

QuaMMELOT



Exhibition

The learning goal:

This activity aims at engaging the pupils' collaborative learning and creative expression through the medium of art and the creation of an exhibition. This activity is a part of the pupils' cultural education; the pupils visit a museum/gallery/street art site etc. and explore its way of displaying art. The pupils will learn how to create art and set up an exhibition. Thus, through practice, they will get an understanding of what it means to express oneself creatively and they will experience the different tasks and steps that are important to take into consideration when creating an exhibition.

Furthermore, through the activity the pupils will practice their social competences by working together in teams in the process of creating the exhibition. They will all have a personal responsibility for a good cooperation in the team and for a good final product.

Art exhibitions are cultural mediums that are used for creative expressions, provocations, national representations etc. all over the world. It is expected that the pupils will have a common framework of reference about art, but it might not be all pupils who have visited a museum/gallery etc. before. Therefore, it is a part of the activity to do so. Art comes in many shapes, and there might be different understandings of what you can call art depending on cultural aesthetics and personal taste. It is suggested that the teacher encourages a dialogue on "what art is" with the pupils.

The pupils are expected to expand their vocabulary by learning and understanding the concepts (words) relevant when creating an exhibition. In particular, some of the pupils will work with the writing style related to presentations of artists and the overall presentation of an exhibition. The pupils will also activate their digital skills, as they might choose to create the art through digital programmes.

Preparation

- The teacher decides whether the general theme of the exhibition should be decided upon democratically in class, or if the teacher already has an idea related to the curriculum. The pupils will have to find a topic related to the general theme.
- In relation to the theme, the teacher has chosen a museum/gallery/street art site to visit, if it is not a possible to go to an actual exhibition, we suggest that the pupils explore an online site like i.e. <https://artsandculture.google.com/>

- The teacher will find a room or place for the exhibition. It could be inside the school: the classroom, on the walls in the canteen, the school library or an empty classroom. It could also be outside in the local area: i.e. on specific location that are important for the local history and culture, or a local place that could benefit from an outdoor exhibition. It is important to decide on the room/site for the exhibition in order to determine the kind of art that will be possible to create. Should it be a site specific art, where the art is created in relation a specific place in the local area? Or should it be a more classical indoor exhibition? Furthermore, the site for the exhibition will determine what kinds of materials (physical and/or digital) that can be used in the setting.
- The teacher might prepare a short slide show of artworks to introduce the session, and spark a discussion of "what art is". The teacher can get inspiration on <https://artsandculture.google.com/> .
- The teacher has prepared the groups, consisting of 4-5 pupils, taking especially into consideration who the newly arrived bilingual pupil should be working with. Should he or she be in a group where one of the pupils speak the same mother tongue? Does he or she have a good friend it could be relevant to group her/him with? Etc.
- It will also be relevant to consider whether there will be introduced words in relation to art, creative expression and exhibitions that will need a further explanation. Might there be words that none of the pupils actually know the meaning of? Might there be words that will need translation into other languages? The teacher can discuss the complicated words in class, letting the pupils explain how they understand it.
- It is suggested that this activity combine art classes and language classes

Equipment/ practicalities:

The art can be created through physical materials and/or digital tools like Ipads, smart phones etc. Useful programmes i.e. Drawing Pad, Pic collage, and Book Creator.

The session:

Steps:

1) INTRODUCTION

Time indication: 2x45 minutes

The teacher will present the session: to create an exhibition. The teacher might make a little slideshow of different artworks, and open a dialogue with the pupils by asking them to discuss with the person sitting next to them: what is art for them? What is good or bad art? And why?

When they have discussed the questions, the teacher asks them to share what they have reflected on, this might lead to a discussion of aesthetics (a word that might need an explanation) and personal taste.

The discussion should then move to exhibitions, and the teacher could ask, if the pupils have visited an exhibition before, and if they have, how the exhibition was built up? How was the artworks displayed? Was it an interactive exhibition? Was there any texts? Etc. Through the dialogue, the pupils become aware of some of the elements that are important to reflect upon when creating an exhibition.

Before the class finishes, the teacher presents the theme for the exhibition the pupils will create or the pupils decide on a theme together, and the pupils are divided into teams consisting of four-five persons.

The teacher presents the plan for the creation of the exhibition:

- *they will visit a museum/gallery/street art site etc. and explore the artworks and how the art is displayed in the room/at the site.*
- *Thereafter, in the class, the pupils are supposed to create their own artworks and exhibition.*

The teacher encourages each team to reflect on a topic for their part of the exhibition. The topic has to relate to the general theme.

2) EXCURSION TO LOCAL MUSEUM/ GALLERY/ STREET ART SITE ETC.

Time indication: 2x45 minutes (maybe more with transport etc.)

The whole class visit a local museum/a gallery/ a street art site etc. The focus is to explore the art in one of the exhibition rooms. In their teams, the pupils should discuss how the specific art is expressed and the way it is displayed in the room. The group will also look into the overall decoration of the exhibition, how the artworks are displayed in relation to each other, what the overall theme of the exhibition is, how does the exhibition expresses this. The pupils will take photos with their phones of one to three artworks that they find compelling or get inspired of in relation to their own production. They will take one to three pictures of the way the art is exhibited and elements in the decoration of the exhibition that they are inspired of (i.e. the way the art is exhibited in relation to each other, the text that present the art etc.).

3) DISCUSSION AND DEVELOPMENT

Time indicator: 2 x 45 minutes

In the class, the team will look at the photos they took, and continue to discuss how the art was expressed, what kind of feelings it gave them and how the art was presented in the exhibition room. The pupils will return to discuss the questions: why this is art for them? What they find aesthetic about it, -if they do so-, and why? How does the different materials, angles and locations influence their impression of the artwork?

Thereafter, the pupils will be asked to brainstorm on their topic. The pupils have to decide on a topic for their part of the exhibition this day. When they have decided on their topic and discussed how it is related to the overall theme, they will be given paper, pens and an ipad, which they can use in their discussion of how to create their artworks and present it. Should it focus on photos or handcrafts? Or maybe a mix of digital and physical art? (Here it is important to take into consideration whether it is an indoor or outdoor exhibition). The pupils will divide the roles between them: some will be the artist and one or two from each group will be the decorators who have to get an insight into their teammates' artwork and decide how to present it and write small presentations of it, maybe in several languages.

4) CREATION OF ART

Time indicator: 4x45 minutes

The class is giving a location for the exhibition (inside or outside the school). Some of the pupils will be active in the creation of the art, while others will work on the presentation of the art. Some might need a television – or screen-to present their digital art, while others might need a little table or other things to exhibit their art on, it will be the task of the decorators to find these things and make the exhibition room ready for the artwork. They will ask the artist about their art, and write a little presentation with the artist's name to present next to the artwork. The class will collect all the descriptions in a catalogue, which might be translated into several languages. The catalogue can i.e. be designed on www.canva.com or on Book Creator. If there is time for it, the decorator can additionally, also develop a short film about the creation of the art and the artists. See the last page, for a possible question guide.

5) DECORATING THE EXHIBITION

Time indicator: 1 x 45 minutes

When the artwork is created, the team help each other to place it right in the exhibition room/site and they finish the decoration. The decorators will take photos of the artwork and add the photos to the catalogue.

6) VERNISAGE

Time indicator: 1 x 45 minutes

The exhibition will be open to the public. The class will hold a vernisage maybe with cake and soft drinks, where teachers, parents and siblings are invited. They will present their art, how it relates to the general theme and their thoughts behind the decoration of the exhibition.

Questions to ask the artist for the catalogue

Title of the art	
Artist name, date, year	
What do you want to tell with the art? Why?	
Why did you chose these materials? (i.e. why is the art digital or material?)	
How does it relate to the general theme?	
Do you want to thank anybody in relation to the creation of the art?	