

## Around the School

 **Step:** One - Get Connected!

 **Time:** 45 min

 **Space and materials:**

- School environment, preferably after-school timing.

 **Description of the tool**

To build connections between the local and the global, the learners should explore the local – in this case, the school environment.

1. Start by asking what students understand by the term ‘technology’ and ask them to give examples. If needed, introduce definitions of technology:  
*The application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry. Machinery and devices developed from scientific knowledge.* (Wikipedia).
2. Make sure the understanding of the participants is not limited only to high technology.
3. Divide the participants into groups and send them on a journey around the school with the task to find physical or non-material evidence/relations/connections to the theme of technology. When sending the participants on the journey, ask them to search for examples of using technology in the school environment. Remind them it should not necessarily be advanced technology, and it might not even be related to electricity. If they have smart phones and cameras, you can also ask them to take photos. Give them enough time to explore and instruct them for any rules they might need to follow depending on the context (being quiet if there are school activities taking place in parallel, not leaving the schoolyard, etc.)
4. Set up a time when the participants should be back and let them present their findings group by group. Debrief with exemplary questions:
  - Is the school using technology and what kind?
  - Where does this technology come from? Not only physical but who thought of it?
  - Were you surprised at a number of connections the school has to the theme and why?
  - What was your most surprising discovery and why?
  - If you have not thought about the connections of the school environment to the theme before, why do you think is that?
  - Does the evidence you’ve found make the school global and why? Why not?
  - If our country was to be isolated physically and informationally from the rest of the world, how would the school look like? What technology would be there and what would be missing?

 **Additional remarks**

If the conditions don’t allow the students to leave the room, a modification can be made where they explore the room and any objects, posters and materials available there (not recommended).

You can use the exercise with other themes, not only technology. During the debriefing, modify the questions and/or leave out the technology-specific questions.