

# FIRST CONTACT

## - LANGUAGES -



**CURRICULUM AREA:** LOTE/ARTS (DRAMA)

**TARGET YEAR LEVEL/S:** Years 3 – 7

**CLASS TIME:** 40 minutes

### LESSON BACKGROUND

This is an interesting lesson that explores the difficulties encountered by discoverers and settlers when first communicating with the Inuit in the Arctic. Students will role play what THEY would have done when communicating with someone who could not speak their language.

### OUTCOMES

- Students comprehend and communicate in the target language through listening and responding, and speaking

### PREPARATION

- Prepared cards with 'encounter/meeting' situations
- Brief understanding of the European explorers first encounters with the natives of the Americas.

### STUDENT ACTIVITY

- 1) Introduce the topic by discussing with students the first encounters of European explorers and the native Indians of the Americas, and the Inuit people of the Arctic.
- 2) Discuss with students what they would do if they encountered a person that did not speak their language and you needed to communicate with them. Give an example situation: "You wish to know where the nearest telephone is". What would you do/say?
- 3) Explain to students, that the explorers communications with the Inuit natives were much more simplistic demands, such as "Need food" and "How do we find water"
- 4) Using some situations that you have made up yourself, organise students into groups and have them role-play a situation in which something needs to be communicated, however, the person you are talking to does not understand English. Examples could be about teaching someone to do something, getting directions to somewhere.

## **EXTENSION**

- Students can explore some NON-LINGUAL forms of communication, such as sign language. Students can actually research and explore the process of learning a language which has no starter English translation, just as the explorers first had to.