

Literacy across learning lesson 1

Portobello High School



Understanding what literacy means, and practising listening and communicating for learning

Aims:

- To understand what literacy means
- To practice listening and talking for learning

Objectives: By the end of this lesson I will:

1. Have a greater understanding of what literacy means and how it applies to me
2. Understand how to be a good listener and communicator

Task 1 (5 minutes) – What is literacy?

- Brief introduction to the 6 lesson literacy block.
- Class discussion — do pupils know what the term 'literacy' means?

Hopefully pupils will mention:

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening
- Speaking

During their 6 Literacy lessons pupils will develop skills in these four areas.

Task 2 (10 minutes) – What does literacy mean to me?

- In groups, pupils will think about what each person has done in the past week that involved literacy. Ideas to be placed on a mind-map.
- Class feedback.

Possible answers:

1. Understanding what is spoken
2. Being able to respond orally to questions
3. Understanding pictures, tables, graphs, maps
4. Being able to read all kinds of text
5. Being able to write for a variety of purposes, eg filling in forms, giving opinions, letters ...
6. Working out what is implied or suggested
7. Thinking and giving opinions ...

Task 3 (15 minutes) – Listening for information

Listening is something that we do naturally every day but how good are pupils at listening for information?

3(a) – Listening for information

Pupils are asked to listen to a video clip about Giant Turtles and must answer questions about the information just heard.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2CQ9PyktOM> (0.23–4.00 minutes)

Questions for Higher Sets

In which century did humans first live on the Galapagos Islands?

How many kinds of giant tortoise were there originally?

How many large islands are there in the Galapagos?

What part of a tortoise has evolved in response to the food available?

What shell shape does a tortoise have if their island has lots of food?

Why did people slaughter the tortoises?

How long can a tortoise live without water or food?

In which year did they find Lonesome George?

Where do they put the wild tortoise eggs?

What size are the baby tortoises?

How many years does it take for a tortoise to be predator proof?

How many tortoises has the research centre helped?

Questions for Supported Sets

What type of animal is the clip about?

How many kinds of giant tortoise lived on the islands in the 17th century?

In which year did they find Lonesome George?

Why did people slaughter the tortoises?

How long can a tortoise live without water or food?

How many years does it take for a tortoise to be predator proof?

Class Feedback

- How many did they get right / How well did they listen?
- Was it easy to recall the information?

3(b) – Higher level listening for information

Pupils are asked to listen to a second video clip about Global Warming (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJAbATJCugs>) (3.04 minutes)

In their groups they must complete a worksheet answering the following questions:

- The key points
- The purpose
- Their own opinion about what they have just heard

3(c) – Listening effectively

What tips would they give someone to help them listen more effectively?

Hopefully they will mention:

- Stop talking
- Focus on the speaker
- Remove distractions
- Be patient
- Concentrate and listen to the ideas

Task 4 (20 minutes) – Listening and Communicating

Explaining thoughts and ideas to others is an important literacy skill.

1. In a pair, one pupil is the illustrator and one is the describer and they must move so they are sitting back to back.
2. Each pair is given a picture. The describer must explain to their partner what they are looking at, without looking at their partner's drawing. Their partner must draw what is described.
3. Once finished, the pair compares the original picture and drawing. They should discuss how successful or unsuccessful they were and decide why.
4. Class feedback.
5. If there is time, swap roles and repeat the task. Was it more successful this time?