Discover Your Town

A project about redefining spaces and images of the town

هذه المقالة ليست خاصة بمعلمي اللغة الإنجليزية فقط بل هي موجهة للقراء عموماً

The idea of this project is to make students create their own map and a guide of the town where they live in a way that it can be useful to them (to discover new places and services) and to others (it can be presented as a new model of town map/guide from the children's and young people perspective).

The aim is to both let them discover, through active and interdisciplinary work, the places they are accustomed to in a new way and to investigate the role these places had in the past in providing multiple cultural, artistic, religious, historical symbols.

Somehow, it's a way to make them think about the "identity" of the town and about the different ways to perceive it.

One's "identity" is constantly built up by confrontation with other's perspectives, ideas and heritages. This process leads to a continuous and creative redefinition of the "Self" and reflects the natural condition of the human being: from birth to death, we constantly change our identity, depending on the people we meet, the experiences we live and the way we re-elaborate them.

The result may be a reflection of the interdependence of the local situation with different countries and people, in order to build up cross cultural skills.

A second aim is to make students reflecting about the idea of cultural difference; how each individual is "instinctively" and "naturally" different from the other and can see the same places, experiences and things from different perspectives, even if he/she identifies himself/herself with a particular social and cultural group.

Characteristics of the project

- **Flexibility>** As an extra-curricular activity, this project is a flexible instrument which can be adapted to different classes and subjects. It can be used as a summer class activity or to develop a particular theme studied at school.

  For example:

  - a historical period, such as the Middle Age, can be studied starting from the town itself at that time;

  It is constituted by a series of "models" which can be developed singularly or connected to others.

  One of the main aims is to help students work together, at school and at home, to be able to gather information and to elaborate it creatively.

- **Interdisciplinary>** Its aim is to link together different subjects, in order to help students learn