

1:1 netbook scenario, N°9

Halloween – discovering and comparing traditions



Subjects: foreign language, social studies

Level: Primary and Secondary school

Time: +/- 90 minutes + homework phase

- 5 minutes for introduction phase
- 30 minutes students go through the scavenger hunt
- 30 minutes for creating their magazine article and presentation
- 20 minutes for presenting their work
- 5 minutes for reflecting on the activity
- Homework phase

Description:

In this content-based lesson on Halloween, students are asked to compare some traditions in different cultures. The teacher can select also another festivity or tradition that suits better the time of the year. The teacher uses Scavenger Hunt to encourage the students to find out different aspects about the tradition. In this context, Scavenger Hunt is a game in which the teacher prepares a list of questions and tasks the students will complete with the help of given resources. While looking for the answers and carrying out the tasks the students will learn about the tradition and related vocabulary. The students will also learn about the same tradition in different countries and how to present comparative information.

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Tools

Netbooks

- Students connect to the Internet to create an online presentation
- Using netbooks and projector for presenting one or two of students' work.

Other

- Projector
- Presentation tools, e.g. Prezi or Glogster
- Online magazine tools, e.g. Magazinfactory or Openzine

Lesson preparation

- Create a Scavenger Hunt: prepare a list of questions and tasks for students and list of resources they can use.
- As an alternative, the students can be asked to create Scavenger Hunts on the same or different festivities/traditions. Then the rest of the class carries out the tasks.
- Prepare a list of key words or a glossary to help students (in a foreign languages class)
- Select the publication method: online magazine or a presentation. Check that you can use the tools selected for these tasks.

Process

1. Introduction at classroom

Offline | Full class | Tools: notebook, projector, Scavenger Hunt

The teacher presents the festivity or tradition the class will concentrate on and asks the students to tell freely what they already know about the tradition.

The teacher explains about the Scavenger Hunt activity.

2. Scavenger Hunt

Online | Individual work | Tools: netbooks for information search and to write down the answers

The students work independently and go through the Scavenger Hunt prepared by the teacher and learn as much as possible about Halloween (or other festivity). This is a sample on Scavenger Hunt: <http://www.slideshare.net/ale60/halloween-5364897>

The students save their replies in a VLE, blog, online form or other tool selected by the teacher.

3. Comparison of traditions

Online | Individual work/Group work | Tools: netbooks for creating online quizzes

The students work in groups of four. Each student gets a country (in this example Austria, France, China or Ireland) and looks for information on how Halloween is celebrated in that country: <http://www.jackolanters.net/traditions.htm>.

The students should find information on the games people play, the food they eat, the way they dress up and popular beliefs. They share their information among the group members and compare the different celebrations using the following template:

HALLOWEEN			
SIMILARITIES			
DIFFERENCES			
CHINA	AUSTRIA	FRANCE	IRELAND

4. Writing an article or making a presentation

Online | Individual work/Group work | Tools: Netbooks, presentation tool / online magazine tool

The teacher decides between two activities:

A) The students are journalists that write an article about how Halloween is celebrated around the world. Here the students use all the information they have learnt so far and write an article for a youth magazine. They can use pictures and clip arts to make it more attractive. When it is ready, they post it to the online magazine using e.g. Magazinfactory or Openzine.

B) Using all the information they have learnt, the students create either a presentation using Prezi or an interactive poster using Glogster.

5. Students present their work

Online | Full class | Tools: netbooks for presentation, projector

The students present their work to the class.

6. Homework (optional)

Online | Individual work | Tools: netbooks, Prezi presentation tool

The students can create a collaborative Prezi presentation with their foreign peers on a topic of their interest.

Links

Example of a Scavenger Hunt: <http://www.slideshare.net/ale60/halloween-5364897>

Halloween Traditions: <http://www.jackolanterns.net/traditions.htm>

Presentation tools

- Prezi: <http://prezi.com/>
- Glogster: <http://www.glogster.com/>

Online magazine tools

- Magazinfactory: <http://magazinefactory.edu.fi/>
- Openzine: <http://www.openzine.com/aspx/>

Technical help

- The Best Places To Create (And Find) Internet Scavenger Hunts & Webquests
<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2009/02/15/the-best-sources-for-internet-scavenger-hunts-webquests/>
- Classroom Collaboration and Brainstorming with Prezi Meeting <http://tinyurl.com/4vrasdf>