

LESSON PLAN – “CROSSWORD PUZZLES” ACTIVITY

This activity was carried out at the same time as our Erasmus+ project’s Virtual Exchange (V.E.) in April 2021.

Since not all the Erasmus+ candidates from our school could take part in the V.E. (they were 63 in total and the available places for the V.E. were only 15), we thought of involving the remaining part in activities which would anyway let them feel part of the project.

Its main aim was to introduce the students to the countries of our three partner schools from a geographical, historical, economic, etc. point of view and let them gather information on them while working on the given materials.

Such an activity may be proposed in different contexts and in different ways, for example:

- as a preparatory step towards a future exchange;
- during an Erasmus+ exchange, among international students;
- for any school subject and on any topic a class has been studying.

The students may be divided in groups or be asked to work on the task individually.

Here follow the possible phases/lessons of the project:

	What	Who	Materials
Before	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create the grid of a crossword puzzle, leave it blank and just insert one word in the middle (<i>e.g.: we proposed three grids, each with one of the names of the cities where our partner schools were located</i>); - Collect information on the subject the students will be working on (<i>e.g.: we provided the students with material concerning the geography, the economy, the cultural life of the country in general and of the city where we were going to be hosted</i>) 	Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crossword puzzles - information materials
1 st (1 hour)	<p>Presentation of the project and instructions to the students.</p> <p>Division of the students into groups. (<i>e.g.: we had the groups divided into Norway, the Netherlands and Spain</i>)</p> <p>Handing out of the materials to the different groups.</p>	Teacher / Teachers (one for each group)	Materials Blank crossword grids
2 nd (1 hour)	<p>Each group is introduced and guided by a teacher to the analysis of the available information.</p> <p>The students are then invited to work on their crossword puzzle and to add words making them intersecting the already given one in an “across” or “down” position.</p>	Teacher Students in groups	Materials Blank crossword grids
3 rd (1hour)	The students further agree on what words to insert and write down clues* for them.	Students in groups	Filled-in crossword grids
4 th (1 or 2 hours)	Each group presents its final product to the others, highlighting why they have chosen those words and how they are connected to	Students in groups	

	the city and country which is going to host them.		
--	---	--	--

*In case the crossword puzzles are based on topics a whole class / group of students has been studying, each group may provide the others with a blank grid to be completed by answering the given clues. It will therefore work as a tool to revise what has been learnt.