

The Great Escape

Overview

Task Context

Students will learn about the importance of home fire escape plans.

Description

Students will draw a home escape plan to scale and share it with their family.

Prior Knowledge

Before beginning this lesson, students will need the measurements of the rooms in their home.

Expectations

Grade 7	Grade 8
<p>7e64 • listen and respond constructively to alternative ideas or viewpoints</p> <p>7e65 • express ideas and opinions confidently but without trying to dominate discussion;</p>	<p>8e62 • contribute collaboratively in group situations by asking questions and building on the ideas of others;</p> <p>8p14 • analyse situations (e.g., hitchhiking, gang violence, violence in relationships) that are potentially dangerous to personal safety;</p>

Groupings

Students Working As Whole Class
 Students Work in Small Groups
 Students Working Individually

Teaching / Learning Strategies

Discussion
 Map making

Notes to Teacher

The following materials will be needed:

- pencils and rulers
- graph paper

Teaching / Learning

1. Teachers bring in real building blueprints and discuss with students the importance of precise measurements, how the plans are designed, tools, used etc. If possible, a draftsman could be invited into the class to lead this discussion.
2. Teachers have students draw the classroom to the scale of 1 centimetres = 30 centimetres. This will provide students with the opportunity to practise drawing to scale.
3. Teachers review the importance of a home escape plan in case of a fire. (You cannot plan in the midst of a fire. You need to have a plan in place ahead of time and practise it.) Discuss how quickly fires can spread and why everyone should know in advance what to do if they hear a smoke alarm.
4. Teachers and students discuss key points in home escape planning.

Key home escape planning steps.

- Plan two ways out of each room. The first way out should be a door and the second way out could be another door or window.
 - Choose a special meeting place outside the home. A meeting place should be something that stays in the same place, such as a tree, telephone pole, or a neighbour's house. If your family meets in one place, you can quickly tell firefighters if anyone is missing.
 - If you live in an apartment, use the stairs. **Never use an elevator** in case of a fire. The elevator could take you to the floor where the fire is burning. If fire blocks your exit, close the apartment door and cover all cracks where smoke could enter. Telephone the fire department even if firefighters are already at the building. Tell them where you are. Wave a towel or sheet at the window to help the firefighters find you.
 - If you live in a mobile home, follow the same steps. Keep all exits clear and install smoke alarms on interior walls.
5. Teachers and students discuss the importance of safety awareness outside the home (e.g., at a hotel, grandparent's home, or a friend's house).
 - Check for smoke alarms.
 - Are the windows sealed shut or can they be opened for escape?
 - Where are the exits located?
 6. Students use graph paper to draw their own home escape plan to scale. If the entire house or apartment cannot be drawn, students may draw their bedroom to scale. Drawings should include the following:
 - various levels of the home
 - all rooms
 - front and back doors
 - stairways
 - fire escapes
 - windows
 - exits
 - location of smoke alarms
 - family meeting place
 7. Plans may be displayed on a bulletin board.

Home Connection

Students take completed home escape plans and share them with their families. They should be posted in the home and the plan should be practised at least twice a year.