

Instructions

This activity encourages students to use their enquiry skills, as well as consider the risks of fire in the home.

Ideally students work in pairs to find the answer to the mystery, each piece of information gives a clue as to why Jake won't be getting his Wii this Christmas. Each pair/group needs to be given the clue cards (it may be worth considering laminating a class set that can be used again and again). Depending on the ability of the students you may decide to just leave them with the mystery question **Why won't Jake get his Wii this Christmas?** or give them the clue framework to answer as they work through.

Once they have read the clues and possibly completed the clue framework discuss what happened (use the questions on the clue card as prompts). Through discussion or feedback from the clue framework highlight the following points:

1. Most fires start in the kitchen.
2. Distraction is one of the main causes (watch DVD clip – on CD rom)
3. Working smoke alarms saves precious time and lives.
4. If there is a fire, stay calm, get out, stay out and call 999.

You could also consider developing the discussion into:

- Financial cost of a fire – individuals involved and fire service
- What precautions Jake could have taken to prevent the fire from happening
- How the fire probably started

Extension activities: (Literacy, Communication, Drama)

The mystery exercise must be completed prior to extension activities.



Write a newspaper article around the fire. The article should outline what happened, the risks and raise awareness about fire safety in the home.



In groups or pairs compile a news report for the evening news on the event, the report must outline what happened, the risks and raise awareness about fire safety in the home. Consider interviews with the characters and what they may say in response to the questions (possible characters – Jake, Nigel, Jakes parents, firefighter, fire safety officer).

Fire Prevention in the home – Mystery Cards
Why won't Jake get his Wii this Christmas?

Jake is 13.	Jake gets home from school, lets himself in and is starving.	Just as he's checking his bacon the <i>door bell rings</i> – he rushes to answer it.
The <i>oil</i> in the pan is hot and spitting so he cracks in the 2 eggs.	Looking at the <i>toaster</i> – he knows it's seen better days as there are crumbs everywhere. But it will be OK for now – he pops his toast in.	Jake has seen his dad cook bacon and eggs loads of times and thinks he can do it himself.
<i>Oil</i> is added to the frying pan for the eggs.	The kitchen cupboards at Jakes house are pretty empty.	Jake turns on the <i>grill</i> for the bacon.
It's the last week of school before the Christmas holidays.	They both turn, and run out of the house.	The fire-fighters arrive and are ready to deal with the fire.
Jake is tempted to run back in to save the Christmas presents under the tree, thankfully Nigel holds him back.	As the man from Tesco's places the order in the hall – he texts his mum to let her know that the delivery has arrived.	Jake looks in the fridge to find eggs and bacon. He decides to make himself an egg and bacon toasted sandwich.
The man from Tescos (Nigel) nods towards the kitchen and asks if everything is alright.	Thankfully it's the Tesco delivery.	Many fires start in the home when people are distracted .
They rush into the kitchen to see that the <i>hob</i> is on fire. Smoke and flames quickly engulf the area.	The firefighters act quickly and soon contain the fire. Sadly all the rooms on the ground floor have been damaged, either by the fire, smoke or water.	It suddenly dawns on Jake that if he or Nigel had shut the kitchen door as they left the house the fire may not have spread so quickly.
Jake turns around to see black smoke coming from the direction of the kitchen.	When cooking it's very important to pay attention all of the time as most fires start in the kitchen.	The smoke alarm doesn't go off – <i>the battery was taken out</i> last year for Jakes remote control car.
Fire-fighters have specialist equipment to deal with fires such as breathing apparatus, helmets and fire resistant clothing to protect them.	He grabs a <i>tea towel</i> and takes out the grill as the handle has broken and the metal gets really hot. He lays the bacon across the grill, popping the tea towel on the side for when he comes to take it out later.	Jake can see that the fire has spread throughout the whole of the downstairs as black smoke pours out of the windows.
Once outside <i>Jake calls 999</i> requesting the fire brigade, giving his name and address as well as a description of what has happened.	Jake has asked his mum and dad for a Nintendo Wii for Christmas and he's pretty certain his mum has got it for him.	Jake stood in front of his home and reflected how easy it is to become distracted and how quickly the fire started.

Using the clue cards, write down as much information as you can relevant to each heading.

Clue framework	Why won't Jake get his Wii this Christmas?
Who is Jake?	
What possible causes of fire / fire risks can you identify in this story?	
Most fires start in the kitchen. Why (think sources of heat and fuel)?	
How could the damage of the fire have been reduced?	
What did Jake do on discovering the fire? Why was this the right decision?	

<p><u>Answer:</u> Clue framework</p>	<p>Why won't Jake get his Wii this Christmas?</p>
<p>Who is Jake? <i>Jake is 13, a year 8 boy who often comes home to an empty house and makes himself a snack as a result of not eating a proper lunch. He lives with his mum and dad who both work. He really likes computer games and is hoping for a Wii for Christmas.</i></p>	
<p>What possible causes of fire / fire risks can you identify in this story? <i>Hob / Toaster / Hot oil / Tea towel too close to the hob / Grill Dirty grill pan that can catch fire easier Distraction – answering the door to Nigel and texting his mum</i></p>	
<p>Most fires start in the kitchen. Why (think sources of heat and fuel)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>People are distracted and forget about the cooking, which can result in a fire starting.</i> 2. <i>There are lots of sources of heat in a kitchen and plenty of fuel. Sources of heat include: The hob, oven, grill, toaster, microwave, kettle and other electrical items.</i> 3. <i>Ovens and grills are sometimes left with fat and grease on which can catch fire.</i> 4. <i>Crumbs can build up in toaster.</i> 5. <i>Items such as tea towels, oven gloves and kitchen roll can be left too close to hot hobs.</i> 6. <i>Metal is put into microwaves.</i> 	
<p>How could the damage of the fire have been reduced? <i>Working smoke alarm Shutting the kitchen door when Nigel and Jake left – hopefully containing the fire and limiting the damage.</i></p>	
<p>What did Jake do on discovering the fire? Why was this the right decision? <i>Got out, called 999 and stayed out. He was able to give the operator his name and address.</i></p>	