

Art Without Borders

Lesson plan

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Education level: From elementary school

Subject: STEAM, arts, design

Format: In groups (collaborative activity)

Duration: Approx. 3 hours

Introduction and lesson objectives:

Using the co-teaching capabilities of CoSpaces Edu, you will create and manage an online art gallery with two or more classrooms from different areas of the world.

Your students will take pictures of their artwork, write their artist statements and display them in a shared CoSpace with students from another country/state/town.

Students will then be able to see what their peers are creating in other parts of the world and leave constructive art critiques on each other's works. This lesson can be used for one themed art project in particular or yearlong to showcase everything the class has created during the year.

Learning goals and student benefits:

- Develop art criticism
- Develop analytical skills
- Foster creativity
- Develop collaborative skills
- Develop reflexion skills

Activity example:

1. Find a teacher from another country/state/town to collaborate with you in this project. Using your favorite social media platform, you can find teachers willing to participate in this virtual art gallery project.
2. Set up a **class** and add the other teacher as co-teachers for them to be able to see and grade what their students are creating.
Give the **class code** to the other teachers so they can add their students.
3. Create an **assignment** called “**Art Without Borders**”. Group all students into one team and assign the “Art Without Borders” assignment to the group.
This is to make sure that they all work within the same CoSpace so that they can view their peers’ art and critique them directly next to the piece.
4. Make sure you lay the ground rules before your students start the project:
Respect each other’s work and don’t change anything besides adding a sign with your **critique**. Your critique has to be helpful, positive and respectful.
Your critique has to be dated and signed.
5. If using the Art Without Borders project with younger students, teachers can create a basic art gallery CoSpace before assigning the lesson and have students copy the first scene, rename it to their name and modify the scene if desired.
They can also record themselves talking about their work instead of writing it and add the recording in their scene.
6. Have students take pictures of their work throughout the creation process if the Art Without Borders project is used only for one themed artwork, or throughout the year if it is yearlong.
An **artist statement** should be written for each piece of artwork.
7. Use the **first period** of the Art Without Borders project to have students create a new scene in the common CoSpace and name it with their **full name** and **school initials or class ID** so the teacher can easily find their scene.
Let them build their gallery using the environment they see fit and the structures they wish to have to display their work. If this is an ongoing yearlong project, let them know that it’s a work in progress and can be modified to accommodate new artwork and new design ideas.

8. **Next period**, let students use their creativity to display their pictures and artist statements in their gallery scene. If using the Art Without Borders project yearlong, make sure to reserve time periodically for students to update their gallery and write their critiques.
9. Once they've uploaded their work, your students can use the rest of the time (or another class period) to view other scenes from foreign students to choose creations to critique. It's best to have students write their critique on paper and have the teacher review for appropriateness and quality of spelling/grammar before they post them to CoSpaces.
10. Intermediate and advanced students can add animations/coding to make their gallery more interactive with people and objects moving, speaking, thinking, etc.

Extension idea:

At the end of the project or the end of the year, ask students to share with their class the most inspiring foreign artwork they saw and explain what they liked about it.

Assessment and evaluation suggestions:

- Have your students managed to create their virtual galleries in CoSpaces Edu?
- Does your students' work show an original and creative approach?
- Did the students manage to collaborate with each other and critique each other's work in a constructive way?