

Europeana Learning Scenario

Title

Dragon Tales in Europe

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Abstract

My Learning Scenario aims to get students familiarized with the topic of dragons in Europe, creatures famous from folk traditions all over the world, and their tales. Many students identify themselves with this topic even from an early age. This lesson intends to strengthen students' abilities to work with pictures in various ways such as describing, discussing, drawing, commenting, writing stories, working in teams with the help of simple ICT tools, such as Popplet, Storyboard That and Glogster.

The lesson contains a warm-up activity to brainstorm about dragons using Popplet. After that they take up picture description and discuss about them based on the details they spot in the Europeana Gallery presented to them. As a further activity of promoting language skills, they make a Top 3 of the images from the Gallery in groups and debate to explain their choices. Based on given information about dragons in Europe they write short dragon stories using Storyboard That. As an alternative they make glogs about dragon pictures of their choice from the Gallery. Finally, they engage themselves in the Picture Dictation Activity using 3 different roles, Descriptor, Artist and Scribe which ends by making a picture gallery of their own on classroom walls.

This lesson is interdisciplinary as it can be taught in History, Language, ICT, English and Arts classes.

Keywords

dragons, tales, images, online tools, legends

Table of summary

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Subject	History, Language, History of Art, ICT, English
Topic	Tales about dragons in Europe through pictures
Age of students	15
Preparation time	5 minutes
Teaching time	2-3 teaching hours
Online teaching	Popplet for the brainstorming activity

material	Storyboard That to write short stories Glogster to present dragon pictures and their tales
Offline teaching material	Paper, pencils, pen markers
Europeana resources used	Europeana Gallery: dragons in myth and science Europeana Blog: Here be dragons

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Integration into the curriculum

This learning scenario can be taught in English classes (level B1 +) to promote written and oral expression of students, in ICT lessons by using online tools to comment on images and write stories about them as well as in History (starting from late Byzantine times) as complementary to chapters on culture and History of Art.

Aim of the lesson

Students need

- to be able to describe pictures verbally and in writing
- to learn about stories about dragons in Europe
- to edit pictures and write stories about them using ICT tools

Outcome of the lesson

After finishing the Picture Dictation activity students can post their drawings on the classroom walls to make a small gallery. The rest of the students decide which drawing is the best and explain why.

Trends

Collaborative learning, visual search and learning, project-based learning

21st century skills

Communication, collaboration, creativity, critical thinking

Activities

Name of activity	Procedure	Time
1. Warm-up activity	What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word <i>Dragons</i> ? Work in small groups to create a Popplet to brainstorm around the topic “Dragons”.	15 min.
2. Picture description	See the picture of St. George slaying the dragon. Discuss the following questions. 1. What do you see in this picture? 2. How do you feel when you look at the picture? 3. What do you like about this picture? 4. What do you dislike about this picture? 5. Does this picture have any parts which are more interesting than other parts? What are they? Why are they more interesting? 6. What is the setting? Where? When?	5 min.
3. Top-3	Have students look at the pictures of the 2 given Europeana Gallery links. In groups, students write down on a piece of paper a top-3 of the images. Then they will debate in groups and explain their choice.	15 min.
4. Storyboard	Using the information given about dragons write story boards in small groups about a dragon of your choice from the Gallery using Storyboard That	25 min.
5. Making a glog	Students work in teams. Each team creates a glog of a dragon image they choose from the Gallery using Glogster	15 min.
6. Picture dictation	Students work in groups of 3. They decide on a picture they can describe, draw and discuss. In each team one student is the Describer, who will describe the picture. He is the only one to see the actual picture. Then a second student from the same team becomes the Artist, who will draw what the Describer describes. Finally, a third student from the team becomes the Scribe, who will write the description. When all groups finish, students compare their drawing and written description and discuss similarities and differences.	20 min.

Assessment

For lesson assessment I used the 3-2-1 assessment activity in which students say 3 things they learnt, 2 things they still want to know and 1 question they have.

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

Student feedback

After the end of the lesson I sent my students the following [questionnaire](#) on Survey Monkey.

Although the students are familiar with the topic of dragons, most of them agreed that it was the first time they had ever had a lesson about dragons. In general they found the lesson very interesting and they added information to their knowledge of the topic. They believe that the activities were interesting and out of the ordinary. They appreciated the use of online tools they had not known before. Moreover, they really liked the parts which had to do with picture description and the following activities. Overall, they thought the lesson was more creative, interesting and interactive than usually.

Teacher's remarks

The students were familiar with folk creatures such as dragons, therefore they were quite interested to see what the lesson was about. They appreciated the use of visual content in order to promote language skills both in oral and written speech. I found this lesson a great opportunity to explore dragon folk tales from different parts of Europe in a more creative and interactive way. The students also stressed on the part of interactiveness as the main characteristic of this lesson.

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

[Wikipedia: Dragon](#)

[Ancient Origins: Dragon Myths](#)

[English Heritage Blog: Dragons and Their Origins](#)

[Atlas Obscura: Here Be Dragons](#)

[American Museum of Natural History: European Dragons](#)