

Ma France en classe

Unité 7 : Les enfants, les animaux

Activities based on this unit will help your learners to:

- *Learn a range of adjectives to describe other people and animals*
- *Use verbs in the third person to refer to others*

Here are some suggestions for using the films and activities in the classroom. There are so many ways of exploiting the material; don't forget to let us know if you think of more.

Describing children and animals

- Before showing Video A, use the Vocabulary page to introduce the new adjectives that feature in these films. Practise the pronunciation and ask everyone to jot the new words down in a list. Then listen to the film, inviting everyone to tick the adjectives they hear.

Listen again, but this time with a table like the one below. Learners can then jot down anything they find out about the children (their age) or the animals.

Jane	Lena	Le chat	Les baleines	Le lapin	L'angora

- Show the film once more to confirm the responses. If you pause to answer the quiz questions, it will add another dimension.
- Get everyone talking in pairs or groups to use the information they have found. One asks, « *Le chat, il est comment ?* », another might reply, « *Il est gentil.* » And again, « *Les baleines, elles sont comment ?* », « *Elles sont belles.* » etc.
- Consolidate adjectival agreement by playing Pétanque. If you are projecting the game onto a large screen, you can either let everyone call out what they think, or ask individual students to answer each example. Don't forget to ask sometimes, "Why?". Understanding why certain words won't fit in a given phrase is, if anything, more important than picking the right answer.
- Stéphane's Dictée reinforces all the key points in this unit. Try it in groups like a game of Consequences, with each member taking a turn to write down a section before passing the paper to the next person. There are six sentences in all, each one a little longer than the last, so there's an opportunity to differentiate.
- If you can play Solitaire online, pause once the learners have chosen the right answer and challenge them to make a sentence with the French word that describes what they've seen in the films. E.g. *Grimper* - « *le chat grimpe dans l'arbre.* »

Who's doing what? Present tense verbs

- Video B shows the young girls drawing, writing, playing and Claude, their mother describing them. Try playing the clip with no sound and pausing from time to time to ask « *Qu'est-ce qu'elle fait / elles font ?* » There is plenty of

opportunity to practise verbs in the third person - « *elles écrivent, elles jouent, elle parle, le chat marche, il se repose* », etc.

- Use the transcript of Video B to make a cloze activity that will encourage careful listening. You might choose to blank out the verbs, the adjectives or the new expressions (put them in a word bank at the bottom of the page). For differentiation, you might offer two or three versions and invite learners to decide how much they want to challenge themselves.

Talking about animals

- In Video C, Claude is challenged to guess her daughter's favourite animal. Challenge the group to count how many different creatures are mentioned in the short clip.
- Go on to ask the question of everyone, « *Quel est votre animal préféré ?* » There might be some surprises. Issue a dictionary challenge, giving everyone 60 seconds to find an adjective to describe their favourite animal.
- Try the Quiz Culturel about animals. Project it and play drag and drop with the whole class, or give out printed copies, cut in half vertically to play in pairs as an information-gap activity.

Who's your friend?

- In the Jeu de rôle, Stéphane encourages the learner to talk about their best friend. Use this suggested dialogue as a model for work in pairs or small groups. Then encourage everyone to bring in, next time, a photo of a well-known person for whom they have prepared an appropriate description. Others in the group can take turns to question each person about their so-called "best friend".

For more support

All the activities are available online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/kids_pets/activity.shtml

All transcripts are available online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/kids_pets/summary.shtml