

Discovering Paris with Paris Musées

Worksheet

Guidelines for educators

- **Context and the area of cultural heritage:** Digital cultural heritage, Paris Musées digital exhibitions
- **Description and justification:**

Since 1 January 2013, Paris Musées has been managing 14 museums of the city of Paris: Museum of Modern Art, Maison de Balzac, Bourdelle Museum, Carnavalet Museum - History of Paris, The Catacombs, Cernuschi Museum - Museum of Asian Arts, Cognacq-Jay Museum - Museum of the 18th century, Archaeological Crypt of the Notre-Dame square, Palais Galliera - fashion museum, Museum of General Leclercq de Hauteclocque and the Liberation of Paris/ Musée Jean Moulin, Petit Palais - fine arts museum, Victor Hugo's house, Museum of Romantic Life, Zadkine Museum.

This establishment contributes to the influence of Parisian museums and strengthens their mission as a cultural facility: preservation, enhancement and enrichment of collections, expansion of audiences, quality and success of exhibitions, adaptation to new technologies, partnership with other museums and cultural institutions in France and abroad.

Among its main missions, Paris Musées ensures the development and enlargement of the public through a reinforced educational policy and increased attention paid to the comfort of the visit and cultural mediation.

Thanks to the digitised resources, it is possible to create and publish your own thematic user path on their platform.

- **Duration:** 45 minutes
- **Language level:** B1 - B2
- **Prior knowledge:**

knowledge of words used to describe something, i.e., adjectives like long / short, beautiful / ugly. Knowledge of present simple and present continuous, past simple. Knowledge of the names of clothes. Basic knowledge of how to express one's opinion.

- **Thematic area, grammatical and syntactical phenomena (learning objectives):**

In this worksheet students will learn about Parisian museums, as well as about the history and culture of Paris and France, and more specifically about Notre Dame, French fashion, French cabaret and paintings. They will express their opinions on diverse subjects, orally and in writing.

- **Skills developed (or benefits for students):**

At the end of this worksheet, students will be able to talk about their experiences, to express their opinions and their feelings. They will be able to talk about the history of Notre Dame, about clothes and looks, as well as about the literature. They will know more about French culture and French style. Thanks to the verbal exercises, they will develop their oral skills.

- **Materials needed: a printer, pens/pencils, internet connection**
- **References and resources:**

Agence, G.-L. N. (s. d.). *Collections en ligne*. Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris.

Consulted the 29 November 2021, https://www.mam.paris.fr/fr/collections-en-ligne#/artworks?filters=tree_domain_all%3A%20Peinture&page=2&layout=grid&sort=by-author

Analyse d'oeuvre de Théophile Alexandre Steinlein, Tournée du Chat noir (1896).

(2012, août 30). Biographie Peintre Analyse: Histoire de l'Art. Consulted the 29

November 2021, <https://www.biographie-peintre-analyse.com/2012/08/30/th%C3%A9ophile-alexandre-steinlein-tourn%C3%A9e-du-chat-noir-1896-analyse-d-oeuvre-projet/>

AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions. (2020, 10 mars).
Maria Blanchard - Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions. AWARE
Women artists / Femmes artistes. Consulted the 26 November 2021,
<https://awarewomenartists.com/artiste/maria-blanchard/>

Girard, M. (2018, 14 November). *Parler de l'art. . . en A1!* Les Zexperts FLE.
Consulted the 29 November 2021, <https://leszexpertsfle.com/ressources-fle/parler-de-lart-en-a1/>

Paris Musées | Paris Musées. (2021, 11 November). Paris Musées. Consulted the 26
November 2021, <https://www.parismusees.paris.fr/fr>

Worksheet for the student

EXERCISE 1: Lifestyle and culture

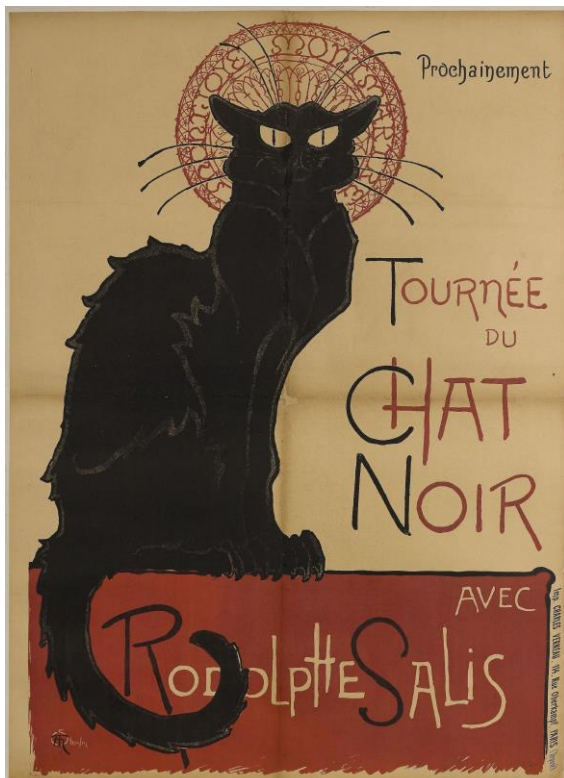
(Duration: 20 minutes)

Paris Museums represents a network of 14 Parisian museums and heritage sites in the heart of Paris, all of which are an emblematic part of the capital's history, and the history of the French nation. Paris Musée's collection consists of documents and artworks that stretch back through the ages, from prehistory to the present. This collection can also be viewed online.

To create the following exercises, we chose some of the artworks from Paris Musée's vast collection. We tried to convey Paris' spirit and values, both national and cultural.

Task 1 Carnavalet Museum: discussion in pairs

(Duration: 5 minutes)



Chat Noir, or Black Cat, was a famous Parisian cabaret founded in 1881. It was an important place for the development of an extravagant culture that is now historically associated with France's capital. The Chat Noir cabaret was also a place of important

philosophical and political debates and a place-to-be of French poets and artists like Paul Verlaine, Claude Debussy or Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. However, the cabaret is mainly remembered thanks to the poster here presented.

Discuss in pairs: Do you know this poster? Have you seen it before? If yes, where? What important elements do you see on this poster? What artistic movement is the poster's style associated with? If you want to, you can use Google to help you with your answer! Here are some useful links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Chat_Noir

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_Nouveau

While creating your answer, you can use some keywords that can help you:
cabaret - French culture - Art Nouveau - artists - bohemia - poster - performance

Task 2 Galliera Palace

(Duration: 10 minutes)

The Galliera Palace has thousands of clothes in its collection. It is a museum for all fashion amateurs. Here, we chose some of the most characteristic elements of French fashion through the centuries. You have surely seen some of them in the movies! Try to name them using the words from the list.

Gown – trousers – shoes – man's waistcoat – jacket – swimsuit – hat – coat















Images: <https://www.palaisgalliera.paris.fr/fr/collections/les-collections>

Task 3 Discuss in pairs

(Duration: 5 minutes)

When you were younger, did you have your dream dress/dream outfit? What did it look like? Can you describe it? Are you interested in fashion?

EXERCISE 2: Architecture, painting and literature

(Duration: 25 minutes)

Task 1 Archaeological Crypt of the Île de la Cité: fill in the blanks

(Duration: 10 minutes)

In 2020, the Archaeological Crypt of the Île de la Cité in Paris opened an exhibition about Notre Dame. Fill in the blanks in the text about the history of this building using the words from the list below.

history – suffering – Hunchback – famous – popular – changes – inspiration – cathedral – building – vandalism – support

At the start of the 19th century, the physical state of Notre-Dame, which was then over 500 years old, began to worsen. The building was _____ from _____ and a lack of maintenance, and the authorities even wanted to demolish it. The novel by Victor Hugo, The _____ of Notre Dame, published in 1831, showed the _____ as the main character. Hugo's book was so _____ that a public movement was created to _____ the cathedral.

A restoration project was led by the architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc from 1844 to 1864. He wanted to remain faithful to the medieval building, but he also made some _____: when he designed the sculptures, in particular the grotesques high up on the cathedral, he took _____ from Hugo's novel.

Early photographs record this _____ and the many stages of the restoration project. Like the _____ novel by Victor Hugo and bold architectural designs by Viollet-le-Duc, these images have maintained the building for posterity. The emotional response to the fire on April 15th, 2019, shows deep, worldwide admiration for the _____.

Task 2 Discuss

(Duration: 5 minutes)

Do you know this famous book by Victor Hugo? Did you read it? Did you watch the movie? If yes, did you like it?

Task 3 Museum of Modern Art: compare

(Duration: 10 minutes)

Modern art can be a lot of things. It is not always as “modern” as we think. Compare the two paintings presented below: which one do you like more? Why? Use the expressions below to give your opinion:

I like – I appreciate – I don’t like – I adore – I dislike – I hate – I loathe

You can also use the adjectives to describe the paintings:

Beautiful – amazing – impressive – interesting – extraordinary – ugly – dull – uninteresting – flat – cluttered

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Maria Blanchard, “Woman with guitar”, 1917, oil on canvas



Pierre Arcambot, "From my window, corner of Régnauld and Château-des-Rentiers streets", 1955, oil on canvas

ANSWER KEY

EXERCISE 1

Task 1

This cat is a well-known Paris symbol. In the 19th century, there were so many cats in the Montmartre district that they became the symbol of Parisian bohemia which is also associated with the somewhat demonic symbolism of the black cat. This animal was also the incarnation of freedom that bohemians were looking for. Other poets, like Baudelaire, also associated the black cat with this symbol. On this poster, the cat has a halo around his head. This makes him a saint animal instead of a tomcat.

This poster is associated with the Art nouveau artistic movement.

OR: The Black cat is known to always go his own way. He's a symbol of independence and freedom. He is mysterious, and that's why he's so interesting. A circle behind his head reminds me of a halo or a window. The letters used to write Montjoie Montmartre are mysterious, hard to read, like from an old book of spells.

Task 2

In chronological order: man's waistcoat – jacket – trousers- gown – swimsuit – shoes – hat – coat

DISCUSS: When you were a kid, did you have your dream outfit? What did it look like? Can you describe it? Are you interested in fashion?

When I was a kid, my dream outfit was a pink, long dress. It looked like a big pink flower, it had glitter all over it. Today, I am not interested in fashion but I would still wear this dress.

EXERCISE 2

Task 1

At the start of the 19th century, the physical state of Notre-Dame, which was then over 500 years old, began to worsen. The building was suffering from vandalism and a lack of maintenance, and the authorities even wanted to demolish it. The novel by Victor Hugo, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, published in 1831, showed the cathedral as the main character. Hugo's book was so popular that a public movement was created to support the cathedral.

A restoration project was led by the architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc from 1844 to 1864. He wanted to remain faithful to the medieval building, but he also made some changes: when he designed the sculptures, in particular the grotesques high up on the cathedral, he took inspiration from Hugo's novel.

Early photographs record this history and the many stages of the restoration project. Like the famous novel by Victor Hugo and bold architectural designs by Viollet-le-Duc, these images have maintained the building for posterity. The emotional response to the fire on April 15th, 2019, shows deep, worldwide admiration for the building.

DISCUSS: Do you know this famous book by Victor Hugo? Did you read it? Did you watch the movie? If yes, did you like it?

I know the book, but I didn't have the occasion to read it. I watched the movie and I liked it a lot. I learned a lot from this movie! It was one of my favourite movies when I was a kid.

Task 2

I like – I appreciate – I don't like – I adore – I dislike – I hate – I loathe

You can also use the adjectives to describe the paintings:

Beautiful – amazing – impressive – interesting – extraordinary – ugly – dull – uninteresting – flat – cluttered

I like the first painting more. It is quite dark but harmonious thanks to the very light pink. It presents a lot of different shapes that look like a person playing the guitar. It is much more original than the second painting. I appreciate the sharp shapes. I dislike the dark colours that dominate the painting.

The second painting is much more "normal", it looks like a painting from the 18th century. It is pretty, but not impressive, not to say dull. Compared to the other painting, it is quite uninteresting.