

**Escola El Castellot**

**Guest day lesson during Transnational Learning Meetings**

## **HUMAN TOWERS**

**TOPIC:** Human Towers

**Age of students:** 6-12

**Number of students:** one class group (25-30 students)

**Required prior knowledge:** None

### **Objectives**

- To learn some facts of the geography and culture of Catalonia.
- To learn about a typical tradition in Catalonia, the human towers. Types of towers and name of the different parts.
- To learn how to put on a "faixa".
- To work cooperatively to build the base structure for a small human tower.
- To acquire new vocabulary.

### **Opportunities**

- Work as a team.
- Work cooperatively to build a little human tower (a structure strong enough to hold a child).

**Arts involved:** Folklore, Culture.

**Resources** - presentations, links to websites, materials, equipment, etc...

- Presentation powerpoint : Human Towers.
- "Faixa"
- Video: Casteller
- Photos Human Towers

**Time frame:** One lesson, 60 minutes.

**Methods of work:** presentation in the classroom and group work.

## **Procedure / steps**

### STEP 1: Presentation

Presentations of the members and introduction about where is Catalonia. After that, short presentation of the human towers, a typical tradition in Catalonia.

### STEP 2: How to put on a “faixa”.

Explain and practice how to put a “faixa”. Our students model, host students put on a faixa in pairs (we bring enough “faixes” with us).

### STEP 3: Types of human towers.

Explain different types of human towers. Play the “Human towers” game, where children are asked to make groups and hold arms as in each floor of human towers, when they hear the name of each type: “pilar” (1 person), “torre” (2 people) “3”, “4”, ... number of people holding hands, and “llenya” (when human towers fall).

### STEP 4: Parts of human towers.

Explain the parts of human towers: “Pinya” (pine cone) at the base, “Tronc” (main and central part), “Pom de dalt” (the top 3 floors, where 4 children complete the human tower).

### STEP 5: Build a “pinya”.

Explain the parts of a “Pinya” and the whole group builds a “pinya”.

### STEP 6: Slogan of “Castellers”.

Explain the slogan of Castellers “Strenght, balance, courage and wisdom” and close the activity.

## **Evaluation summary and comments about how the module went: engagement of the students, difficulty, effectiveness, improvement suggestions ...)**



We taught this guest lesson in Poland, Finland, Greece and Portugal, to students of different ages. They were mainly 10-12 years old, but in our meeting in Poland we also taught younger students (aged 7-8). In that case, their mainstream teacher helped with translations, and we also adapted the presentation to help understanding.

All participating students and teachers enjoyed the activity. They all had a lot of fun, were quite committed and learned something about our culture. The topic of “human towers” was also very appropriate, since it is a clear example of teamwork, and teamwork played an important role in our project. On the whole it is a good way of introducing some of our Catalonia culture to the students.

It is a very active and entertaining activity and we believe that students like it very much and have learned a lot about the human towers.

It was also a great opportunity for our own students to learn a little bit more about their own culture. Each group of students would adapt the workshop, and introduce their own ideas and elements to present this traditional activity to their new friends. They needed to rehearsal and stay at school after the lessons to prepare the workshop. They also had a final rehearsal with our own younger students (aged 9-11) to test the workshop and get some feedback to improve it before each trip.

### Photos from the module

<p>STEP 1: Presentation</p> 	<p>STEP 2: How to put on a "faixa".</p> 
<p>STEP 3: Types of human towers.</p> <h1>Types of Human Towers</h1> 	<p>STEP 4: Parts of human towers.</p> <h1>PARTS OF HUMAN TOWERS</h1> 



STEP 5: Build a "pinya".



STEP 6: Slogan of "Castellers".

**Slogan of human towers**

Strength Balance Courage Wisdom

**TEAM WORK**