

ENCORE!

Try Heinemann's French lesson and set your class on the road to becoming multi-lingual...

The number of students taking MFL GCSEs and studying them at further or higher education is seeing a worrying decline; many young people are simply becoming disinterested in learning a foreign language. It is hoped that the government's £50 million commitment to improving modern foreign language teaching for 7-11 year olds at Key Stage 2 will go some way to addressing wider concerns over our ability as a nation to compete in the international jobs market. The DfES believes that educating children earlier will help to redress this situation, with the new strategy expected to extend children's interest in foreign languages into Secondary school learning and beyond. Here is an idea from Heinemann, publishers of leading modern foreign language resources, to get you started.

French lesson plan – Months of the year

The lesson plan below would be suitable for a class who have already learnt some French, and are familiar with counting up to six. It is adapted from the first lesson of a module that is designed to take place near the beginning of the second year of learning French, assuming that pupils have been receiving between 30 and 60 minutes of French since the beginning of the previous year.

For more information about the course this lesson plan is adapted from, go to www.tout-le-monde.co.uk. Note that as Tout le monde is designed for delivery with the interactive whiteboard, the traditional flashcards (Cartes images) are paired with electronic flashcards (Images électroniques), which have accompanying text and audio that can be turned on and off. The fact that native speaker audio is always available for teaching new language, simply by clicking on an audio icon, is a feature that is proving especially useful for teachers whose own French might be a bit rusty!

OBJECTIVES

- To recognise and say the first six months of the year in French
- To understand that lower case letters are used for the months of the year in French

RESOURCES TO PREPARE

CARTES-IMAGES (Flashcards): Cut out the pictures that represent the first 6 months of the year from the magazine and back them with card.

MOTS:

Make 6 separate cards with the months typed in French

NEW LANGUAGE

janvier – January
février – February
mars – March
avril – April
mai – May
juin – June
le mois – month
C'est quel mois? – Which month is it?
correct – correct
pas correct – incorrect

CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS

LITERACY: Y4-6 Develop a range of personal strategies for learning new and irregular words

KEY STAGE 2 FRAMEWORK FOCUS

O 4.2: Use physical response to show recognition and understanding of specific words or phrases
KAL: Identify a different writing system
LLS: Use mental associations to remember words

Starter activity

Revise numbers from 1 to 6

Choose two confident volunteers. Ask the first to count from 1 to 6, and the second to count from 6 to 1 backwards. Repeat with two more pairs of volunteers. Now point at each pupil in turn asking each to say one number, counting up to 6 and back to 1. See if you can get round the class without making any mistakes.

Teaching and learning

1 Cartes images (1–6)

Repeat in various ways

Introduce the first six months of the year using the Cartes-images (Flashcards). As you hold up each card in order, say the month in French and ask the children to repeat, Then ask them to repeat the words several times and in different ways, for example loudly, softly, ferociously, in a whisper. You can then mouth the words in a whisper for the children to repeat out loud.

2 Children make up own actions for months of the year 1–6 Individual children perform and class guess

Ask children to make up their own actions for the first six months of the year, for example being cold for January, drawing a heart in the air for February, football for the FA Cup final in May. Invite individual volunteers to perform their actions for a month. Encourage children to guess which month it is by asking C'est quel mois?

3 Cartes images (1–6)

Mots (1–6) • Read in chorus • Volunteers to read • Identify a different writing system

Hold up the Cartes-images again, but this time also hold up the matching Mot (word) with the other hand. Ask children to repeat, but this time they will be reading as they listen. Select six confident volunteers, and give them each a word to repeat and remember – hand them the relevant cards to hold up. Now ask the volunteers to read their words, and the class to repeat, Ask children if they notice anything unusual about the way the months are written in French. Explain that the French don't use capital letters when writing the months of the year. Ask which other words they know that have a capital letter in English but not in French (days of the week). Do they notice any similarities in the spelling of the English and French months?

4 Cartes images (1–6)

Months on board • Focus on calendar month numbers

Draw the children's attention to the numbers on the Cartes images. Ask the class what they think these numbers refer to. Explain that these are the calendar month numbers. Stick the Cartes-images on the board and ask Numéro deux, c'est quel mois? Repeat with different numbers and months.

5 Correcte/pas correcte? with Cartes-images

Individual children guess a hidden card

Select a confident volunteer to sit on a chair in front of the class and ask them to close their eyes (Fermez les yeux!) and not to cheat (Ne trichez pas!). Choose one of the Cartes-images and show it to the class. Ask the volunteer to hold the Carte-image above their head (picture facing the class) and open their eyes. Invite the volunteer to guess which month it is. Children then respond with correcte or pas correcte as appropriate.

Plenary activity

'Unjumble' mixed-up words of months

Choose a month, jumble up the letters and write them on the whiteboard. For example, mai could be arranged like this: ima. Choose a volunteer to unjumble the word. Help them with action clues.

