

Europeana Learning Scenario

(Teachers)

Title

Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Righteous among the Nations

Author(s)

Augusto Fernando Silva Oliveira

Abstract

Aristides de Sousa Mendes, Holocaust, Humans Rights, Second World War, Righteous Among the Nations, anti-Semitism and discrimination.

Keywords

Aristides de Sousa Mendes, Humans Rights, Second World War, school library.

Table of summary

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Subject	History, Citizenship and Library activities
Topic	The main topic of this lesson is about Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a righteous man among the nations, Portuguese diplomat in Bordeaux, France, during the Second World War, against the express orders of the Portuguese dictator Salazar, decided to issue thousands of visas in conscience to thousands of refugees persecuted by the German invaders. The heroic act of Aristides de Sousa Mendes is essential to remember the importance of humanism and the dangers that come from intolerance, hatred, xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination.
Age of students	14 -18 years
Preparation time	2 hours of collaborative preparation between the school library teachers and the other teachers of History, to define methodologies, learning scenarios and prepare resources to support the activity.
Teaching time	(3+2) 3 lessons of 50 minutes of curriculum areas in the classroom and 2 lessons of 50 minutes of autonomous work in the school library (research and use of ITC).
Online teaching material	Digital Tools / apps Digital tools / applications

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brainstorming and creation of conceptual maps which visually demonstrate the dimensions of the topic of study, using digital tools. (www.mindomo.com) - Collecting and sharing information within the class groups, through the computer (Googledocs), or other means, as a support for collaborative work. (www.google.com) - Providing learning resources - www.wakelet.com - Construction of learning portfolios - www.wakelet.com - Building a timeline - www.smartdraw.com - Sharing reading comments and opinions - www.padlet.com - Reading recording- www.voki.com - Disclosing activities (blog) - www.wordpress.com - Support material: - Resources produced by the school library - https://wakelet.com/wake/7fzA5fn3Yg5cljz175370 Others: https://fundacaoaristidesdesousamendes.pt https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristides_de_Sousa_Mendes https://www.centerofportugal.com/pt/tour/aristides-de-sousa-mendes-o-consul-insubordinado https://www.rtp.pt/noticias/mundo/aristides-de-sousa-mendes-o-diplomata-portugues-que-contrariou-ordens-de-salazar_v1356800 https://pt.euronews.com/2021/10/19/aristides-de-sousa-mendes-no-panteao https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuN-XOnQnHk
Offline teaching material	Books, notebooks, and other material to support research and writing.
Europeana resources used	https://www.europeana.eu/en/item/10501/bib_rnod_237587 https://www.europeana.eu/en/item/10501/bib_rnod_237588 https://www.europeana.eu/en/item/10501/bib_rnod_222640

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Integration into the curriculum

This activity aims to develop a History project with the support of the school library, that engages students and teachers in knowledge of the Holocaust and the horror that was sowed from the seed of hatred and prejudice, leading students, through the noble example of Aristides de Sousa Mendes during the Second World War and multiple research, to understand the value of respect for human rights and its imperative and permanent defense.

This activity is developed to promoting research, investigation and producing knowledge. It enhances collaborative work, oriented by the school library in articulation with the curricula and the main skills from different subjects, as well as domains from citizenship and areas from the students' profile at the end of compulsory education.

The school Library assures a permanent support to the activities.

History – Study of the Second World War and the Holocaust/ Righteous Among the Nations, Human Rights

Library – Literacies (read/media and information)

Aim of the lesson

The aim is that the students recognize values of tolerance, equality and justice.

We hope that after this integrated and multifaceted approach and of the knowledge and values associated with it, the students will have a worldview that enables them to practice an active, integrative and multicultural citizenship that promotes human rights.

Outcome of the lesson

1 - Development of a project between the History subject in coordination with the school library on the topic: "Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a Righteous Among the Nations", within the theme of "World War II" and "Holocaust".

2 - Creation of a portfolio of resources about Aristides de Sousa Mendes, the Second World War and the Holocaust, to be made available to the whole school.

Trends

Collaborative Learning: a strong focus on group work.

Project-Based Learning: students get fact-based tasks, problems to solve and they work in groups. This kind of learning usually transcends traditional subjects.

Search & Learning: images and multimedia are more powerful than verbal stimuli.

Learning materials: shift from textbooks to web resources.

Key competences

This scenario promote some key competences - citizenship competence, digital competence and cultural awareness and expression competence - generate and apply new ideas and solutions in a creative innovative way, as result from interaction with others or personal reflection, applying them to different contexts and knowledge areas (analogic and digital), predicting and evaluating the impact of their decisions, communicate and collaborate in a safe and proper manner; developing processes leading to the construction of products and knowledge; using different digitals resources.

Activities

Name of activity	Procedure	Time
Project Presentation	In History lessons the project plan between History teachers and the school library is presented both by this subject's teacher and the librarian.	15 minutes
Mobilization:	Viewing the documentary trailer in https://pt.euronews.com/2021/10/19/aristides-de-sousa-mendes-no-panteao	10 minutes
Visual aids Europeana	Looking at some photos in the site Europeana, followed by a short explanation about the operation and of the resources.	10 minutes
Work groups:	Formation of groups of 4/5 students to work on the big study themes (Aristides de Sousa Mendes, Antisemitism, Holocaust and Second World War). Brainstorming and creation of conceptual maps that represent visually the several dimensions of this approach. Students use the digital tool: www.mindomo.com Formation of groups of 4/5 students to work on the big study themes (Anne Frank and the Holocaust). Brainstorming and creation of conceptual maps that represent visually the several dimensions of this approach. Students use the digital tool: www.mindomo.com	50
Historical Contextualization	The History subject gives the necessary contextualization to the historical period from 20th century, identifying the phenomena and causes that led to the Holocaust and the second world war. The groups initiate the first publications of the historical timeline: www.smartdraw.com	50
Construction of a learning portfolio (library)	The librarian teacher guides the students in the creation of resource collections on the subject and presents guidelines on research methodology and information treatment, using the tool: https://thebig6.org	50

Name of activity	Procedure	Time
	Using www.wakelet.com , each group, autonomously, creates their learning portfolio, with information, resources and tasks developed during the theme module, allowing consultation and monitoring between groups and by the teaching team involved.	
Watching a documentary and Debate	In a History lesson, students watch the documentary: Aristides De Sousa Mendes - Righteous Among the Nations “ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuN-XOnQnHk ” and, after that they debate about it. The conclusions are presented on the padlet: www.padlet.com Groups write Aristides de Sousa Mendes biography and include it in their portfolios: www.wakelet.com	50
Publication and Disclosure (library)	At the school library, students are guided by the librarian teacher on the publication of the results of the work they developed in the school’s library blog: www.wordpress.com	15

Assessment

The students will fill in a Google Form and give their opinion about the different activities and resources used in the implementation of this Learning Scenario.

***** AFTER IMPLEMENTATION *****

Student feedback

The students provide their feedback by answering a question on Padlet:

What contributions has Aristide de Sousa Mendes' action made and how can it be understood and promoted for new generations?

Teacher’s remarks

I implemented this learning scenario in History lessons in February and March. Students participated in a group exhibition hosted by the school library and the history teachers, evoking their role for human rights and life.

This activity had the active participation of the school library, through information search support and the use of digital applications.

Pupils reported that they learned a lot about collaborative online work and how to work as a team. They felt more confident after giving/receiving adequate feedback from/to their peers.

About the Europeana DSI-4 project

[Europeana](#) is Europe's digital platform for cultural heritage, providing free online access to over 53 million digitised items drawn from Europe's museums, archives, libraries and galleries. The Europeana DSI-4 project continues the work of the previous three Europeana Digital Service Infrastructures (DSIs). It is the fourth iteration with a proven record of accomplishment in creating access, interoperability, visibility and use of European cultural heritage in the five target markets outlined: European Citizens, Education, Research, Creative Industries and Cultural Heritage Institutions.

[European Schoolnet](#) (EUN) is the network of 32 European Ministries of Education, based in Brussels. As a not-for-profit organisation, EUN aims to bring innovation in teaching and learning to its key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers, researchers, and industry partners. European Schoolnet's task in the Europeana DSI-4 project is to continue and expand the Europeana Education Community.

