

My Ultimate Summer Job

This lesson is an extension of the lesson of the same name at Microsoft Encarta Schoolhouse
<http://encarta.msn.com/>

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Purpose

This lesson is designed for a multi-aged group of Middle school students in a computer access class. The main purpose of the class is to give students access to the computers so they can be used towards the completion of work across all learning areas. There was no requirement for assessment in this class, hence there is no marking key, but a blind dog could lead you through the steps of creating one.

This lesson could quite easily be adapted for any level. The purpose of the lesson is quite obvious. **If the students are able to complete this task satisfactorily they have the basic understandings and skills necessary to apply to completing their own work and to commence extension activities.** I allow a full term to complete this. (The students had a single 100 minute block session every six days)

One section that is not explicitly spelled out is that the students are expected to use the following resources for research:

- ☞ Internet (hence developing skills with browsers, searches, etc)
- ☞ Microsoft Bookshelf Basics (general research skills)
- ☞ Microsoft Encarta (as above)
- ☞ Other networked research sources (Britannica, Dangerous Creatures, etc)

As the students need to save and retrieve their work they also become familiar with network drives, directory structures, etc.

The advantage of this structure is that it accommodates very well the mandates of the **Curriculum Framework**. It is based on a student centred approach. It incorporates "role" - the students are engaged in real-life adult activities.

- ☞ The students can determine the order they complete the tasks,
- ☞ they decide the time allocation to each section,
- ☞ they plan the product,
- ☞ they can work collaboratively and share skills,
- ☞ they get to problem solve,

This allows the students to explore and the teacher need only explicitly instruct where it is absolutely necessary. Teachers are freed up to deal with those individual students who really need extra guidance.

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The Lesson

The Premise

Pretend that a Hollywood studio has just presented a sneak preview of a new movie in your town. A studio executive overhears you and your friends talking about movies as you leave the theatre. The studio executive is so impressed with what you have to say about movies that she offers you and your friends a summer job helping her produce her next films. At your first meeting, the executive tells you that she is working on three different films, and that for each movie she needs someone to research the subjects so that when people see the films they don't come out of the theatre saying "That was phoney!" or "That couldn't really happen."

Movie #1: Pirates' Plunder

This movie is about the life and times of pirates. The people making the movie need to have information such as:

- ☞ The years in which pirates were active
- ☞ The geographic areas in which they operated
- ☞ How pirates lived
- ☞ Who their enemies were
- ☞ Famous pirates

Movie #2: Ballooning Across the United States

To gather information, search Microsoft Bookshelf for topics such as:

- ☞ Hot air balloons
- ☞ Weather
- ☞ Rocky Mountains
- ☞ Cascade Mountains
- ☞ Great Plains
- ☞ The names of any states the balloons will cross.

The atlas will be a great source for maps.

Movie #3: Animal Patrol

This movie is about the men and women who help protect endangered species of animals around the world. The filmmakers will need you to select examples of endangered species and to provide information on why they are endangered and what is being done to save them.

Of course these topics can be chosen to be more relevant to other curriculum areas.

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**NOTE: All documents to be created from blank pages –
NO WIZARDS OR TEMPLATES**

The Task

In completing this project you will need to consider the following elements:

Individually

Microsoft Word

1. Present a three-page summary produced in **Microsoft Word** that details the particular subject you are investigating, eg. Pirate, Ballooning, Animals, etc

The summary should contain the following:

- ☞ A table of information
- ☞ Some clipart – carefully chosen and placed
- ☞ Headings for different sections
- ☞ Appropriate font styles and sizes
- ☞ Correct spelling and formatting
- ☞ Accurate references to source material, standard bibliographic - including URLs for online materials

Microsoft Publisher

2. Design a poster using **Microsoft Publisher** that could be used to advertise the movie that you are working on. You will need to make it as exciting as possible – imagine that your pay from the movie company is based on how many people eventually see the movie.

This should be carefully created so that it has all the major elements of a professional poster. You will need to think about:

- ☞ Title style
- ☞ Names of actors
- ☞ Catchy slogan
- ☞ Images
- ☞ Overall layout (try to use layering of text and images)
- ☞ **Students can also be asked to use graphics packages to create appropriate images.**

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Microsoft Excel

3. Using **Microsoft Excel** create a worksheet that **calculates and presents** your earnings based on the following figures – show average income for a

☞ **Blockbuster** – all seats sold

☞ **Hit** – half the seats sell

☞ **Flop** – one-tenth of the seats sell:

☞ You will be paid 10% of all adult ticket prices

☞ Adults pay \$9.00 per ticket

☞ The film will show at 5 different cinemas

☞ The cinemas can hold the following numbers

Savoy	300
Odeon	250
Galaxy	400
Axon	200
Ritz	120

In Groups of 3

Microsoft PowerPoint

Using **Microsoft PowerPoint** – create a slideshow presentation that you could present to the Movie Company to give an overall view of the work you did and the discoveries you made and the materials you produced. This should be presented to the class as a 10 minute discussion forum highlighting any difficulties you encountered and any features of the software that were particularly useful to you.