

,Europeana Learning Scenario

Title

Untold Stories of War, Love and Friendship

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Abstract

This lesson focuses on reading and retelling real life stories of soldiers and other ordinary people during the World War I with the focus on building new vocabulary and creating new, imaginative untold stories or personal letters to a family member, lover or a friend using narrative tenses (Past Simple, Past Continuous and Past Perfect).

The students are first asked to brainstorm on the topic of war, mainly oriented to the World War 1 that they had been introduced to in their History classes during the 8th grade. In order to visualize the life of soldiers in the trenches students watch [a video trailer of the movie 1917](#), read the real life stories on Europeana Exhibition and look for more images on Europeana website.

Students are introduced to 4 different types of stories that are a part of Europeana [Exhibition “The Untold Stories”](#). Each group focuses on a different segment of the stories (the unexpected events, news from the front, in the trenches, etc.). After reading these stories they are to invent their own story writing it mainly in the past narrative tenses sharing their World War 1 story on a [Padlet](#) wall. When each group or a pair submits their story students are invited to read their peers’ works and leave a comment or positive feedback. The teacher collects the stories and publishes an ebook under the Creative Common Licence.

Keywords

English, Cross-curricular, History, World War 1, Storytelling

Table of summary

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Subject	English, Interdisciplinary with History (CLIL)
Topic	Narrative tenses (past or present tenses), Vocabulary building (War)
Age of students	15-16
Preparation time	60’
Teaching time	Four to five 45-minute lessons, depending on students’ English level (min. Intermediate/B1)
Online teaching material	QR Code Maker Padlet Students’ Work on Padlet



Table of summary

	Youtube/Life in a Trench Youtube/1917 Movie Trailer Sway presentation with images Issuu Publisher Pixabay Microsoft Forms Self-Assessment
Offline teaching material	Student handouts – QR Codes with materials
Europeana resources used	Europeana Exhibitions: Untold Stories of the First World War 1. The Unexpected 2. News from the Front 3. Family stories: 4. Soldier's Kit 5. In the Trench Images: Image 1 Image 2 Image 3

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Integration into the curriculum

Students are supposed to write a medium length structured text using the narrative language and grammatical structures on a given topic, at the age of 15-16(1st or 2nd grade according to the Croatian national curriculum) that is usually a short story or a personal letter (or an informal email). The topic can be of any interest, whether a specific date in history, real life events, etc. Since the end of WW1 is marked on 11 November I wanted them to relate to the lives of people in the WW1 which can help them to enhance their creativity and build empathy and humanity for all the victims of any war.

Aim of the lesson

The aim of this lesson is to build up students' empathy and humanity while exploring the horrors of the war while retelling real life or imaginative stories using past narrative tense.

Students enhance vocabulary associated with war (World War 1) and show their skills in creative writing.

Students develop and improve all language skills (reading, listening, speaking and writing).

Students develop their communication skills in the English language by participating actively within a group and in the class discussion. Working as a group they show collaboration skills, critical thinking skills and build up vocabulary regarding the topic of war especially while writing their own imaginative and untold stories or letters to the loved ones.

Students develop their digital skills by using different web sites such as: the Europeana portal, Padlet, QR Codes, Pixabay, Flickr, etc.

Outcome of the lesson

Students create short imaginative stories based on the World War 1 and share them on the Padlet wall. The teacher is to collect them all and publish an ebook under Creative Commons.

Trends

- **Collaborative Learning, Student Centered Learning, Mobile learning, Social Emotional Learning**
- **Teacher’s role:** the teacher focuses first on motivating the students for the topic and later as a coordinator or facilitator supporting the students narrative skills – both spoken and written ones
- **BYOD:** bring your own devices (mobile phones, tablets, laptops)

21st century skills

21st century skills that are taught in this scenario are: students’ good collaboration skills, good communication skills, critical thinking skills, IT literacy (students learn to use different digital tools through the learning process), adaptability to group work and being exposed to lots of new vocabulary, creativity (students create new stories influenced by the ones they had read on Europeana portal, social emotional skill (students learn to appreciate important moments in everyday life, show sympathy towards the victims of war).

Activities

Name of activity	Procedure	Time
Pre-watching & Brainstorming Activity on the Topic of War and World War 1	<p>The teacher writes the word WAR on the board asking students to find as many words connected to the topic as possible. While brainstorming and writing associated words on the board students copy them in their notebooks. Together they discuss and explain the meanings of many words (i.e. <i>casualties, battle, soldier, guns, weapons, danger, fighting, army, bombing</i> etc.)</p> <p>The teacher then asks students if they know anything about the First World War. (<i>this topic is usually taught in Primary school during 8th grade</i>)</p> <p>Students try to recollect their History knowledge and together with the teacher identify the reasons for World War1 break out.</p>	15'

Name of activity	Procedure	Time
Video watching and photo slideshow	<p>In order for the students to visualize the life in trenches, the teacher shows some images from the Europeana portal using Sway about what the WW1 trenches looked like.</p> <p>After that they watch 2 video clips from Youtube.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Life in the trenches – by History Channel. During this video watching students need to take notes esp. those connected to historians who were describing everyday life of soldiers in the trenches. After the video the teacher writes students' responses on the board. (primarily descriptive adjectives: <i>horrific, boring, scary, muddy...</i>) 2. The second video is a movie trailer 1917. Students have to figure out what the main plot in the movie was and describe what they have seen. 	20'
Introduction to the Europeana portal	<p>The teacher introduces students to the Europeana Portal and tells them they will read more on Europeana about the WW1 from the perspective of a soldier, father or brother by reading the Exhibiton named Untold stories.</p>	5'
Reading and retelling the Untold stories – group work	<p>The teacher divides students into groups and gives each group a QR code of their untold stories. After scanning the QR codes they read the Introduction on the page together and then divide among themselves other stories, so that each student reads at least one. They can choose them by subtitles. After reading and taking notes they retell what their story was about in the group and take notes. (Annex 1)</p>	45'
Reporting about the true life stories	<p>Each group should choose a group leader who will in 1-2 minutes summarise to the rest of the class what their group's collection of stories was about.</p> <p><i>*Suggestion</i> Student can decide who the group leader could be by using a Wheel Decide app</p>	8'
Writing our untold stories of love, war and friendship	<p>It's now students' turn to write their own WW1 story. It can be in a form of a letter or a memory. They use narrative tenses. When they finish with the story they should choose a nice image from Pixabay that will be used as their story's cover image and together with the story share it on the Padlet wall. (ANNEX 2)</p> <p>For more story ideas the teacher can give students some extra QR codes with materials to read and explore. (ANNEX 2)</p> <p>If students cannot decide on the topic the teacher can suggest some. For example, <i>retell a story of your great great grandmother who got letters from her husband describing difficult life in the trenches, or You are a wounded soldier and you were taken to hospital where you fell in love with a lovely nurse, etc.</i></p>	90'

Name of activity	Procedure	Time
Check our creative ebook and comment	Students read and give comments directly on the Padlet wall under their peers' stories. They are supposed to leave at least one comment under the story.	15'
Our e-Book	The teacher downloads the story Padlet in the PDF format and publishes it on Issuu Publisher website under Creative Commons.	
Self-assessment	After the completion of the topic, students do the self-assessment rubric prepared by the teacher in Microsoft Forms - Exit Ticket	10'

Assessment

Student reflect on their work through conversation.

Students do peer assessment in the comments on the Padlet wall after they all post their stories. They should post at least 1 comment on other group's story.

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

Student feedback

[Microsoft Forms - Exit Ticket](#)

Teacher's remarks

It was an interesting project work and one of my most creative classes enjoyed reading the stories of real people on Europeana. The students who are not that good at English asked if they could create a Mind Map of the new vocabulary on War we mentioned. The students were very active in the discussion and group work and some of them were also very moved and touched by the Europeana images on World War 1 and the video clips we watched before their storytelling.

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.

Annex



ANNEX 2



In the trenches



Love stories

Love stories



stories

Padlet



Other External Resources:

[British Red Cross Blog](#)

[The Telegraph: First World War: love letters from the trenches](#)