

A decorative yellow sunburst graphic on the left side of the page, composed of several rectangular bars of varying lengths arranged in a semi-circular arc.

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Preserving Youth Mental Wellbeing in Wartime Migration Crisis

(Handbook for Parents and Educators)



Creative Toolkit.

Collaborative Artistic Activities Scenarios

1. Activities / Lessons Plan: Dyad

Target Group:

13-18 years old

Type of activity:

collaborative observational drawing exercise

Purpose of the activity:

The purpose of this exercise is to encourage collaborative creativity and enhance observational skills by allowing participants to view and interpret an object from multiple perspectives. By contributing to each other's drawings, participants can explore different viewpoints, styles, and approaches, resulting in a collective artwork that reflects a range of perceptions and techniques. This exercise broadens understanding of the subject and deepens appreciation for diverse artistic expressions.

Objectives:

- Enhance Observation: Improve attention to detail from various perspectives. Foster Collaboration: Encourage teamwork through shared creative input.
- Broaden Artistic Views: Explore multiple interpretations of the same subject.
- Promote Flexibility: Adapt to diverse styles within a collaborative artwork.

- Appreciate Diversity in Art: Value different artistic approaches within a single project.

Resources / materials:

paper, colored pencils, graphic pencils, crayons, colored pencils, pastels.

Description of the activity:

In this collaborative drawing activity, participants gather around an irregular object placed on a central support. Each person chooses a viewpoint and a single color to sketch the object within 5 to 10 minutes. Afterward, they pass their drawings to the right and receive new ones from the left, continuing this rotation until everyone has contributed to each artwork. The final result is a diverse collection of collaborative pieces reflecting the unique perspectives of all participants.

Stages / steps of the activity:

An irregular object, such as a flower or a toy, is placed on a central support. Participants form a circle around it, each choosing a position from which they will draw. Every participant selects a single color to use for their drawing. They then have between 5 and 10 minutes to sketch the object from their chosen perspective. Once the time is up, each person passes their drawing to the person on their right and receives a new drawing from the person on their left. This

rotation continues after each drawing session until everyone has contributed to every drawing board. The final result is a set of collaborative artworks, each one shaped by the perspectives and colors of all participants.

Evaluation:

At the end, participants will take a “gallery tour” to observe, discuss, and appreciate the final results of their collaborative artworks.

Observations:

If someone wishes to use additional colors, they are allowed to do so.



2. Activities / Lessons Plan – Canvas Dialogue

Target Group:

14-16 years old

Type of activity:

collaborative exercise in pairs

Purpose of the activity:

facilitates knowing and understanding each other through drawing/ painting

Objectives:

- To compose a storyboard of images.
- To pay attention to the previous intervention and try to continue taking in the intended message.
- To use graphic and painting language to communicate.
- To combine harmonious two different views and styles.

Resources / materials:

canvases, colours, pencils, brushes, water, pencils

Description of the activity:

Every person receives a canvas and starts with a colourful dot or a sign and, without any explanations, passes to the colleague the canvas as an exchange. Each person gets to start a story but has to continue two.

Stages / steps of the activity:

1. The canvases are assigned, the materials prepared.
2. Every person has 5 minutes to add a component of the story then they switch.
3. The element is a simple one, a dot or a spot or a graphic sign.
4. The colleague has to continue and develop what was previously added with no instructions.
5. The canvas is ready after a minimum of 8 switches and a maximum of 10.

Evaluation:

The works are exhibited and explanations can be added.

We aim to create connections and to encourage communication in a mixed group / class, the language might not be spoken by everybody at the same level. The main target group is 13-18 years old.

- Creative activities should depend more on the process than on the result.
- Evaluation is qualitative.

3. Activities / Lessons Plan – Landscape of Us

Target Group:

13-18 years old

Type of activity:

collective work

Purpose of the activity:

To create a collective image that involves all the members of a group, no matter their number, age or skills level

Objectives:

- Collaboration and acknowledgement of the other.
- Adding to something preexistent and making it your own.
- Learning to accept the colleague's view and expression.

Resources / materials:

a very long and small roll of paper, like the bill paper in supermarkets, black markers, stickers and colourful small post-it.

Description of the activity:

the roll of paper circulates and is handed to each of the participants, one by one, and each of them adds a personal symbol or character or even their names

Stages / steps of the activity:

1. The roll of paper is handed to the first participant then starts to circulate.
2. On the post-it the next colleague plans the next sign/ mark/ intervention.
3. The roll passes the entire group and stays maximum 2 minutes with each participant.
4. The process can be repeated according to the number of participants and the allocated time.
5. After each pass the paper is rolled so the next person cannot see the previous drawing

Evaluation:

The roll of paper is unfolded and a story can be made out of signs and graphic interventions

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4. Activities / Lessons Plan – Tableaux Vivant

Target Group:

16-18 years old

Type of activity:

teamwork

Purpose of the activity:

to enact famous paintings for a better understanding

Objectives:

- To enrich the visual image resources of each participant
- To transform a detached act of contemplation in a personal experience
- To better understand the composition and how an image is built
- To collaborate and stage an entire scene
- To transform a two-dimensional image in a complete life-scene
- To create a personal bond with the image

Resources / materials:

artworks with a lot of characters, complex compositions from Renaissance, Baroque or Romanticism, (optional) colourful textiles, costumes, lamps for illuminating according to the original painting

Description of the activity:

the teacher offers options, the group choses a number (3-5) of images from art history, they make the teams and plan to enact one of the scenes according to the number of characters, preferences etc.

Stages / steps of the activity:

1. A selection of images is offered
2. The participants chose the scene they want to enact
3. They make the teams and prepare for the tri-dimensional version of the painting
4. (Optional) costumes, draping and position are prepared
5. The scenes are photographed, documented or video recorded

Evaluation:

accuracy, similarity and impressions can be discussed, the favourite tableaux vivant can be voted

Observations:

the tableaux vivant can be prepared and documented in an elaborate way, as part of a bigger event

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Tableaux vivant

5. Activities / Lessons Plan – Land Art in the Yard

Target Group:

13-14 years old

Type of activity:

collaborative group activity

Purpose of the activity:

to have a sensory experience by working with natural materials and be creative

Objectives:

- to work with natural elements, to operate re-arranging and combining in a creative way, to collaborate with the other members of the team

Resources / materials:

natural material that can be found in a yard/ garden: stones, leaves, branches etc.

Description of the activity:

selecting natural elements from outdoor, they have to create by combining the elements a new image/ installation with symbolic value

Stages / steps of the activity:

1. The children explore the environment
2. They select the elements of their land art
3. A sketch can be drawn or an intention can be formulated
4. Each team (3-4 members) agree and assemble the elements
5. The whole process and result is photographed or video recorded

Evaluation:

they see each other's works, discuss and archive the documentation

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6. Activities / Lessons Plan – Stop motion (with objects created from recycled materials)

Target Group:

13-18 years old

Type of activity:

collaborative and teamwork, tasks can be assigned according to age, skills and complexity

Purpose of the activity:

raises awareness about the environment in a creative way and repurpose what is usually deemed as garbage.

Objectives:

- to use and recycle unwanted objects and materials to create something new. To create characters and a story

Resources / materials:

old objects that are not used, rests of materials, camera, computer

Description of the activity:

old objects and materials are combined and used to create characters, they are arranged so they can be recorded as a succession of images and, afterwards, as stop motions

Stages / steps of the activity:

1. Scraps of paper, old objects, textiles and different materials are selected
2. Teams are formed and tasks are assigned
3. The characters are created by assembling the elements
4. The new objects are photographed in certain positions
5. Stop motions are created and projected in the classroom

Evaluation:

participants can vote their favourite

Observations:

the younger children can contribute more to the creation of the characters, the older ones can be more involved in photographing and editing

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7. Activities / Lessons Plan – Re-materialized

Target Group:

14-16 years old

Type of activity:

collaborative exercise

Purpose of the activity:

facilitates a better understanding of an art masterpiece and focus on the details that in a museum might be overlooked

Objectives:

- To reproduce a famous painting in a different material, textile, even garments by arranging them according to the image
- To pay attention to details and the way colours are arranged in the painting
- It leads to a better understanding of the painting's structure
- It becomes an experience instead of something that has been seen

Resources / materials:

All colours of textiles, garments (T-shirts, jeans, dresses etc.)

Description of the activity:

similar to Tableaux vivant, a famous painting is reproduced in a completely different material then photographed

Stages / steps of the activity:

1. Famous paintings are selected (The girl with the pearl earring, Monalisa, Starry night etc.)
2. The composition is studied and sketched
3. Elements are selected according to the colour scheme in the painting
4. The painting is reproduced with assembled clothes and textiles
5. Photos are taken and archived

Evaluation:

participants can vote their favourite according to accuracy of the colour scheme, the details

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8. Activities / Lessons Plan – Collectibles

Target Group:

13-18 years old

Type of activity:

exchange of creative experience and product

Purpose of the activity:

to encourage sharing and displaying handmade objects, to share a creative experience

Objectives:

- To facilitate artistic communication and exchange among the members of the group
- To train synthesis capacity
- To prompt self-reflection and its role in a creative pursue
- To encourage self-reveal to others through preferences and options
- To encourage authenticity

Resources / materials:

pencils, notebooks, drawing paper, computer, sticker paper, printing machine

Description of the activity:

the participants create a small representative collection of stickers (between 3 and 5), they print multiples and exchange these stickers among themselves

Stages / steps of the activity:

1. They establish a few “ingredients” of self, elements that are unique and make them be themselves
2. They create images (miniatures) of those elements
3. The tasks can be structured as name in an artistic form, something you value, something you like, your avatar, you as a superhero
4. The drawings are scanned/ photographed and edited as stickers
5. The product gets printed and they can be shared, glued on different objects etc.

Evaluation:

the desirable outcome is to have the whole group involved

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9. Activities / Lessons Plan - The Flowers

Target Group:

13-14 years old

Type of activity:

collaborative

Purpose of the activity:

proves that differences create diversity and enrich all those involved

Objectives:

- To encourage reciprocated sharing
- To involve all participants
- To give the opportunity of sharing preferences, similarities and differences
- To rise awareness and acceptance for the others

Resources / materials:

drawing paper, coloured pencils, markers, a big cardboard

Description of the activity:

everybody draws a flower in a very simple shape, as for small children, with a middle and five petals towards the interior and five bigger towards the exterior and the colour of each petal is determined by a certain preference

Stages / steps of the activity:

1. Every participant draws a simple shaped flower with the black marker, a circle in the middle and five petals towards the interior and five, bigger, toward the exterior
2. The middle is coloured in the favorite colour, whatever it might be
3. If they like music, visual arts, theatre or sports, they will colour the first row of petals in a designated colour (e.g. yellow for music, violet for arts, red for theatre and blue for sports)
4. If they like summer, springtime, autumn or winter, they will colour the second row of petals in a designated colour (e.g. yellow for summer, green for springtime, red for autumn and blue for winter).
5. On the big cardboard, at the end, it can be assembled a garden with all cut out flowers

Evaluation:

it can be emphasized that the garden is colourful and vibrant due to the small differences and variations expressed.

Observations:

if time allows, every petal can express a different preference with colour variations or a third layer of petals can be added.

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10. Activities / Lessons Plan – Escape Room

Target Group:

13-18 years old

Type of activity:

teamwork, contest

Purpose of the activity:

to prove that image can be “read” and understood as a message

Objectives:

- To emphasise the communication through art
- To make a message intelligible even if it uses just images and symbols
- To develop the competence of following a narrative and connect information
- To decode an assemble of images and reflect upon their symbolical power

Resources / materials:

drawing paper and pencils, two rooms fully furnished and staged with a locker door, timer

Description of the activity:

two teams have to elaborate an entire escape plan, draw the clues and stage the rooms and two other teams have to find those clues so they can escape the room as fast as possible, all clues and messages contain exclusively images, symbols, emoticons

Stages / steps of the activity:

1. The first two teams elaborate the image messages and a map of clues
2. They hide the clues in the rooms
3. The other two teams are locked in the room, they have to find the clues, interpret them and find the solution to unlock the door
4. If time allows it, they switch places.

Evaluation:

The team that escapes in the shortest time wins.

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- Evaluation is qualitative.

Resources:

IMPACT – National Educational Program - Noi Orizonturi (New Horizons) Foundation

Language Support for Migrants A Council of Europe Toolkit

<https://www.mindsetnmilestones.com/group-activities-for-students/>

Mick Maslen, Jack Southern - Drawing Projects: An Exploration of the Language of Drawing

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