Europeana Learning Scenario

Title

"Who are you?" - A pen pal from the past

Author(s)

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Abstract

This learning scenario makes use of the Europeana galleries related to children's portraits on Pinterest. Young students (aged 11) are asked to browse a portrait gallery and choose who would be their pen pal in the past and write (him/her) a short message. This activity fosters imagination and as pen pals are picked from different era of time and even space, the students will have to work on identifying broad historical contexts and cultural areas, with the help of the teacher. Beside this activity, children are becoming aware of what makes a portrait attractive to them, explain their choices and they are asked to dig into their sensibility in order to express and formalize what makes them "select" a friend based on just a picture.

Keywords

Portraits, timeline, time perception, history

Table of summary

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Subject	History, literacy, language
Topic	Expressing your identity, share your sensibility with others in a respectful way is a topic that is used in the first years of middle school.
Age of students	11
Preparation time	4 hours
Teaching time	3 hours
Online teaching material	Padlet, microphones and headphones
Offline teaching material	Notebooks, pens

Table of summary	
Europeana resources used	Two Pinterest galleries: • Photographs of children: https://www.pinterest.fr/europeana/photographs-of-children/ • Children: https://www.pinterest.fr/europeana/children/

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Integration into the curriculum

Cycle 3 (French curriculum):

"Éducation civique: 1/a - sharing emotions, feelings in various situations and based on various topics: literature, art, news events, classroom situations.

"Socle commun de compétences": History: locating events in time and space"

"Éducation civique: 1/a - Partager et réguler des émotions, des sentiments dans des situations et à propos d'objets diversifiés: textes littéraires, œuvres d'art, documents d'actualité, débats portant sur la vie de la classe.

Socle commun de compétences: Histoire: se repérer dans le temps : Ordonner des faits les uns par rapport aux autres et les situer dans une époque ou une période donnée."

Aim of the lesson

Using Europeana's children portraits and photographs of children galleries on Pinterest, this lesson aims at developing various skills of students:

- expressing and undertaking their likes and choices,
- locating in time and space using the information available on Europeana,
- producing a message (letter or voice).

Outcome of the lesson

Student will have to fill in a short question sheet in order to explain their choice criteria and situate their pen pals in time and space.

They will have to write a letter (200 words) and record their voice message on the Padlet.

At the end of the lesson, recorded messages are played on the Padlets as sound background and an "exhibition" is organized and used for peer reviewing.

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Trends

Student-centered Learning: students and their needs are at the center of the learning process.

Mobile Learning: we get access to knowledge through smartphones and tablets. It is learning anytime, anywhere.

Edutainment: playful learning. Learning while having fun.

21st century skills

Creativity

Communication

Activities

Name of activity	Procedure	Time
Hour 1: Choosing the portrait and gathering information		
Initial brief	The teacher explains the point and the rules of the activity. On the classroom screen, the teacher shows the two Pinterest galleries. Guidelines are given regarding the different steps of the activity.	10'
Browsing time	Students equipped with Padlets browse through the two galleries in order to choose their pen pal.	30'
Inquiry time	Using the links from Pinterest galleries (Children and Photographs of Children) and the Europeana repository, students gather information on when/where is their pen pal located. They fill in the relevant part of the question sheet.	15'
Print	Ideally, students would print or store their friend's portrait on their mobiles.	
Homework		
Preparing the text	Using the guidelines document, students prepare their letter (200 words). In this text, they focus on explaining their choice ("why have I chosen you in particular") and on asking a few questions. Questions could be about their friends living conditions, or about a portrait detail.	
Hour 2 (but this step could also be done asynchronously with each student at his/her pace)		
Writing/recording the documents	Last hour is spent individually recording the messages, each student has his/her own Padlet to do so. Teacher reviews/validates the messages.	50'
Hour 3: The exhibition		
Preparation time	Tablets are displayed on the classroom table, each showing the portrait in full-screen mode.	15'

Name of activity	Procedure	Time
	Headphones are installed and voice recordings are played as sound background for each portrait.	
Peer reviewing	Each student rates up to 5-10 other works using a grid.	40'

Assessment

The assessment comprises of the following criteria:

- the question sheet should be filled correctly using the right time/space landmarks
- the choice of the portrait should be sufficiently explained/expressed
- the message (recorded and written) should use correct words, be original enough and relevant to the portrait

To do so we use both a peer review grid and the teacher's rating criteria.

**************************** **AFTER IMPLEMENTATION** ****************************

Student feedback

N/A

Teacher's remarks

N/A

About the Europeana DSI-4 project

Europeana is Europe's digital platform for cultural heritage, providing free online access to over 53 million digitised items drawn from Europe's museums, archives, libraries and galleries. The Europeana DSI-4 project continues the work of the previous three Europeana Digital Service Infrastructures (DSIs). It is the fourth iteration with a proven record of accomplishment in creating access, interoperability, visibility and use of European cultural heritage in the five target markets outlined: European Citizens, Education, Research, Creative Industries and Cultural Heritage Institutions.

European Schoolnet (EUN) is the network of 34 European Ministries of Education, based in Brussels. As a not-for-profit organisation, EUN aims to bring innovation in teaching and learning to its key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers, researchers, and industry partners. European Schoolnet's task in the Europeana DSI-4 project is to continue and expand the Europeana Education Community.