

Project NEWSLETTER

English
Language
Teaching
Adventures
in Minecraft

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Follow Me to MINECRAFT

Follow Me to Minecraft provides a unique experience for both ESL learners and teachers. Not only does it provide an engaging fun way of delivering language practice in classrooms or when teaching remotely, but also integrates features of problem-based learning (PBL) methods.

Furthermore, the whole concept of a game based on real life situations encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Designed and provided to everyone who enthusiastically strive to go the mile for acquiring their language skills to have more opportunities or helping their children when learning ESL, and delivering cutting-edge ESL classes.



Last months were marked with intensive elaboration of the game scenarios for each from the selected worlds in our FMtM educational game. After completing the scenarios, the project developers started turning our thoughts into (virtual) realities. They are credited with breathing new life into the lines of the scenarios making learning English grammar and vocabulary an enjoyable and almost effortless activity.

Creation of a handbook for practitioners goes hand in hand with building up the Minecraft worlds. We are fully aware of the fact that some of the future users of our FMtM worlds might not be familiar with Minecraft and we also try to make the game as inclusive as possible, that's why we provide a troubleshooting document which solves the most common problems

that may arise, e.g. when downloading the Microsoft Education Edition.

A detailed instructional pack on the challenges which will help the practitioners get a quick overview of any chosen challenge as well as navigate easily throughout the game. This is also the reason why the document includes detailed information on downloading the game and running the world.

Scenarios with the scope of each activity are helpful for organising lessons before introducing the activity. In each activity, there are also included hacks to let teachers check if their students accurately performed the activities. The material also contains tips for follow-up activities and further elaboration of topics encountered in the Minecraft world.

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Pilot Testing of the Worlds

In June 2023 we run 3 piloting involving 2 institutions from the Czech Republic (a grammar school from České Budějovice and a vocational school from Přeřov) and 1 English language school from Burgas, Bulgaria. Four Minecraft worlds were tested by 342 pupils or students.

The overall feedback both from the players and teachers is very positive, appreciating the engaging real-life situations, intuitive environment, fast-loading nature, range of vocabulary as well as features focusing on grammar structures and topics opening environmental issues.

Nevertheless, the piloting also pointed out some minor difficulties. The identified difficulties may negatively influence players' satisfaction and thus having a negative impact on the learning process itself, e.g. too much time required to find a lost object or struggling when using specific tools necessary to complete the given task.

In the upcoming weeks we are going to revise the worlds taking into account the findings from the piloting to improve the users' satisfaction.



Piloting the FMtM worlds in České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Taste the FMtM Worlds!

Airport

Provides a life-like experience of an international airport including recognizing the restricted items, checking in and boarding the plane, finding their luggage and locate the contact person waiting for you at your final destination.



Around the City

You walk a dog in a city park and play with it. Suddenly the dog runs off and gets lost. Finding the missing dog is the most important mission that requires completing a lot of tasks.

Green School

Make your school greener! Completing challenges involving recognizing and tackling environmental problems encourages players to engage their critical thinking skills and offers topics for further discussion.

Throwing a Party

In this world you will plan a theme farewell party from scratch. You will see some artifacts related to cultural history and recall past events in British history as well as virtually tasting traditional foods.

Treasure Island

You are the best archaeologist in the world with a mission to find a buried golden pirate treasure. There is an exhibition planned in a museum and they desperately need your help. Will you manage to return safely from the dangerous pirate island and make the museum famous?

Shopping Mall

In this world, you are going to recall some useful vocabulary related to shopping with a special focus on environmentally friendly produce. Shopping items on your list or getting a present are some of the challenges that await you.