

21st Century Skills – Quick Teacher’s Cheat Sheet

Learning & Innovation Skills

Skill	Quick Prompt / Activity
Critical Thinking	Explain *why* this answer works and why others might not.
Creativity	Think of one other way to solve this problem or present this information.
Collaboration	Work with a partner—one person solves, one person explains. Switch halfway.
Problem-Solving	Here’s a real-world challenge in our subject—what’s the best solution you can come up with in 5 minutes?

Information, Media & Technology Skills

Skill	Quick Prompt / Activity
Digital Literacy	Use an online tool to confirm this fact—what source did you use?
Media Evaluation	Compare these two sources— which is more reliable? Why?
Online Communication	Write a 3-sentence professional email to request information from an expert in this field.
Research Skills	Find one credible source that supports or challenges today’s topic.

Life & Career Skills

Skill	Quick Prompt / Activity
Time Management	You have 6 minutes—how will you use your time to complete this?
Adaptability	Here’s a last-minute change to the instructions—adjust your plan.
Initiative	Find one extra example or resource beyond what I gave you.
Leadership	Today, you’re the group coordinator—assign tasks and keep everyone on track.
Work Ethic	Double-check your work—what could you improve before turning it in?

Social & Emotional Skills

Skill	Quick Prompt / Activity
Active Listening	Repeat back what your partner said in your own words before you respond.
Constructive Feedback	Give two positives and one suggestion to your partner.
Empathy	How might this topic affect different people or groups?
Conflict Resolution	Role-play a quick disagreement—find a solution you both can agree on.