't forget to remind them about copyright!

Media and Information Literacy

Holiday time is a great opportunity for students to explore the world together.

🛜 Have students use a search engine to find more information about the holiday destination they chose earlier. Does the information vary from one site to another? How can they check the credibility of the source? Is it possible to spot the difference between information and ads?

👍 Well-being online

Ethics and Empathy

Holidays can be a tough time for children who, because of mental, physical, social or economic difficulties, cannot go to places or do things that other children do.

👍 Ask students to work in groups and talk about the activities they did or plan to do during their holidays. Get them to note reasons why some children are unable to do such activities. How would they feel if they were in the shoes of these children? Is there anything they can do about it?

Health and Well-being

Holidays should be a time when children enjoy fresh air and exercise, yet many children tend to spend more time than ever online, playing games or watching videos.

👍 Ask students to keep a daily log during their holidays to do a reality check on the time they spend online and offline. Back at school, discuss in groups whether their log shows a balance between time online and the time spent doing physical and outdoor activities.

e-Presence & Communication

Remind children that they should be careful about what they post online, even during their holidays, because every one of our online actions leaves a digital footprint that could well be permanent.

👍 Ask students to share in class the things they posted online during their holidays. If they are not very willing to do this, remind them of the importance of digital footprints, and how these shape our online presence and reputation.

🔒 Rights online

Active Participation

During the holiday season children should be encouraged to look for ways they can take part in positive, constructive activities online and offline.

🔒 Invite students to tell you the places they visited or plan to visit during the holidays. In class, conduct an online search on a few of these places and discuss relevant topics of social interest. This will give students practice in expressing their views, while respecting the views of others.

Rights and Responsibilities

Our rights and responsibilities as citizens are always the same, regardless of where we go in the world or what we do.

🔒 Have students select one right they feel is important to them in their life (for example, the right to education). Now get them to choose a famous holiday location and conduct an online search to see if all children in that place are able to fully benefit from this particular right.

Privacy and Security

Did you know that the chances of homes being robbed during holiday periods are greatly increased when people talk about their upcoming holiday on social media, and /or publish posts and photos online indicating that they are probably away from home?

🔒 Ask students to share some of the pictures they posted online during their holidays. How much personal information do these posts reveal, and how much of this data could be used against them by malicious people?

🔒 Rights online

Consumer Awareness

We all tend to spend a bit more money during holidays, especially when we are visiting a place we haven't previously been to.

🔒 Invite students to talk about some of the meals they particularly like to eat during the holidays. Do the companies selling such meals produce and market them ethically? What do students think about sustainability, safety, and ethical production?

Holiday activities to do with young digital citizens

Other Council of Europe publications on Digital Citizenship Education

▶ Educating for a video game culture – A map for teachers and parents (2021)

▶ Digital citizenship education - Trainers' Pack (2020)

▶ Digital Citizenship Education – Lesson plans for educators available at https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/new-materials

▶ Digital Citizenship Education Handbook (2019)

▶ Bullying: perspectives, practice and insights (2017)

▶ Internet Literacy Handbook (2017)

Further information available at: www.coe.int/education

Authors:
Janice Richardson
Veronica Samara

ENG

www.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE