Doodle 4 Google Lesson Plan 1

The South Africa of My Dreams: Imagine

In this first of three Doodle 4 Google lesson plans, help your learners explore their own dreams and ideas for a better South Africa. The activities are about finding inspiration from dreamers and doers in SA’s recent past, and imagining what the future could be like.

This lesson plan also builds on the first Connected Classrooms virtual field trip to the 21 Icons exhibition on 11 August 2014. Visit 21 Icons’ YouTube channel on 11 August to watch live, or watch a recording of the field trip at any time.

Visit the Google 4 Doodle website for all lesson plans and news about the competition.

SA curriculum compliance

This lesson plan can be incorporated into the following subjects/lessons:

**History Grade 12: Term 3**

**Topic 5:** The coming of democracy in South Africa and coming to terms with the past

**Activity: It all starts with a little imagination!**

"The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination." - Albert Einstein

This year’s Doodle 4 Google competition theme is: “The South Africa of My Dreams”. At Google it has become a tradition to create doodles around the Google homepage logo to celebrate key personalities or moments in history. These Doodles are usually created by a Google team of artists. But as we celebrate 20 Years of Freedom in South Africa, Google is calling on school children to create a Google Doodle imagining their future for South Africa.

So let’s start with a little imagination!

Brainstorming is a key part of this stage in the creative process. In fact, brainstorming remains one of the most effective creative thinking techniques in use today. The primary cornerstone to brainstorming is the absence of judgment or criticism. All ideas, no matter how nontraditional, have the right to exist at this stage. This is particularly valuable for those learners who lack the confidence to publicly share their ideas.
A comfortable, collaborative environment can help to inspire learners during the “Imagine” phase. Invite learners to sit in groups instead of by themselves, outdoors rather than inside the school, or listening to music instead of working in silence.

**Strategy**

“Imagination is the beginning of Creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will.” - George Bernard Shaw

Educators can initiate a brainstorming session by exposing learners to videos, music, speeches and poems. This will serve as sources of inspiration for discussions on democracy and freedom in South Africa, and visions and dreams for the future of South Africa.

**You Will Need:**

- Access to the Internet. Some of the tools we will use include the following:
  - Google Drive - this is like Word or Powerpoint but hosted on the Web. Creating a Google Doc or Slide allows you to easily collaborate and re-share. If you’re using Google Apps for Education, you may already be familiar with this tool. But you can also use it by logging into your Gmail account and clicking on Drive. We recommend each learner does this - or at least one per team.
  - Google Image Search. Quickly create a montage of relevant images to brainstorm with, based on your search terms.
  - YouTube. Search for speeches by world leaders, political icons or ordinary people that address the theme. You can also use YouTube for music relevant to the theme (to inspire discussion or to serve as background music during the brainstorming session).
  - Google Books or Project Gutenberg. Find extracts from literature (novels, drama or poetry) that relate to the theme and could lead to discussion.
  - Images and video clips from the 21 Icons Exhibition

- A laptop/PC and projector. A laptop/PC per group of learners is also a great way of bringing this lesson plan to life, as is an Interactive Whiteboard.
- Feel free to make use of any print material that you feel would inspire learners to brainstorm around the theme, *The South Africa of My Dreams.*

**Teaching Guidelines**

1. Introduce learners to the Google Doodle and explain that a Doodle uses the Google logo to celebrate holidays, anniversaries and the lives of famous artists, pioneers and scientists. Access the Doodle archive, which will show you some examples of Google Doodles that have been created in the past.
Doodles are the fun, surprising changes that are made to the Google logo to celebrate holidays, anniversaries, and the lives of famous artists, pioneers, and scientists.

2. Write this year’s Doodle 4 Google theme on the board and tell learners that they will have an opportunity to create their own Doodles. Information and previous entries can be viewed here. The theme of the competition is “The South Africa of My Dreams” and learners must create a Google Doodle that fits with this theme.

3. Explain that the purpose of the following brainstorming activity is to help them explore ideas for creating their own Doodle and to identify a focus for their design. At the end of the brainstorming activity learners will have formulated ideas that should shape the design of their Google Doodle in the form of images and text.

4. Discuss the purpose of brainstorming with your learners. Explain to them that the purpose is to explore as many possible answers to a question, or to develop as many ideas as possible for creating a design.

5. Encourage learners to express themselves freely and remind them that there are no wrong answers. Create a non-threatening environment where learners feel free to express ideas and share their thoughts on the topic. Establish ground rules for the brainstorming session with your class:
   - Treat all classmates with respect.
   - Allow all learners the opportunity to be heard.
   - Do not judge or criticize fellow learners.

6. Show learners a video clip, read them a poem, or speech or show them images to stimulate discussion or ideas around this theme. The following are suggestions of suitable video clips, poems and songs that could be used to stimulate discussion and
ideas. The video clips selected share common themes: a positive vision for the future, the tenacity of the human spirit, the ability to overcome struggle and suffering, and the power of hope:

Short films

- 21 Icons YouTube channel

Speeches

- I am an African, Thabo Mbeki
- I have a dream, Martin Luther King
- Nelson’s Mandela’s speech from the dock during the Rivonia trial
- Nelson Mandela’s inaugural speech
- The girl who silenced the world for five minutes
- Ashton Kutcher’s speech at the Teen Choice Awards

Poems

- The child, Ingrid Jonker
- Is this the freedom for which we died?, Chris Mann
- Let the children decide, Don Mattera
- Still I rise, Maya Angelou
- Remember, Don Mattera

You could also allow learners to listen to a song or ask them to mention song titles that come to mind. Ask them which lyrics are particularly relevant to the theme. Songs to consider sharing with your learners, are:

- My African Dream, Vicky Sampson
- Someone inside so strong, Lira
- Scatterlings of Africa, Johnny Clegg
- Redemption song, Bob Marley
- Freedom is coming tomorrow, Sarafina soundtrack

7. At FET Phase, learners should be capable of doing their own research. After you have shown them some media and explained the activity, allow them to search for their own information related to the theme. They could do this in groups, or individually. Ask them to collect at least one literature extract (such as a poem), song, speech and image that applies to the theme.

8. Create a class Presentation using Google Slides, where learners can post any clips (audio and video), links and images that you have found. Encourage learners to explore this presentation and organise it by themes.
On Google Drive you can create collaborative presentations that can be edited by many people at the same time.

9. In groups of four, ask learners to think about the video clip, poem, speech or song that has inspired them the most. Ask them to think about the vision that the speaker in the poem, the songwriter or the icon in the video clip may have had or what vision and ideas may have been inspired by any one of these sources. Ask them to think about how these relate to the South Africa of their dreams and inspire their vision for their country’s future.

10. The following are examples of activities you could complete with your learners in class.

**ACTIVITY 1**

Watch one or more of the short films on 21 Icons’ YouTube channel, and visit the 21 Icons website for photographs and essays about each icon.

After you have watched the short films, learners could discuss the following questions in class:

- Why do you think this person is an icon for South Africans?
- Do you think South Africa would have been different without them? How?
- What does it mean to be an icon?
- Who are icons in your own community?

Encourage them to write their own motivational speeches based on the theme, “The South Africa of My Dreams”.

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**Pearson**

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**Google**
YouTube is a great source to discover inspirational and educational content that you can use in your classroom, such as 21 Icons’ collection of short films.

**ACTIVITY 2**

Listen to the song *African Dream* by Vicky Sampson.

- Ask learners to think about the message the singer wishes to convey with the words “All I want for our heartbeats to beat just as one”.
- Learners can then use **Google Slides** to create a collage of words/lyrics from the song that they find inspirational. Allow them to be creative when designing their slide.

**ACTIVITY 3**

Watch the video of *Botlhale Boikanyo*, a young South African poet. Encourage learners to write their own inspirational poem based on the theme “My Dreams for a new South Africa”.

OR

Ask learners to search for images or to take their own photos and create a photo montage, using **Google Slides**, which represents their vision for a new South Africa.

**ACTIVITY 4**

Provide learners with pictures or photographs that show children who are neglected and children who are well cared for. Encourage learners to create a mindmap of emotions which come to mind, using **Google Slides**. Remind learners that, ultimately, their task will be to produce an image which depicts a positive outcome. They should therefore create a separate version of their mind map, which now uses positive language. Learners can Google words to find definitions and antonyms, thereby learning new words.
Google Image Search can be used to quickly create a mood board of images on any theme, such as “South African nature”.

- Individually, or within groups, ask learners to list words that relate to the theme and then make notes which expand on their choice of words. If this is being done as a group activity, display your screen and write these ideas down using a shared Google Slide. Encourage learners to think freely and list all the words that come to mind when thinking about “The South Africa of My Dreams”.
- Once learners feel they have listed all the possible words related to the theme, they can then Google images using the keywords they have listed that relate to their keywords. These could include images that depict reconciliation, family values, health, nature conservation, peace, harmony, unity, freedom (of speech and religion), women’s rights, children’s rights, national identity, an ideal South Africa and the conservation of the environment. Learners should collect these images to complete their mind maps and keep these for the next lesson.
- Encourage learners to record any new ideas and to develop the ideas, images, notes and drawings initiated in the previous lesson. They could collect images from a variety of sources on the web, or by taking pictures on their cellphones. They could photograph their own artwork and enhance these as well. These photos and pictures could be incorporated into their work. Use words relevant to the theme in bold font which would provoke thought around the topic. Encourage learners to bring research and preparation to class for the next lesson.
Take It Digital! More information about the apps in this lesson plan

- **Google for Education** is a collection of Google tools and products that make learning fun, productive and collaborative.
- **Google Drive** brings your documents to life with smart editing and styling tools to help you easily format text and paragraphs.
- **Bubbl.us** is a simple and free web application that lets students brainstorm online by creating mind maps. To view examples, learn how to use bubbl.us or simply start brainstorming, go to their [website](#).
- **Popplet**: Used as a mind-map, Popplet helps students think and learn visually. Students can capture facts, thoughts, and images and learn to create relationships between them. For a tutorial on Popplet, [watch this video](#).
- **SyncSpace** is a collaborative whiteboard app available for tablets. Students can use SyncSpace to create drawings and documents on tablets. They can create using free-hand drawing tools, using typing tools, or a combination of the two tool sets. Drawings and documents can be sent to and synced with other users so that they can comment and edit.

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