

Activity Template 1 → Environmental Education

Collaborative creation of a podcast titled “*Urban futures: city of tomorrow*” focusing on sustainability and environmental issues.

School: I.C. Umbertide Montone Pietralunga

Teacher Name and surname: Erasmus Team

Activity objectives:

- To explore innovative and sustainable solutions for future urban environments.
- To develop English communicative competence through collaborative podcasting.
- To raise awareness about climate change and environmental stewardship.
- To foster international cooperation and cultural exchange among students.

General framework: This activity is linked with the study of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Goal 13 (Climate Action), inspired by the visionary ideas in the book *"Beetles for Breakfast"* by Madeleine Finlay.

Cross-curricular subjects involved:

- **Science:** Environmental issues and renewable technologies.
- **Technology/ICT:** Audio recording.
- **Geography:** Urban planning and global ecosystems.
- **Citizenship:** International collaboration and environmental responsibility.

Material needed to develop the activity:

- The book *"Beetles for Breakfast"* by Madeleine Finlay.
- Guided prompt questions (stimulus sheets).
- Tablets or laptops.
- Microphones.
- Notepads and pens for scripting.

Timing: 2 hours.

Groups: Mixed international groups consisting of Italian, Finnish, and Belgian students (4-5 students per group to ensure diverse perspectives).

Procedure to develop the activity:

1. **Inspiration (20 mins):** Brief introduction to the book *"Beetles for Breakfast"*. Groups browse key chapters focusing on "Future Cities" and "Green Tech".
2. **Brainstorming & Scripting (40 mins):** Using the **guided stimulus questions**, groups discuss how their "City of Tomorrow" would look. They assign roles (host, expert, interviewer) and draft a 2-3 minute podcast script.

3. **Recording (40 mins):** Groups find quiet spaces to record their podcast segments, focusing on clear pronunciation and engaging dialogue.
4. **Wrap-up & Peer Review (20 mins):** Groups share a snippet of their recording or summarize their "big idea" to the rest of the class.

Competences and skills to be acquired:

- **Multilingual competence:** Using English as a *lingua franca* for authentic communication.
- **Digital competence:** Navigating audio recording tools.
- **Social and civic competence:** Working effectively in a multicultural team.
- **Critical thinking:** Analyzing current environmental pitfalls and imagining creative solutions.

Pitfalls and strengths:

- **Strengths:** High engagement due to the creative medium (podcast); authentic use of English; rich exchange of ideas between different European cultures.
- **Pitfalls:** Time constraints for editing; potential background noise during recording; varying levels of English proficiency among group members (mitigated by peer-to-peer support).

Pictures:

