

Targeted Search for Your Investigation Topic

60 minutes

ICT Specialism 4: The internet and digital literacy

Outcome M4.U2.1

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

In this lesson you will apply targeted search techniques to your own investigation question. Create focused queries, log the best results, and explain their usefulness to support your Something Real project and SM4 KA1 evidence.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Outcome	What the specification asks for
M4.U2.1	Search the internet to gather information on a specific topic of interest and accurately reference the material.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO

- Run focused searches for the chosen investigation topic
- Keep a structured search log of query, best result, and usefulness
- Complete at least three strong logged searches (five as the target) in sm4_search_log

BEFORE THE BELL

- Write the sample investigation question on the whiteboard for reference during the demonstration.
- Optional: prepare a header-ready sm4_search_log template for students who need setup support.
- Read the five search moves and five jobs listed on the Quick check step so you can confirm answers quickly; nothing needs to be printed or sourced for that pair check.
- Have students open their Investigation Proposal (or write one investigation question) before the warm-up. Confirm the sm4 folder path on screen.
- Open a blank spreadsheet (plus optional header-ready template) and a search tab on the classroom screen.
- Have the matching worksheet ready (print or on-screen).
- Plan one student-volunteered investigation question to draft live on the board before releasing independent practice.

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HOW THE LESSON RUNS

5 min	introduction	Introduction
5 min	content	Key concepts
15 min	activity	Step-by-step task
3 min	content	Common issues
3 min	content	Quick check: match the search move
20 min	activity	Independent practice
4 min	content	Reflection
5 min	summary	Lesson summary

TEACHING MOVES

- NEW 15 Sep: capturing a page properly is now part of this lesson, about 10 minutes and four moves: find a named link from a description, print the first page only, save an image with right-click Save image as, and save the page itself. Students think a screenshot is the same as saving the image; show both once.
- Project the blank spreadsheet and model the first two searches live with the class.
- Point students at the on-page best-result checklist during the demonstration.
- Before independent practice, draft one student-volunteered investigation query on the board together.
- Circulate the room during independent practice to coach students on query refinement.
- Keep the sample question visible on the board throughout the lesson.
- Use pair share for the reflection to encourage discussion without writing.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

- Students create vague queries that yield off-topic results. Remind them to base queries directly on their investigation question and add specific terms like place names.
- Leaving the usefulness column empty. Encourage notes that a non-expert could understand.
- Selecting the first result without evaluation. Prompt students to scan results and choose the most relevant.
- Leaving sample enterprise rows mixed into own-topic logs. Insist samples are deleted unless the sample question is truly theirs.

DIFFERENTIATION

- Support: Provide a pre-formatted spreadsheet with column headers for students who struggle with setup.
- Support: Accept three strong own-topic rows as the minimum; five remains the target and the stretch.
- Extension: Encourage use of additional operators such as site: or exact phrases for more precise results; early finishers draft further queries or a verified AI-search comparison row.
- Support: Pair students with stronger search skills for peer coaching during practice.