

The Time Machine

Lesson Plan

More than 100 years ago Albert Einstein came up with an idea about how time works. He called it relativity. This theory says that time and space are linked together. Einstein also said our universe has a speed limit: nothing can travel faster than the speed of light (186,000 miles per second).

Countless science fiction tales have explored the paradox of what would happen if you went back in time and did something in the past that endangered the future.



It seems that a time traveller could make changes, but the original outcome would still find a way to happen.

We can't use a time machine to travel hundreds of years into the past or future. That kind of time travel only happens in books and movies. However, let's pretend.

Sometimes a person believes to be looking into the future, which in a dream appears to be the past. Only by looking at buildings, clothes or cars, at the time on the clock or at the calendar could we get a clue of the moment going on.

We are going to try to have fun thinking that in fact, time travel is possible.

Activity 1 This is an acrostic (**Worksheet 1**) to start working on the unit. Students can contribute their own ideas and then share their poems with the class. After they can write them on a post it and stick them to a special area created for it on the wall (maybe with a clock template as a base).

Activity 2 Show students the infographic (**Worksheet 2**) called "Tough Questions". Students work in pairs asking each other the controversial questions and giving an answer one way or the other. They should make a choice.

Activity 3 When they have finished the work in pairs, we will start the debate (**Worksheet 3**). We will create two groups: *Team A* and *Team B* or *Pro Team* and *Con Team* if that is the case. They should be divided according to their answers to the questions posed in the previous activity. If there is an irregular number in the groups, the teacher should arrange a balanced number of the members. The debate should be organized and the instructions should be followed carefully. The topic or topics should be chosen by the students depending on the time available for the activity. It is also possible to do it in two sessions. It will be easier once the students understand the mechanics of the activity.

Activity 4 Read the opinions about time travel (**Worksheet 4**). Ask the students: Imagine that you had a time machine. What would you do: revisit your past and correct your mistakes to have better present day or go to any time in the future to learn what has to be corrected right now to have a better future? Ask students if they

agree with the statements in the worksheet. They discuss in groups of three. Then in bigger groups. They create a Padlet or Infographic doing something similar with their own opinion.

Activity 5 We will finish with a writing activity (**Worksheet 5**). Students will write a story as a group writing activity. The topic will be *time travel*. Group writing is more engaging and creativity is shared which is something that some pupils usually appreciate. We will use a spinning wheel created with *pickerwheel*. They will divide into groups of four first to write the characters, the setting and the outline of the story. For this, they will spin the wheel to a maximum of four times to get information to get their story started. Then they will divide in pairs. They will now write the plot and the conflict of the story. Finally, each student will write the resolution to the story individually. They will also give a title to the final story.



Then the teacher will collect them and correct them. When they are ready give them back for them to read in the original groups. They can then share them in the big group.

