

LESSON PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2017

THE SCIENCE OF STAR TREK



COVER FEATURE

Vol. 14 Issue 6
THE SCIENCE OF STAR TREK



| Stages | Procedure | Time |
|---------------|---|---------|
| Objectives | To practice a. predicting skill b. identifying supporting details c. inferring meanings of words from context d. discussing and responding to content of the text orally | |
| Warmer | Teacher shows poster or trailer of Star Trek to the class and asks if they have seen the movie or TV series. Teacher elicits responses and leads into the topic of the day. | 5 mins |
| Pre-reading | Next, teacher gets students to look at the title, subheadings and pictures of the article. Teacher asks students what they think the article is going to be about. Teacher elicits responses. | 5 mins |
| While-Reading | Teacher distributes Task 1. In pairs, students skim through article and match the supporting details to the suitable sub-heading. | 10 mins |
| Post-reading | Teacher checks answers to Task 1. Students continue with Task 2. Students work with their partners and answer the vocabulary questions. Teacher discusses and reveals answers. Next, teacher puts students into small groups. Teacher distributes Task 3. In small groups, students discuss the evaluative questions. Teacher elicits responses from each group and discusses answers. | 15 mins |
| Wrap | Teacher wraps up lesson by checking on predictions made earlier. Teacher gets students to complete the word search on page 60. | 5 mins |

TASK 1

Skim the text and match the sub-headings with the correct supporting details.

| | Sub-headings |
|----|--|
| 1 | . Cell phones: |
| | |
| 2 | . The tablet: |
| | |
| 3 | . Smart watches: |
| | |
| 4 | . Virtual assistants: |
| | |
| 5 | . Bluetooth earpieces: |
| | |
| 6 | . Video calls: |
| | Supporting details |
| a. | This multipurpose device was designed as part of the Star Trek crew's uniform and |
| | today it has become a common accessory to many people. |
| b. | This technology is another incredible reality that was spawned from the inspiration of |
| | the producers of Star Trek. With this technology, people not only can talk to each other |
| | but also can see each other face to face on a screen. |
| c. | This device was introduced in Star Trek as a portable means of communication in space. |
| | However, years earlier in reality, it could not be conveyed by hand as it still depended |
| | on a physical connection to a network. |
| d. | This wireless and hands-free gadget was not originated from the Star Trek but it has |
| | existed way before the series did. |
| e. | This software agent is available for many devices today and as shown in Star Trek, it is a |
| | voice-assistant that responds to questions. |
| f. | The futuristic world portrayed in Star Trek was paperless. Hence in the TV series, this |
| | device replaced all the printed materials which people had used to obtain information. |

TASK 2

Read the text provided and answer each question that follows.

1. 'The TV shows of the 60's showcased the phenomenon of space travel to other galaxies. Explorers travelled using gigantic space ships to meet exotic alien life forms to satisfy their curiosities.'

Explorers are interested and eager to learn new things. Which word tells you that?

2. 'Paper had long become a thing of the past in the original Star Trek TV show. Instead of using paper, the producers of Star Trek imagined world without paper, where all information was relayed and recorded with the use of tablet-like device.'

The underline words can be replaced with:

- a) Paper has existed
- b) Paper is obsolete
- c) Paper is primitive
- 3. 'Today, the original Star Trek has become more than a TV show. It has become a franchise, with merchandise, movie spin offs and even more TV shows. One of the upsides to the new franchise is the introduction of smart watches, which are worn by the characters as part of their standard attire.'

The underline words tell us that

- a) smart watches are well merchandised because of Star Trek.
- b) smart watches were newly invented because of Star Trek.
- c) smart watches were created for the characters of Star Trek.
- 4. 'Upon inceptions, the first computers showcased in Star Trek were massive and could not really do that much. The crew of the original USS Enterprise would simply ask the computer's Virtual Assistant a question and it would pop out an answer.'

Which word in the text above tells you the immensity of the computer featured in Star Trek?

5. 'The original Communications Officer, Lieutenant Nyota Uhura, seemed constantly attached to her earpiece. It was through her earpiece that she received all kinds of information which would then be relayed to her crew members.'

Which **two** words in the text above help define a process of transmission?

6. 'Though Lieutenant Nyota Uhura's headset was imagined for the future, the device was likely spawned from the inspiration of the past. Telephone switchboard operators had been using hands-free headsets since the turn of the last century, long before Star Trek debuted in 1966.'

What is the irony of the text above?

- a) The hands-free headset was an inspiration from Star Trek.
- b) The futuristic headset of Star Trek was an inspiration from the past.
- c) The futuristic headset of Star Trek has inspired the hands-free headsets today.
- 7. 'There are many more imaginative devices that were dreamed up by the creators of Star Trek. It would be incredible to see them become realities!'

Which word tells you that the devices featured in Star Trek were non-existent at that time?

TASK 3

Discuss the questions below with your classmates.

| 1. | According to the author, 'some of the technology portrayed on the show (Star Trek) is still a little far-fetched, a lot of these gadgets have found their place in today's world.' Is there anything that does not exist that you would like to see invented? What is it? |
|----|---|
| | |
| 2. | 'The Communicator could instantly connect distant crew members either in a different place on the planet, or on board the orbiting spaceship.' Do you think it is possible to broadcast ourselves across universe and have inter-galaxy communication? |
| | |
| 3. | 'The crew of the original USS Enterprise would simply ask the computer's Virtual Assistant a question and it would pop out an answer.' Do you think such capability will one day outsmart humans? Is it a positive or a negative thing? |
| | |
| 4. | Among the six technology features discussed in the article, which one is the best invention of all time? |
| | |
| | |

ANSWERS

Task 1

- 1. c
- 2. f
- 3. a
- 4. e
- 5. d
- 6. b

Task 2

- 1. curiosities
- 2. b
- 3. a
- 4. massive
- 5. received, relayed
- 6. b
- 7. imaginative / dreamed up

Task 3

Students present their own views.