

Video Transcript

Title

Learning through Pictures

Summary

Whether you want to introduce a set topic, encourage literacy or just get to know your students better, art postcards can be used in many ways across the curriculum. This video introduces the idea of learning through pictures and explains how it could work in your classroom.

Duration

2:37

Speakers

Claire Newman, Room 13 International

Stuart Watson, English Teacher

Elaine Shiel, Primary Teacher

Various school pupils

Transcript

[Pupils hold up various postcards to the camera.]

Pupil 1

I chose this card because I'd like to know how the artist has done it and it's really colourful and it's multi-coloured all the way through.

Pupil 2

I chose it because it's very abstract and different.

Pupil 3

Well it reminded me of my little brother, he's a complete mess but he's full of colours and I just really like it.

Claire Newman, Room 13 International

The great thing about the postcard resource is that it's so versatile you can use it to get into just about any area of the curriculum, any topic, any subject.

[Pupils look at postcards on desks in a classroom.]

Stuart Watson, English Teacher

It's accessible to everybody regardless of age, ability, that's how good it can be.

Elaine Shiel, Primary Teacher

I think it makes them look closely at works of art on the postcards it makes them discuss them so their verbal literacy, their listening, their freedom to give their own opinion and know that their thoughts count.

Stuart Watson, English Teacher

It allows me to create something that's properly pupil led so I can take a real step back and just facilitate what they're doing rather than feel I need to control everything.

Claire Newman, Room 13 International

We start by laying the postcards out in a completely random order, the idea is to confront the the young people that come into the room with just an array of images that are not ordered or organised in any way, so there'll be a few questions that gets them to kind of look at the whole collection and sort of compare and contrast and look for particular things and then we'll focus in on a few specific artworks that they select as being interesting to them.

[Pupils look at postcards on a table at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.]

Stuart Watson, English Teacher

There is no right or wrong answer, you're looking at something you don't need an art degree to look at it, you just look at what you see, look at what potentially inspired the ideas behind it.

Elaine Shiel, Primary Teacher

I enjoy the creativity of it that you don't really know where it's going to go and I enjoy when you look at what they've picked and what they have written about and just how it shows parts of them and their interpretation of the world around them.

Pupil 1

I learned about art that it's not just a drawing because it can spread happiness and help people feel in different ways depending on different pieces of art.

Pupil 3

I really liked how you can let your imagination run free.

Stuart Watson, English Teacher

It's so rewarding for me as a teacher to see something that actually works.