



The Creative School



Open Educational Resources *Practical approaches to teaching with objects*

Topic: Teacher Training

Age Group: 7-11, 11-14, 14-18 years old



Erasmus+

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The Creative School open educational resources include the following learning modules, here listed according to subject matters and age of the target students:

	 7-11	 11-14	 14-18
 Art History		Let Them Live Again	Let Them Live Again
 Citizenship and Philosophy	Ethical Dilemmas	Ethical Dilemmas	Ethical Dilemmas
 Environment, Natural Sciences	Biodiversity and Visual Arts	Biodiversity and Visual Arts	
 Facilitation	Online learning through object based learning	Online learning through object based learning	Online learning through object based learning
 Geography	Urban walks	Urban walks	
 History			How did young people live?
	Photos as memories of the past	Photos as memories of the past	Photos as memories of the past
 STEAM			Critical thinking on climate change
	#Empowering YouthVoices	#Empowering YouthVoices	#Empowering YouthVoices
		Hungry Algorithms	Hungry Algorithms
 Teachers Training	Europeana as a learning tool	Europeana as a learning tool	Europeana as a learning tool
	Practical approaches to teaching with objects	Practical approaches to teaching with objects	Practical approaches to teaching with objects

The Creative School project develops learning modules for children and schoolteachers, promoting self-directed learning, critical and visual thinking skills by using cultural heritage content made available by the partner organisations. The present output has developed a set of training materials focusing on the development of thinking skills through engagement with cultural heritage.

More and more children and young people need to develop higher level thinking skills in order to find solutions to social, emotional and economic problems, both personally and in the context of the wider world. They are encouraged to be creative, innovative, enterprising and adaptable, with the motivation, confidence and skills to use creative and critical thinking purposefully.

The main beneficiaries of the project include primary and secondary school teachers, who, through engaging with the project will become equipped with the skills necessary to facilitate pedagogical strategies for creativity and critical thinking. Children and young people involved as participants in the Creative School project will develop the skills required to respond to the challenges offered by the Creative School curriculum.

We hope this material will bring a new dimension to your work and inspire you to use it for fostering creative and critical thinking among young people. The selected topics have been chosen together with teachers and educators coming from Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom through focus groups and surveys.

Each material is accompanied by key learning points as well as several interesting facts or pieces of information, which are intended to be used to provoke further discussion. The most appropriate age group is also indicated.

Wherever possible we have included a short interactive activity that can be carried out with students or a series of suggested questions to ask, in order to introduce the topics of each learning module. Should you wish to explore certain topics or themes further, each material includes a link to other related ones. When available, a general list of additional educational resources related to the topics is also provided.

The material and accompanying text are designed as standalone educational aids. In this respect, the resource is intended to provide an overall framework from which you can pick and choose the issues most relevant to your activities. The module can be used within any country any context as it deals with issues, which are cross-border and universal.



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For more information about *The Creative School* project, please visit:

<https://www.creative-school.eu/>

Practical approaches to teaching through objects: self-directed CPD module

Topic:	 Teachers Training
Age range:	 7-11  11-14  14-18
Summary:	This self-development (CPD) module can be used to learn how to work with objects in the classroom.
Time:	 40-60 minutes
Resources:	Introductory video PowerPoint slides Quiz
Learning objectives:	Encourage teachers / students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• think in a creative and critical way about using objects in the classroom;• explore different ways of teaching through objects;• use OBL for interdisciplinary and cross-curricular teaching.
Success criteria:	By the end of the workshop teachers / students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe key features of OBL for use in museum learning• Apply this knowledge and understanding in using OBL with learners in person / online• Understand when and how to apply different inquiry techniques / facilitation skills using OBL
Keywords:	Object-based learning; critical thinking; creative thinking

Description of the self-directed learning module

This self-directed Continuous Professional Development (CPD) module will take you through the principles of object-based learning (OBL) and guide you through using object-based learning in the classroom. It will provide you with practical tips and tricks, ideas about selecting objects and provides suggestions about guiding a conversation using objects.

OBL is an approach to working with objects (both physical and digital) which is dialogic, and student centred. OBL develops creative and critical thinking skills by encouraging students to describe, speculate and make deductions about objects. OBL can be used with any types of objects and different objects (such as paintings, artefacts, written sources and buildings) can be used together to help students engage with different topics.

Whilst OBL is most commonly associated with historical enquiry, it is interdisciplinary and cross-curricular and can be used in a wide range of subjects to support learning outcomes.

OBL can also be combined with other disciplines such as art, design and technology and literacy to support student learning in those areas. This is because OBL encourages student talk and encourages students to make connections with and through objects.

In this module there are some practical resources which you can print off and use with your students once you have mastered the basics.



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Instructions for teachers

This self-directed training module for educators has been designed to take you through different approaches to teaching through objects using object-based learning. The module starts with an introduction and definition to object-based learning.

Course materials include an Introductory video and a PowerPoint with a quiz at the end.

This self-directed training module will examine the different approaches to teaching with objects with formal education. Starting from the theoretical lens of socio-cultural and constructivist learning theories of Vygotsky, the resource will explore the ways in which objects can be used to scaffold meaning-making in different educational contexts, with a focus on schools, further education and higher education.

The resource introduces the concept of collective thinking, collaborative interaction and sign-making in the meaning-making process, drawing on the work Edwina Taborsky to understand how objects generate meaning and interpretation.

By following the steps in the resource participants will look at the anatomy of an object to explore critical and creative thinking and investigate the use of visible thinking strategies to 'dissect' objects. Participants will also be encouraged to consider and discuss the particular challenges and opportunities of delivering multisensory approaches using objects online and how to engage learners virtually.

The resource includes a number of practical activities to illustrate the uses of objects in teaching either in the classroom or the virtual classroom. The practical element will consider the uses of handling objects, replica objects, realia, digital cultural heritage as well as the physical objects from museum collections.

Timings

Time	Activity	Resource
10 mins	Introductory video	Video
30 minutes	Self-directed learning resource	Powerpoint and quiz at the end

Teaching through objects self-development module



7-11



11-14



14-18

How to use the resource

1. Start by watching the introductory video this will give you some context for the training module.
2. Work through the slides and read the accompanying text. There are two versions of the PowerPoint, one which you can view and read as a slide show and the other which you work through yourself.
3. The PowerPoint is divided into 5 parts covering:
 - a. Introduction to object-based learning
 - b. Critical and creative thinking and object-based learning
 - c. Examples
 - d. Extension activities
 - e. Quiz
4. The PowerPoint includes activities with opportunities for educators to reflect on their learning

Guide to the slides

Slides 1-4	Introductory slides Slides 1-3 outline the learning objectives and learning outcomes of the resource.
Slides 5-10	Part 1: Introduction to Object-based learning Pedagogical context to OBL
Slides 11-13	Part 2: Critical and creative thinking and object-based learning How OBL works with critical and creative thinking
Slides 14-17	Part 3: Practical activities Two practical activities
Slides 18-19	Part 4: Extension ideas Cross-curricular extension activities
Slides 20-23	Summary Includes links
Slides 24-25	Quiz Short reflective quiz activity

Suggestions for further activities

Useful links

- Introduction to OBL (video): www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/05-object-based-learningmp4/
- Flinders Museums OBL Toolkit: <https://www.flinders.edu.au/museum-of-art/object-based-learning-toolkit/obl-higher-education>
- University College London (UCL) Teaching & Object-based learning: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/schools/teaching-object-based-learning>
- Group for Educations in Museums / Object-based learning Factsheet: https://gem.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/BaLL_LearningFromObjects.pdf
- Open University (OU) / Open Learn mini course Enhancing pupil learning on museum visits: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education/enhancing-pupil-learning-on-museum-visits/content-section-0?intro=1>