

Acting game

Age 10-16

Topic:

Language, Literature and Performing Arts

Methods:

Acting out text in groups

Key terms:

acting, creativity, independent learning

What we need:

a suitable space

Estimated time:

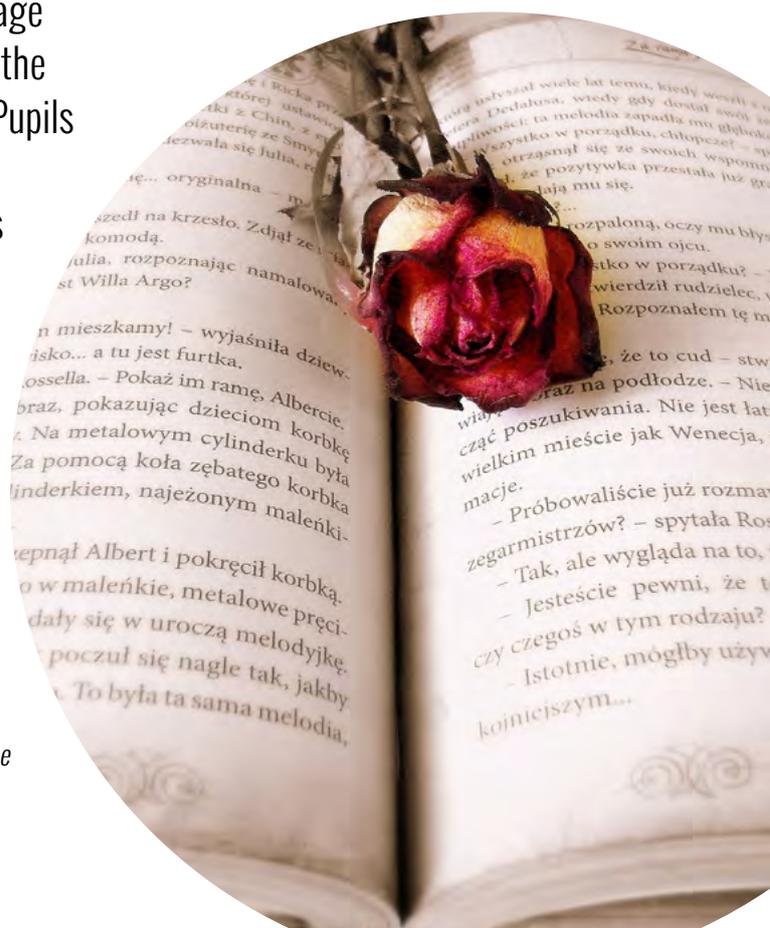
45-90 minutes (1-2 lessons)

Activity description:

If plays appear on the scheme of work for language or drama lessons then why not transfer some of the practical acting lessons to the school grounds. Pupils can practise a scene in small groups and then perform it. The school grounds offer the benefits of space, better sound dissipation and a more varied terrain that can be imaginatively included in the performance.

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CONTINENTS AND COUNTRIES ON TARMAC

Age 6-10

Topic:

Country knowledge

Key terms:

continents, countries, maps

Estimated time:

45 minutes (one lesson)

Methods:

interactive training in geography and regional studies

What we need:

chalk, or old sheets and scissors

Activity description:

Transfer a potentially dry human geography lesson to the outdoors. Outline regions or countries with chalk on a tarmac surface. Alternatively, it would also be possible to cut out and lay out the shapes of the desired countries from old sheets or tarpaulins. Depending on the age and class level, this task can be carried out by the pupils themselves or by the teacher in advance. If the latter is the case, it is possible to make it into a guessing game. The teacher names one of the countries depicted, whereupon the pupils place themselves in what they consider to be the correct outline. If sheets have been used, it is also possible to set an ordering task and thus to check the already existing knowledge regarding the geographical situation of certain states and their neighbouring countries. In this way the positions of countries, their capitals and flags can be learned in a playful active way. Furthermore, country sizes could be compared with each other in a very visual interactive way.



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CREATIVE WRITING

Age 10-16

Topic:

Expressing local first-hand experiences in creative writing

Methods:

Exercise in creative writing

Key terms:

Observation, Writing, Creative writing

What we need:

Pen and paper

Estimated time:

45-90 minutes (1-2 lessons)

Activity description:

Often pupils are tasked with writing poems and verses. A lesson in the school grounds is an advantage in order to get rich inspiration in this respect. Participants can incorporate their first-hand experiences into their creative writing. The teacher can scaffold the pupils writing with a theme/focus or simply grant them complete freedom and see what happens! Outdoor writing enables pupils to have more direct contact with the content of their text and hence use richer more descriptive vocabulary given that it comes from an authentic place of inspiration.

Curriculum Links:

- Encouragement of more vivid vocabulary

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EMBRACING ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES OUTDOORS

Age 6-10

Topic:

Intercultural exchange

Methods:

expanding vocabulary

Key terms:

languages, intercultural exchange, peer-to-peer-learning, global citizenship

What we need:

Students with English as an additional language in your class

Estimated time:

30 min.

Activity description:

You may well have children in your class who have English as an additional language and this presents a fantastic opportunity for cultural exchange thus building friendships and an understanding of how similar we all are as human beings. Take a short trip to the school grounds where all of its different features - such as trees, flowers or the football goal - can be named in all the languages spoken in the class. This approach can of course be adopted for the formal study of any foreign language too.

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OUTDOOR MEDITATION

Age 6-18

Topic:

Meditation in the school grounds

Key terms:

Meditation, mindfulness

Estimated time:

10-20 min.

Methods:

Seating circle in green surroundings

What we need:

Time and calm

Activity description:

At the end of a physical or energetic activity experiment with some meditation in a peaceful part of the grounds. This could be teacher-led or free form. Participants choose a relaxed position and they are then encouraged to closely notice the sensations in the school grounds - such as wind, sounds or smells for a short period of time.

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OUTDOOR PAINTING

Age 7+

Topic:

Children and young people connect with nature through painting

Key terms:

Art and design

Estimated time:

90 min. (2 lessons)

Methods:

painting and drawing

What we need:

pens or other painting equipment, a suitable outdoor space

Activity description:

Art lessons particularly lend themselves to the outdoors. Through theme-specific painting and drawing projects, children and young people can connect with and experience nature in a special way. Depending on the class level and thematic framework, they can concentrate, for example, on perspectives, colours, light or even a chosen artist's style. The teacher can limit or extend the subjects as desired. For example, there is the possibility of general landscape painting or it is equally possible to concentrate on a specific subject such as a tree, flower or clouds. Depending on the context of the lesson the painting could be figurative or abstract.

Curriculum Links:

- Practice in creative interpretation of observations

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PREPARING LOCALLY FOUND SAMPLES FOR MICROSCOPE WORK

Age 10-14

Topic:

Biology

Key terms:

Microscope, observation, cell structure

Estimated time:

45-90 minutes (1-2 lessons)

Methods:

Developing light microscope skills through slide preparation of locally found samples for magnification.

What we need:

Microscopes

Activity description:

Why not try transferring a lesson on light microscope skills to the outdoors? This allows pupils to search for and select their own local plant samples and prepare their specimen slides for magnification. These sample slides can then be viewed, shared amongst peers and drawn/recorded.

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SPECIES ID IN THE SCHOOLGROUNDS

Age 10-14

Topic:

Species identification

Methods:

Determination of species

Key terms:

Biology, species, classification

What we need:

Identification keys, local biodiverse habitat

Estimated time:

90-145 min. (2-3 lessons)

Activity description:

Within the biology lesson an excursion to the school grounds is a nice way to introduce students to the identification of local biodiversity living in a certain ecosystem. In small groups the students explore the terrain in accordance with their assigned theme. The themes could be trees, bushes, flowers, insects and birds or similar. The observations can be captured in photos and brief descriptions. The findings will then be researched online, in encyclopaedias or in the school library for species identification. The results can be recorded in the form of a catalogue or posters for display in the school.

Curriculum Links:

- Species knowledge, collection of field data, collaboration in the working group.

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