aLADiN

Learning heritage languages through artistic and innovative approaches

Creation of letter compositions

Explore the beauty of Arabic letter shapes by composing groups of two or three letters to create original graphic designs, going beyond the traditional framework of calligraphy.

ABOUT ALADIN

PROJECT NAME
Art Based Learning of Language of Origin through Didactic Innovation

PROJECT NO.
KA210-ADU-239BA964

COORDINATOR
COTA ONG (FRANCE)

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
Comparative Research Network e. V. (GERMANY) KOOPKULTUR e.V.
(GERMANY)
SINDIANE (FRANCE)

Création de compositions de lettres

Profil des Participants : À partir de 12 ans

Nombre des Participants : 4 - 20 participants

Durée : 1 h 30 à 2 h

Matériaux:
- Supports de travail : papier blanc ou papier à dessin (format A4 ou plus grand), crayons à papier, gommes, feutres, stylos, crayons de couleur ou pastels pour la mise en couleur, règles et compas (facultatifs, pour les formes géométriques),
- Pour la version numérique (optionnelle) : tablettes tactiles ou ordinateurs avec stylet, si possible : application de dessin numérique simple comme Sketchbook (gratuite) ou toute autre app de dessin
- Matériel de projection / diffusion : un écran ou un vidéoprojecteur pour visionner la vidéo tutoriel en groupe, connexion internet stable pour accéder à la vidéo en ligne
- Supports complémentaires : fiches avec alphabet arabe (lettres isolées) pour référence, exemples imprimés ou numériques de compositions graphiques de lettres

Creation of letter compositions

Participant Profile: From 12 years old

Number of Participants: 4 - 20 participants

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours

Materials:

- Working materials: white paper or drawing paper (A4 size or larger), pencils, erasers, felt-tip pens, pens, colored pencils or pastels for coloring, rulers and compasses (optional, for geometric shapes),
- For the digital version (optional): touch tablets or computers with stylus, if possible: simple digital drawing application like Sketchbook (free) or any other drawing app

Projection/broadcasting equipment: a screen or video projector to watch the tutorial video in a group, stable internet connection to access the video online

Additional materials: sheets with Arabic alphabet (isolated letters) for reference, printed or digital examples of graphic compositions of letters

Creation of letter compositions

Language skills: Knowledge of the Arabic alphabet, Recognition and memorization of isolated and group letter shapes, Familiarization with graphic variations depending on the context, Specific vocabulary, Written and oral expression skills

Other skills: Creativity, Artistic skills, Description and presentation of creations (oral or written), Argumentation on aesthetic and technical choices, Intercultural skills, Awareness of Arab culture and its artistic traditions, Metalinguistic skills, Awareness of the particularities of a different writing system, Collaborative skills (if the activity is collective), Exchange of ideas, constructive feedback and group work

Levels: from A1 to A2

Developed by / Origin / Languages: Kata Keresztely, COTA NGO/Multilingual

# Creating Letter Compositions Step-by-Step Activity:
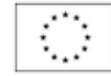
1.Introduction et inspiration

A brief introduction to traditional Arabic calligraphic styles and their visual characteristics.

- Watching advanced tutorials (excerpts from the initial video and other resources): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3d75qAUDkms&t=958s

Creating Letter Compositions Step-by-Step Activity:
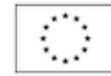
2. Analysis and choice of sequences

Choose short words or combinations of 4 to 6 letters with personal or aesthetic meaning.
- Study the shape of each letter and think about their arrangement in the composition.

3. Sketches and compositions

Draw multiple versions by playing with spacing, superposition, symmetry, rotation, and variations in line thickness.
- Integrate ornamental elements (geometric patterns, decorative lines).
- Possibly use digital tools to experiment with effects (transparency, gradients, textures).

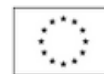## 4. Presentation and collective critique

Each participant presents their work, explains their aesthetic and technical choices.
- Constructive discussion to exchange advice and inspiration.

VARIATIONS ET ADAPTATIONS

Variations and Adaptations for more advanced levels

Complex compositions and free calligraphy

1.Create compositions with longer words (4 to 8 letters), playing on the connections between letters.

- Experiment with traditional (Diwani, Thuluth, Naskh) and modern calligraphic styles, combining several in the same work.
- Integrate games of superposition, transparency, and variations in line thickness.

2. Incorporation of decorative and ornamental elements

- Add geometric patterns, arabesques, and traditional floral elements around the compositions.
- Work on the balance between text and ornament to create a harmonious composition.

3. Mixed media and multimedia

- Use different media: inks, watercolors, acrylic paint, paper collage, etc.
- Combine manual and digital work: scan a freehand drawing to then rework it on a tablet.
- Integrate digital effects (shading, textures, multiple layers).

4. Creation of narrative or poetic compositions

- Compose works telling a short story or illustrating a poem in Arabic.
- Explore the layout like a mini-book or a calligraphed comic strip.

5. Typographic exploration

- Create custom alphabets inspired by Arabic forms, by inventing new shapes or ligatures.
- Experiment with deconstruction and reconstruction of letters for abstract graphic effects.

6. Collective project or virtual exhibition

- Organize a collaborative project where each participant creates a letter or word for a collective composition.
- Create a virtual exhibition of the works, with commentary and interviews with the artists.
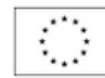
Recommendations for teachers
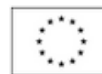
Vocabulary sheets to distribute: word, transliteration, image, meaning.
- Modeling: Create an example word before starting the activity.
- Individual support for reading direction and assembly of tesserae.
- Differentiation: offer longer or shorter words depending on linguistic e**ase.**

Recommendations for parents

Together, choose a short, meaningful word (2-4 letters) that your child likes.
- Print or trace an 8x8 to 10x10 grid onto a piece of cardstock.
- Prepare squares of colored paper (1×1 cm) and arrange them by color.
- Provide a vocabulary sheet: Arabic word, transliteration, translation and associated image.
- Help your child trace the word in Kufi style on the grid with a pencil.
- Encourage him to name each letter aloud as he sticks it, before forming the complete word.
- Review the spelling and pronunciation together, then construct a simple sentence with the word.
- Showcase your creation by hanging it on the wall or photographing it to share with family.

Online resources

Tutorials:
https://apprentissagecreatifdelarabe.weebly.com/

To work on the tablet or phone screen:

- https://sketchbook.com/