

Guidelines

Unit Title: *A journey around the Central Nervous System*

Partners(s): English - Science

Topic: The Central Nervous System

Subject area: Biology

Language: English

Language Level: A2

Target students: 2ndclass, vocational school

Time: 12 hours

Aims

- **Skills:** learning specific vocabulary; being able to understand information from written and oral texts; being able to speak and write about organs and their functions using the language correctly
- **Knowledge:** learning the anatomy and main functions of the CNS

Final product: Poster production

Methodology, classroom activities:

- X **teacher's speech**
- X **group work**
- X **pairwork**
- X **individual activities**
- X **internet research**
- X **warm up**
- X **multimedia**

Assessment tools:

- Test (true/ false activity; multiple choice; cloze; open questions)
- Oral Questions

Evaluation criteria

- **for language:** specific vocabulary; oral, written communication (formally correct)
- **for content:** learning anatomy and functions of the CNS

Documents and materials

www.wikipedia.org

www.kidshealth.org

www.enchantedlearning.com

www.faculty.washington.edu

www.health-choicesforlife.com

www.neuroscienceforkids-hemispherespsychology.about.com

videos from "You Tube"

photocopies, computer, projector, TIC laboratory, blackboard, video

Activities

Brainstorming activities: warm up questions, key words, pictures, photos, tables, maps, written and oral simple texts.

All the lessons are first introduced using a Power Point presentation, aiming at stimulating the visual abilities and interest. Then the students receive photocopies. The students work in groups.

Words and ideas are repeated throughout the unit.

The Unit is divided into seven lessons for a total of 12 hours.

As a final product, the students are invited to produce a poster.

Lesson 1

At first : introduction to the topic, the activities, the final test and the general aim of the unit the students are going to start.

General description of the CNS, pointing out the specific vocabulary using tables and maps on the blackboard.

Working in groups or in pairs, the students do the exercises 1, 2, 3.

Lesson 2

Short revision of lesson 1 (key words; oral questions)

Description of the neuron and glial cells, pointing out the specific vocabulary looking at the pictures proposed in the Power Point presentation.

Working in groups or in pairs, the students do the exercises 4 and 5. Then, working in pairs the students practise oral activity by using the exercises 6 and 7.

Lesson 3

Short revision of previous lessons by doing oral questions.

General description of the brain, its functions and divisions. Attention to pictures and short descriptions. The students read the short texts and do the exercise 8. The teacher writes words and main points on the blackboard.

Lesson 4

Short revision of lesson 3.

Description of the brain lobes and comparison between male/female behaviours. The students look at pictures and make comparisons. The students discuss orally divided into groups and do the exercises 9 and 10.

Lesson 5

Description and anatomy of the diencephalons, pointing out the specific vocabulary using tables and maps on the blackboard. The students practise vocabulary paying attention to pictures and colours. The students fix vocabulary with the exercise 11.

Lesson 6

Description and anatomy of the brain stem and spinal cord, pointing out the specific vocabulary. The students read the texts, complete word tables and answer to oral questions.

Lesson 7

Description of the reflex arc. The students read the text and answer to questions for comprehension.

The students do exercise 12 and discuss.

Lesson 8

Revision of the previous lessons, in particular the reflex arc.

The students look at a video about the reflex arc and listen to a short text. They repeat words and answer to simple questions about the text.

Lesson 9

Consolidation activity.

Listening and reading comprehension. The students listen and read to a text downloaded from the Internet and simplified by the teacher. The students do exercise 13 (true/false activity)

Lesson 10

Consolidation activity.

Video/Listening comprehension. The students watch and listen to short videos downloaded from the Internet. They practise words and answer to oral questions.

Lesson 11

General revision guided by the teacher. The students draw maps, complete tables of words, match words and pictures, match descriptions and pictures, revise the exercises.

Lesson 12

Final test

Follow up activity

Poster production