

Literary-inspired Minecraft creations

<p>Previous compulsory steps / Prior students' knowledge</p>	<p>In order to implement this sequence, you will need Minecraft JAVA version, which includes the creative mode needed for this activity.</p> <p>Both the teacher and the students should know how the game works and some of its possibilities (what the players can create). In case they do not know, it is recommended to either play for 1 hour or to watch a gameplay video before this sequence.</p>
<p>Learning objectives</p>	<p>To make a construction (it can be a building, any kind of figure or even an abstract creation), in collaboration with other students, to recreate something expressed in a poem or a short story.</p> <p>To express, orally or in writing, reasoned opinions on literary texts.</p> <p>To communicate appropriately in the context of the situation and improve the generation and organization of ideas.</p> <p>To use elements of visual language strategically to create and analyse artistic productions in three-dimensional, static, and moving forms.</p>
<p>Subjects</p>	<p>Language, Literature and Art.</p>
<p>Recommended Age</p>	<p>Any age. The complexity of the assignment can be adapted to the level of the students.</p>

Materials needed	Computers (one per student or in pairs) connected on a LAN network (see instructions on Minecraft Help webpage).
Sequence duration	1 - 2 hours
Individual or group activity	Individual or group
Skills developed (after learning objectives)	Communication, Creativity, Planning, Collaboration & teamwork
Price range of the game	20 – 40 €
Similar games to use with the approach of the sequence	Minecraft education edition (requires a license and a monthly payment), Minetest .
Inclusion best practices	Minecraft has several accessibility settings, such as enabling text-to-speech software, changing background opacity, stabilizing camera shaking, etc.

Step by step: how to implement the sequence

- **Step 1: Read the text (10 - 20 minutes)**

Share a short literary text of your choosing with the students. It can be a poem, a short story, or an excerpt from a longer text. Give them some guidance on how to approach the text, what to look for in terms of artistic expression: literary resources, the message, the intention, etc. You can guide them in the form of questions, such as: What is the writer telling us? What emotions are being expressed through the text?

The goal in this step is to encourage them to interpret the content of the text, so they can later use a different language to present that same content.

- **Step 2: Express yourself with Minecraft - in creative mode! (40 - 80 minutes)**

Open Minecraft in creative mode, so the students can use any of the blocks and other tools of the game with no limits. Think of the game as an artistic canvas and the blocks as paintbrushes- colourful blocks can help to create something different than the usual Minecraft creations. With these, they can create more than buildings or rooms— anything is possible! Many Minecraft fans share creations online that look like pixel art. If you have time, we recommend you show the students examples of this kind of art, which may be found at:

minecraft.fandom.com/wiki/Tutorials/Pixel_art

Give the students guidance and time to think about what they want to “draw”, to test different block combinations and, finally, to create (alone or in pairs). They must produce something that expresses part of the content they have found during the reading in Step One.

- **Step 3: Share your creations (10 - 20 minutes)**

Now it is time for the students to express orally what they have created and how these creations relate to the text they read at the beginning of the lesson.

Alternatively, you can ask students to write a text explaining their creations, which is an exercise that can also be done as homework if you prefer.

Resources

For guidance on creating pixel art with Minecraft, see:

minecraft.fandom.com/wiki/Tutorials/Pixel_art

How to set up a LAN server:

On Minecraft:

minecraft.fandom.com/wiki/Tutorials/Setting_up_a_LAN_world

On Minetest:

wiki.minetest.net/Setting_up_a_server

Minecraft. (2022). Official Minecraft website. Available at: www.minecraft.net

Minetest. (2022). Official Minetest website. Available at: www.minetest.net

Minecraft wiki. (2022). Minecraft wiki. Available at:

minecraft.fandom.com/wiki/Minecraft_Wiki

Minetest wiki. (2022). Minetest wiki. Available at: wiki.minetest.net/Main_Page