

## What Makes A Good Detective?

### Related educational topics or areas of focus

Planet OzKids activities relate to broad topics or areas of focus which are taught in schools and in home schooling worldwide, regardless of curriculum differences.



This activity relates to several topics

including **English** (reading, comprehension, writing), **Technology and Enterprise** (technology skills), **Health and Physical Education** (interpersonal skills), **Chance and Data** (estimate likelihood of an event, analyse/draw conclusions), **Working Scientifically** (investigating).

### Type of task

Exploring world of work situations , teamwork, problem solving, research, writing

### Age group for this activity

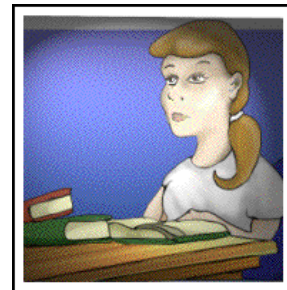
This What Makes A Good Detective? Activity is designed for Year/grade 3 - 8 students (age 9 - 14).

### Skills needed by detectives

Many young people are interested in solving mysteries and want to know about being a detective.

Popular detective characters include Nancy Drew, Encyclopedia Brown – Boy Detective, Third Grade Detectives, Jigsaw Jones, Cam Johnsen – and the ACE Detectives from Planet OzKids.

Detective skills can be practiced in every day life.





## Activity instructions

Children can be asked to:

1. Read the profile descriptions of the four ACE Detectives, Megan, Ben, Linda and Brad on Planet OzKids starting at:  
[http://www.planetozkids.com/Ace\\_Detectives/profiles.html](http://www.planetozkids.com/Ace_Detectives/profiles.html)

2. Read about the skills that detectives need, in the Detective Club area of Planet OzKids at:  
[http://www.planetozkids.com/Ace\\_Detectives/detective\\_club-skills.html](http://www.planetozkids.com/Ace_Detectives/detective_club-skills.html)

3. Discuss these skills, the role of a detective and the personal characteristics that good detectives share.

4. Individually or in small groups, write the names of the four ACE Detectives, and list the skills and characteristics that each one has.

Share your list with the class and listen to other people read theirs. Identify items listed by others that are different from those you listed.

5. Read the information on Planet OzKids about starting a detective notebook and being in a detective club at:  
[http://www.planetozkids.com/Ace\\_Detectives/detective\\_club-notebook.html](http://www.planetozkids.com/Ace_Detectives/detective_club-notebook.html)  
[http://www.planetozkids.com/Ace\\_Detectives/detective\\_club-be-in-club.html](http://www.planetozkids.com/Ace_Detectives/detective_club-be-in-club.html)

6. Individually or in small groups, brainstorm a small mystery about your classroom or school\*. Think about these questions:

- What do you know about the situation – the problem to be solved?
- Who are the people involved and who might you interview?
- What might you research, and where can you look for information?
- Who can you ask for ideas about your research?

\*Ideas for this small mystery are on the next page.

7. Start a detective notebook. Include a description of the case and the action you've decided to take to begin your investigation.

Optional: Continue with the research and interviews and add to the notebook. Find a name for your group's detective club.

### \*Ideas for a small mystery

#### **Object – natural or built**

Look for an interesting object, building, plant or tree within your school's site. Find out about it yourself, and then draw up a case briefing and some clues for students.

#### **People – mystery visitor**

Arrange for a mystery visitor to come to your classroom at a future date. This could be someone who lives near the school who has had an interesting life, has an interesting job, has come from another country etc. Identify key things related to the person for students to research. When the visitor arrives, students can present their detective notebooks.

#### **Event or happening**

Choose an event or celebration that takes place in your school or community. Students can research aspects of this, including why it began and when, who was involved in starting it, what the aims of the event are, and who is involved in running it now and what their tasks are.



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