

Spy on your friends

What is Spying?

Purpose

To improve skills of observation and information finding

Age range (years)



Background

People usually think of spies and spying as something that ‘happens to other people’. By contrast, this activity asks students to become spies and be spied upon themselves.

Steps

1. At the beginning of a lesson ask every student to (secretly) choose another person, ideally not sitting close by.
2. During the lesson, can they secretly observe three things about that person?
You should specify some fairly neutral things to watch out for. These could include evidence of how people show concentration, what they do with their feet, their posture or how much they contribute to class.
3. At the end of the session, ask students to:
 - reveal their observations
 - describe how they kept their observations secret
 - say how it felt to be spied upon.