Pedagogical Guidelines

Building Bridges

INTRODUCTION

Focusing on a thematic approach - themes and issues that really represent the EU-, this activity symbolises in a simple but illustrative way what the EU embodies in its 50 years of growing together.
The basic idea is to imagine the arch of a bridge. Bridges are made up of individual stones that approach each other and finally meet in the centre. In this activity each of these stones represents a special European theme.

Your class is invited to build its own bridge by filling stones with a description. You do not need to do it in one go, but you can always identify your bridge and continue working on it at a later time. This leaves the possibility to work thoroughly on each separate theme in the classroom before you fill in a short summary of the most important and relevant facts. Your pupils report in the field, which visually appears to be one of the stones of your bridge. The short description can be illustrated with a picture, photo and short video or audio files. Each 'stone' can be clicked on in order to see the whole contribution. Submissions are made in English or French or German to give a wider audience the possibility to understand the texts.

The suggested themes are:
- Economy and Science
- Art, culture and traditions
- EU citizenships and values
- Daily life in Europe
- Europe in the world
- Future of the EU.

Once a theme – or stone of the bridge – is filled in, its colour appears darker on the portal.
The overall outcome is a gallery of linking bridges that give an account of the EU's development selected by young European citizens.

Time line: Pupils can begin their activities now and upload them from 26 March until the end of June 2007.

Outcome: A gallery of European Bridges.

Languages: English or French or German.

Size of contributions:
Headline: max. 100 characters
Text: max. 800 characters
Files   8MB –jpg. gif, pdf, doc, xls, ppt, txt, avi, mov, mpg, wmv, wma, wav, mp3, swf, zip

STEP BY STEP SUGGESTED GUIDELINES

Take part

In the classroom

1) Each theme is represented by a specific icon. Together with your pupils, you need to select a theme, one by one, and work on them.
2) Your pupils write a short description in max. 800 characters. They find an appropriate headline for it and upload both, text and title, on the portal.
3) They can illustrate their text with any supporting file such as a photo, picture, music or video etc, which they also submit on the portal.
4) This activity can be done as a whole class activity by sharing the work on one theme or pupils can work in smaller groups on different themes and contribute to the bridge.
5) The teacher gives guidance on where to find reliable information and makes sure that the contributions that are submitted on the portal are correct and presented in an appropriate way.

Submit your contribution

6) You first need to login with your password and login you received when registering for Spring Day 2007. This is necessary to allow only schools to participate and to keep this website safe for children.
7) Click a stone representing a theme to open a new window. Here you fill in the title and description in English, French or German. Please make sure that the title is no longer than 100 characters and the text 800 characters.
8) Select the language of your translation in the drop down menu. This is important as a moderator will automatically get notice of your submission and check that everything has been correctly submitted before publishing it on the portal.
9) Fill in the name of your pupil or class. Please make sure that you just mention the first name and the initial of the last name for safety reasons.
10) You can upload a file if you want: this can be a scanned or digital picture, an audio or video file. The types of files you can upload are listed above.
11) You need to tick off the 'legal policy' box.
12) Click 'Next' to see the preview of your submissions. You have the possibility to check if your entries are correct and make the necessary changes.
13) When everything is correct you submit and leave the submission form.

Search

1) Click 'Search' and select a country in the drop down menu.
2) Click the bridge you would like to see.
3) You will see the selected bridge in a new window. Here the bridge is enlarged and you can click a stone/theme to see the contribution of this school.
4) Click on 'Back' if you want to leave the contribution.

Copyright and safety regulations

You need to make sure that the picture and the text is the original work of your pupil and is not taken from somebody or somewhere else. Please make sure that qquotations are marked as such, the source is mentioned, and that the uploaded file is free of use and not bound to any copyright regulations.

Only the first name and the initial of the last name of the pupil can be mentioned on the website in order to maintain the privacy of the pupil.

No photos of pupils can be submitted without parental authorisation.