



Spoken Word:

Spreading the word

Catch me on my mobile / Teachers notes

Focus

Teenagers are some of the most determined users of mobile phones and this activity focuses on what they use it for. The construction of a survey for a specified purpose is a key element of the activity.

Objectives

Students will:

- design a survey to find out how people use their mobile phones
- carry out their survey
- analyse and present the results from their survey.

Outcomes

All students will:

- design a survey.

Most students will also:

- carry out their survey.

Some students will also:

- analyse the data from their survey appropriately and present results and conclusions.

Equipment

- Worksheet: *Catch me on my mobile* (1 copy per student).

Running the activity

Most students will be familiar with the idea of writing a survey but many find it more difficult than they imagine. Typically they think only about the questions rather than the analysis of the data collected so they end up with data which is qualitative rather than quantitative or is simply a meaningless assemblage of impressions based on questions that are unclear or misleading. Spend some time looking at what makes good data using the table on the worksheet. This activity is particularly useful to support the How Science Works component of science.

One strategy is to ask students to swap their surveys before they start to use them. Can their partner make suggestions of ways to improve it?

The analysis and presentation of the data is as valuable as the actual survey. Working in small groups students could present their finding to each other. The teacher could select certain ones to be presented to the whole class if appropriate.