

APRIL 6TH 2023

The
Economist

EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

1 - HOUR LESSON

METaverse: A NEW REALM TO RULE?



Share your thoughts
@Econ_Foundation
#TopicalTalkFestival2023



About this lesson

Objective: to understand what the metaverse is and to explore what rules or regulations might need to be made

Before the lesson you will need to:

- Print the *TEACHER Instructions*, or have them to hand
- Have the *Introductory video* ready to share: bit.ly/TT_METAINTRO
- Print the *Posters* and display them around the room (the bigger the room, the better)
- Have devices (tablets or smartphones) that can scan QR codes to hand, enough for one between four. Test the QR codes on the *Posters*



No devices?

Have the *PowerPoint* ready to show instead of printing the *Posters*.

This lesson develops

Sustainable Development Goals



Skills



Step 8

I show I am listening to my peers' opinions about the metaverse by summarising or rephrasing what I have heard

Step 12

I listen critically and think about where differences in perspectives on the metaverse come from



Step 3

I can explain some different opinions people have about the metaverse

Step 1

I can explain what the metaverse is and why it is in the news

Teacher instructions

Activity one

For this lesson, students should work in groups of four.

Play the *Introductory video* – as they watch, groups should try to list five things that people could do in the metaverse. Share ideas together. Check students' understanding of what the metaverse is and write the keywords on the board if needed.

Explain: people create avatars (characters to represent themselves) in order to interact on the metaverse.

Give students five minutes to design a metaverse avatar for themselves and share it with their group. **Ask:** is your avatar closely based on yourself? Why or why not? Share ideas together.

Activity two

Option one: with devices, using Posters

Give each group a device and show them how to scan one of the QR codes on a *Poster* (open the camera app, point the camera to the QR code and tap on the pop-up).

Spread the groups out evenly at the different *Posters*. Groups should use the QR code to watch the video at their *Poster*, discuss the questions, then summarise their discussion in one sentence. Groups should write their final sentences down so that they have a record of their discussion, ready for the next activity.

Give students thirty minutes to move around the *Posters* and experience as many as they can. Groups can visit the *Posters* in any order.

Option two: without devices, using PowerPoint

Write the numbers 1 to 10 on the board and choose one student to pick a number. Cross the number out, then go to the slide on the *PowerPoint* that has the corresponding number in bold at the top. Follow the instructions on the slide – do not discuss ideas as a class yet.

Repeat the activity for 30 minutes – aim to discuss around five slides.



Extra time? Spend longer on activity two to give groups time for more videos and discussions.

Activity three

One group should share one of their discussion-summary sentences aloud. Invite other groups to respond – for example, by saying if they agree or disagree and why. Encourage students to use facts and examples from the videos they have seen in their answers. Repeat so that as many groups as possible have a chance to share.

Ask: what is the main reason why the metaverse is in the news? Share ideas together.

Keywords

1. Virtual reality

= the computer-generated simulation of a three-dimensional image or environment that can be interacted with in a way that feels real (by using special electronic equipment, such as a helmet with a screen inside or gloves fitted with sensors)

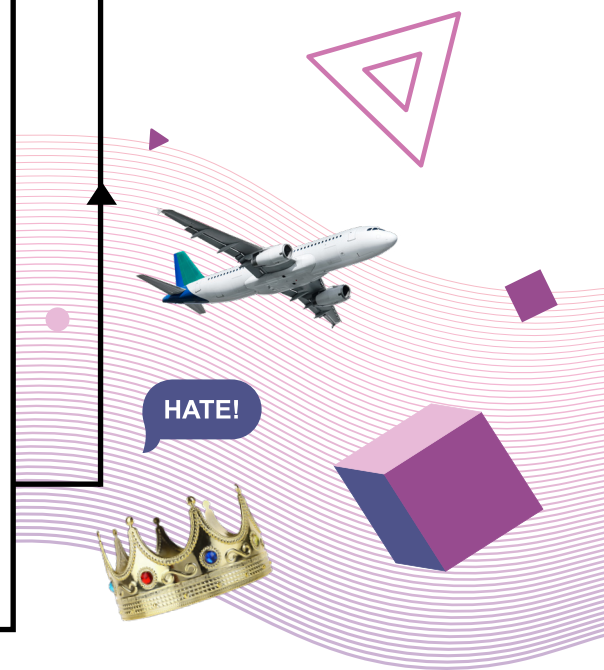
2. The metaverse

= a virtual-reality space in which users can interact with a computer-generated environment and other users

Skills check

How confident do you feel about explaining what the metaverse is?

How confident do you feel about explaining why people from different perspectives might have different opinions about the metaverse?



POSTER 1

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



Is it good or bad that people might be able to virtually visit wherever they want in the metaverse?

Should there be any limits?



POSTER 2

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



Might it be more or less difficult to manage people's behaviour in the metaverse compared to in the real world?

Why or why not?



POSTER 3

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



Is this a good thing or a bad thing?

Should there be any rules about the lives people create for themselves online?



POSTER 4

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



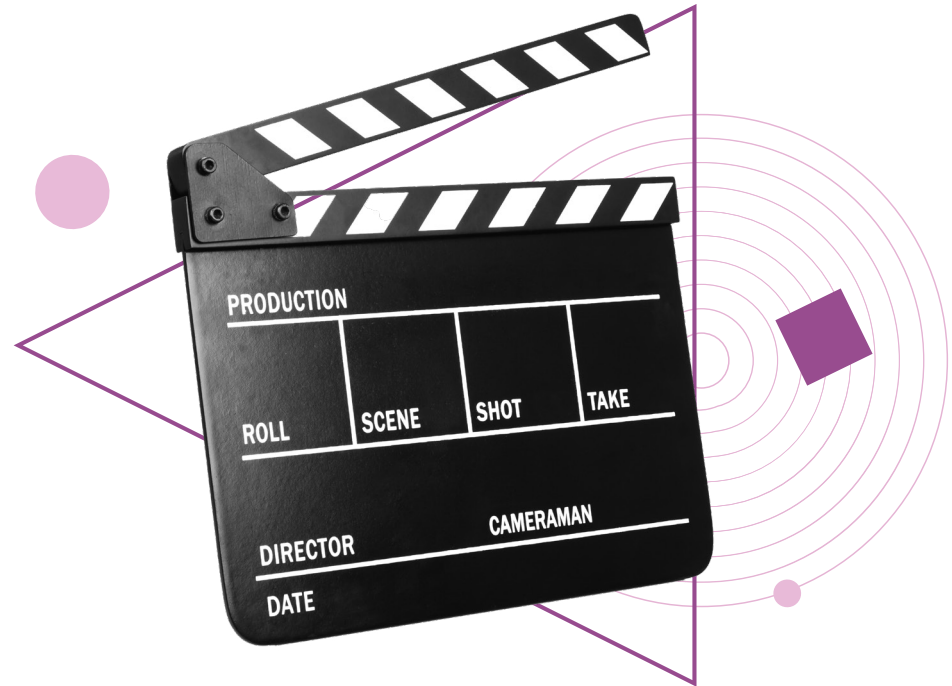
Should anyone be in charge of the metaverse?

If yes, who? If no, why not?



POSTER 5

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



How might such realistic graphics in the metaverse change how people behave in the real world?



When might it be a good thing? When might it be a bad thing?



POSTER 6

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



How might it affect people if they can't join the metaverse but others can?



Should anything be done about this?



POSTER 7

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



Is it a problem if people choose to live their lives in the metaverse?

Should any rules be put in place in the real world to control how people use the metaverse?



POSTER 8

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



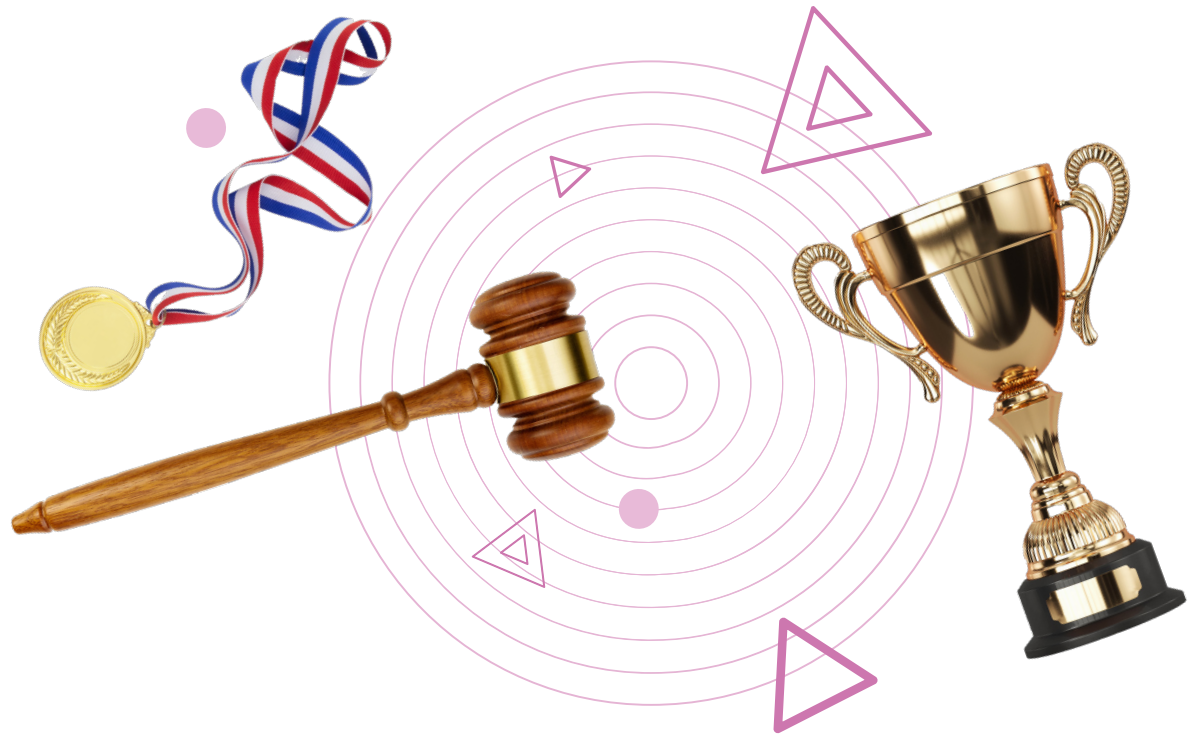
Is it right for people to spend so much money on the metaverse?

Who might say yes? Who might say no?



POSTER 9

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



Should behaviour in the metaverse be judged by the same standards as in the real world?

Are there any exceptions?



POSTER 10

Watch the video, discuss the questions as a group, then summarise your opinions in one sentence. Don't forget to write your sentence down – you'll need it later on.



How might the metaverse have a positive or negative impact on the real world?

Do you think the impact will be more negative or more positive?

