

LES BELLES CHOSSES

Teachers' Notes

French - Modern Foreign Languages for
Key stages 4 at the Wallace Collection



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'Après le pain, l'éducation est le premier besoin d'un peuple'.

Dantons Georges Jacques, 1759-1794

A two hour interactive language workshop, for key stage 4, delivered mainly in French by a native French speaker who will encourage your students to speak in French as much as possible. With its wonderful collection of French objects, including porcelain, furniture and paintings, The Wallace Collection is the perfect setting for a French trip without having to leave the country. These notes are designed to support the trip and help your group to prepare, as well as offering ideas to follow up with back at school.

Students will explore French history through the collection starting from Louis XIV, as well as covering other parts of the GCSE curriculum, including money, relationships and family. The activities are pitched to all levels of proficiency as the museum educator is able to adapt the visit to your group's ability

Madame de Ventadour, *Portraits of Louis XIV and his Heirs*, 1715 - 1720, Oil on Canvas

The visit begins in the Billiard Room of Manchester House which is a showcase of the decorative arts under Louis XIV, complete with his desk and portrait busts. Pupils will be given a worksheet that helps them explore the room more fully. Students will also be able to do a short role-play. Some of the vocabulary covered will include: *Le Roi Soleil*, *le tableau*, *le plafond*, *l'armure*, *la perruque*, *l'or*, *le fils*, and *le grand-père*.



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Staircase Balustrade, 1719 - 1720

The Group is then guided up the stairs, exploring the wrought iron stair rail originally from Louis XV's private bank. Another worksheet helps the students find the relevant clues. The theme of money is talked about using some familiar vocabulary and some new words like *La rampe d'escalier*, *une corne d'abondance* and *le fer forgé*.



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Jean-Henri Riesener, *Secrétaire, France*, 1783

Queen Marie-Antoinette's Study has more pieces of her furniture than in any other room in the world. There is a short role play that helps the students understand a bit more about Marie-Antoinette and her husband King Louis XVI. Then the class is split into small groups of 3 or 4 students who will work together. Using different handouts with a mystery object pictured and some clues written in French each group has to find their object, look at it, write a description and prepare a short presentation, using information in the room that they will deliver to their peers as a group. The museum educator helps each group with vocabulary and ideas. This is the main activity of the session; as it involves using more complex language than before, they are encouraged to be as descriptive as possible. Some of the vocabulary introduced is: *un lustre*, *la reine*, *une horloge*, *une tasse*, *la porcelaine*, *la soie* and *un secrétaire*.



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Bartolomeus van der Helst, *Jochem van Aras with his Wife and Daughter*, Netherlands, 1654

Here the whole class looks at a family portrait and describes it together. The students are asked to imagine commissioning a portrait of their family, what would they include, where would they all sit and pose, what would they wear. By now the students are usually more confident and share their ideas more freely.



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Follow up Activities

The GCSE curriculum requires the pupils to write about themselves and new experiences, so an essay about the trip to the Wallace, bringing together some of the vocabulary and objects, would be ideal. Students could use the Wallace Collection website in English as well as the French Wikipedia site that can be accessed using a French search engine and typing in "La Wallace Collection". That site also has a link to Les Fontaines Wallace with some fun images. These public fountains were paid for by Richard Wallace to provide clean drinking water to the Parisian people. Researching the French Revolution could also prove both interesting and valuable.



Vocabulary List:

- Un emblème, un symbole
- Un tournesol
- Une pendule
- La cheminée
- Un flambeau - un chandelier
- Un lustre
- La lumière
- Le plafond
- Un tableau
- Un canapé
- Un fauteuil
- Un miroir, une glace
- Un escalier
- La rampe d'escalier
- Une pièce et un billet
- Une corne d'abondance
- "L" enlacés
- Un vase
- Un secrétaire à abattant
- Un seau à glace - une glacière
- Celestial blue = bleu ciel, bleu turquoise
- Apollon, dieu de la beauté et lumière
- Un aigle
- Une perruque
- La tapisserie
- Couleurs sombres, foncées
- Couleurs de tons clairs, pastel, tendres
- La porcelaine, la soie, le bois (exemple: le chêne,) la marqueterie, le bronze doré, le fer forgé, métaux: or et argent
- Adjectif (un)
- Exceptionnel (le)
- Superbe
- Magnifique
- Un grand chef-d'oeuvre
- Célèbre
- Superbe
- Des trésors
- Des merveilles
- Quelque chose de merveilleux
- Éblouissant
- Réaliser, exécuter, représenter
- La création