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Innovative Pedagogies in Cultural Heritage

**Cultural Heritage: Cherishing the Past,
Building the Future**

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JOINT STAFF TRAINING EVENT

Venice, Italy | 8-10 November 2018

Sample plans for culturally informed lessons

Sample 1 for a culturally informed lesson plan

Subject: Outdoor Science Lesson

Topic: Natural Heritage

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize an oak tree in the park
- Identify the age of the tree, using standard scale and measure tools.
- Use the age of the tree to find out what historical events happened in its life span.

Starter/ Introduction:

- A short presentation about trees in general, using the oak as a specific example. (The oak tree can be substituted with another tree, endemic to the area where pupils live).
- Pupils identify and choose an oak leaf from a basket.

Activities:

- The class is divided into smaller groups and each group elects a spokesperson and assigns roles.
- Each group is assigned a part of the park to explore.
- Pupils explore their area to identify the biggest oak tree.
- Each group uses measuring tools and standard scales to find out the age of their tree.
- Upon returning to the school, pupils spend some time in the IT lab. They research regional and national historical events that happened in their area and beyond during the tree's life span.

Conclusion/ Plenary:

- Each group presents its findings to the rest of the class.
- The teacher elicits responses on identifying the skills combined in the project from the disciplines of biology, maths and history.

Assignments/ Next Steps:

- Each group creates a poster about one historical event from the time period they have researched.

Issues of cultural heritage incorporated in the lesson:

- The lesson combines interdisciplinary skills (biology, maths, history).
- Science is approached from a culturally informed perspective.
- Pupils learn about an endemic tree species.
- Pupils learn about natural and cultural heritage in tandem.

Sample 2 for a culturally informed lesson

Subject: English

Topic: Comparing UK traditions to pupils' national traditions.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the use of comparisons in English.
- Introduce new vocabulary related to traditions and customs.
- Learn about different traditions and cultures (CLIL perspective integrating history and music in an English lesson).
- Create posters, PowerPoint presentations, diary entries, poems or stories in English.

Starter/ Introduction:

- The teacher hands out pictures showing traditions, festivals or customs from the UK and from the pupils' own country.
- Pupils work in groups to separate them and display them on the board in two categories: national and UK.

Activities:

- The teacher explains and corrects pupils' categorization.
- Using a PowerPoint presentation, the teacher explains what each picture shows.
- Pupils are asked to identify similarities between different traditions. The teacher prompts them to use appropriate vocabulary and sentence structures for comparisons.
- The teacher assigns and explains the activity of writing a short poem (four lines) using three words as prompts. Pupils work on their poems in groups. Each group chooses a spokesperson to present and discuss their work to the rest of the class.

Conclusion/ Plenary:

- Pupils collectively produce two posters for each country's traditions. Posters incorporate pictures from the beginning of the class and poem lines as labels.

Assignments/ Next Steps:

- Pupils write short stories (80-100 words) involving the characters or topic of their poems.

Issues of cultural heritage incorporated in the lesson:

- Pupils learn about culture, traditions, history and music through an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Pupils recognize similarities between cultures through creative group work—a multicultural standpoint is encouraged.

Sample 3 for a culturally informed lesson

Subject: Maths

Topic: Graphs (bar chart, pie chart, pictogram)

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about different types of plants, using different measuring and graphing methods.
- Compare the number of endemic plants to the total number of plants in each country.

Starter/ Introduction:

- Pupils research and find information about the endemic plant species of their country.

Activities:

- Plant an endemic species and observe its growth, using different measuring tools (for example, mm, cm, m) for a month.
- Present results in a graph that shows the growth of the plant, separated into three different teams (bar chart, pie chart, pictogram).
- Compare the results with those of pupils working on the same project in other countries.

Conclusion/ Plenary:

- Students rethink and discuss the differences between countries.

Assignments/ Next Steps:

- Combine results in one a graph that compares the findings of all countries.

Issues of cultural heritage incorporated in the lesson:

- Pupils learn about a maths topic through a natural heritage case study (endemic plants)
- Pupils consider about the different factors affecting each country's natural heritage (for example, the weather), with possible interdisciplinary connections to their biology lessons.

Sample 4 for a culturally informed lesson

Subject: Music

Topic: A new Erasmus+ song

Learning Objectives:

- To share and compare musical traditions from different countries.

Starter/ Introduction:

- A brainstorming session on what children already know about the cultural and musical heritage of their countries and the heritage of partner countries.

Activities:

- Pupils research and find information about historical sites and monuments in each country in the project. They write a few sentences to describe their findings.
- Pupils identify and study melodies from each country.
- Pupils work on translating traditional song lyrics in their own languages.

Conclusion/ Plenary:

- Pupils sing a song together, record a video of their performance and share it with other countries.
- As a follow-up, the Erasmus+ song is collectively sung in transnational meetings.

Assignments/ Next Steps:

- Pupils present the song to the rest of their school and to the local community. All relevant output is uploaded and shared on eTwinning.

Issues of cultural heritage incorporated in the lesson:

- Pupils learn about their own and other countries' cultures through music.
- Areas of intangible heritage are highlighted and explored: language patterns, rhythms, melodies.
- Pupils express themselves and their feelings through a reworking of traditional songs. They appreciate the connection that cultural heritage fosters between past and present.