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Argyll and Bute French Comic Book P7/S1 Transition Project

**Aim:** All P7 pupils to create their own French comic strips which can be displayed at their local secondary school during transition.

Activities linked to this project can be part of the French teaching which takes place when P7 pupils are on transition visits or during their first term at secondary school.

This project is designed for whole clusters or across clusters within the authority.

French comic books have been chosen as the overarching theme with a particular focus on the *Astérix* series of comic books.

The comic book format is inclusive as learners can achieve success through writing very simple sentences. This encourages reluctant writers to participate while allowing confident writers the opportunity to create more complex story lines.

**Resource Pack**

A resource pack has been developed by Argyll & Bute Council and PowerLanguage specifically for this project and is designed to support practitioners in the delivery of the project.

**The principal resource** for the project is a sound enabled Powerpoint which can be found at

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/sali/12-languages/transition-projects/>

It uses characters from 5 popular bandes dessinées (comics): Astérix (presenting Astérix, Obélix and Idéfix the dog); Tintin (presenting Tintin, Capitaine Haddock and Milou the dog); Lucky Luke (presenting Lucky Luke, Calamity Jane and Jolly Jumper the horse); Lou (presenting Lou, Mina and Le chat, the cat) and Marsupilami (presenting Le Marsupilami, La Marsupilamie, his wife and Bring M. Backalive, the hunter). All characters present themselves simply, using the ***je*** form.

You may wish to use all the characters or select a few. This can be discussed as a cluster. For example, some clusters, with predominately multi-composite classes, have selected specific characters in order to focus on different characters the following year.

The language within the PowerPoint can also be edited if you wish to only focus on a few key phrases.

The French language activities in the resource pack focus on constructing simple sentences to talk about yourself e.g. Je m’appelle…., Je suis……. This learning is then used by pupils to describe comic book characters in the first person e.g. Je m’appelle Astérix, Je suis gaulois etc. Using this framework, learners then invent their own characters and create simple comic strips in French containing first person description. The comic strips produced will be of varying lengths depending on the ability of the learners.

**Contents of Resource Pack**

**Writing activities:**

These activities are designed to develop learners’ confidence in writing simple sentences containing first person description. This will then allow them to create their own comic strips with minimal use of a dictionary or **google translate**.

**Personal information (Moi) booklet**

This booklet is a good starting point for the project as it focuses on simple sentence structures which allow learners to write about themselves. This booklet can then be used as a stimulus for the learners to create their own characters, using the sentence structures as a framework and then adapting these.

**Matching** and **Gap fill** activities for each of the French comic book characters. These help with the comprehension and production of descriptive sentences and allow pupils to consolidate their learning.

**Examples of work from 2017 Transition Project**

**Instructions for using accents on a keyboard**

**My Character writing frame**

**Comic strip templates**

**Colour photocopies:**

**Reference sheets and a game**

**Talking pen** labelling sheets have an image of each character with their associated sentences. These sentences can be sound enabled by downloading the sound files on to your school’s Penpal talking pen. Each sentence can be labelled with the corresponding talking label. **Sound files and instructions** for these resources can be found on the **Sali 1+2 languages** page under **sound files for books** or **transition projects.** Once these resources have been sound enabled they should be laminated for future use. (Laminating does not affect sound labels and means they are protected).

**Guess who** is a card activity which learners can play in groups or as a whole class with the teacher reading out the clues in order. The aim is to guess which character is being described. The cards are intended to be cut out and laminated. (The **talking pen** character reference sheets can be used for help with pronunciation).

Once learners have completed these activities they will have developed their confidence in creating first person descriptive sentences. They can then use the **Moi** booklet or **My Character** writing frame to create sentences about their own comic character. The resource pack also contains **comic strip templates** to help pupils create their own comic strips**.**

For learners who are not confident with their drawing skills there is the option of using digital tools**:**

**Website for making comic strips:** <http://www.makebeliefscomix.com/> you do not need to create an account and the comic strips can also be printed. (**Guide to finding accents on a keyboard included in resource pack)**

**All the printable resources** in this pack are also available in digital form at <https://powerlanguage.school> under **Transition, French**and on the **Sali 1+2 Languages page** under **transition projects:** <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/sali/12-languages/transition-projects/>

**Useful PowerPoint Presentations:**

Information about the tradition of Comic Books in France with descriptions of characters in English.

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/les-bds-3007137>

Similar to the PowerPoint above but in French. Can be used as a follow on activity + quiz. <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/les-bds-6126842>

Example comic strip and dialogues to help learners create their own.

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/les-bandes-dessin-es-11256463>

**Developing and Extending the Project**

Practitioners may wish to develop this project to incorporate more IDL opportunities or extend the French language learning.

**Links to literacy**: Learners can read French comic books in English e.g Astérix or Tintin.

Perhaps explore other genres such as Japanese Manga or Scottish comics like the Dandy or the Broons.

**Cultural links:** looking at the phenomenon of comic book reading in France. Bandes Dessinées (BD) are extremely popular amongst children and adults alike.

**Links to pages about the culture of comic reading in France:** <https://www.understandfrance.org/French/Cartoons.html>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/from_our_own_correspondent/7246634.stm>

The learning could be extended to describing characters in the third person: *il s’appelle Obélix* or secondary colleagues could focus on this aspect of learning. Several clusters have chosen this option, with the modern languages department continuing the comic book theme during the first term of S1 in order to develop third person description. **(See S1 examples in the resource pack).**

Third person description can be developed using the PowerLanguage ‘Asterix’ resource, under: **French responsive resources/ Superheroes/ Asterix**.

An excellent resource pack for the book *Astérix chez les Celtes* developed by Education Scotland, is available at <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/Asterix%20chez%20les%20Pictes>

This can be used as an extension to the project. This resource also has the full pdf version of the comic book ***Astérix chez les Celtes***

The French comic books ***Lucky Luke*** and ***Marsupilami*** are available to view online at ***culturethèque* - the virtual library of the Institut Français**. This is a free resource but you need to create an account. There are many texts available in this library which are suitable for Primary language learning. <http://www.culturetheque.com/EXPLOITATION/GBR>

<http://www.asterix.com/>

For information about Astérix books and characters in English or French

<http://en.tintin.com/>

For information about Tintin books and characters in English or French

Animated versions of all the comic books mentioned above are also available in French and English at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) .

There are feature length films of *Astérix, Tintin* and *Lou* which could be integrated into the project.