

Speaking

Set 1 Student 1

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

National Character in Russian Art

1. Monologue: Time 3 - 4 minutes

Your English School Club is planning to organize a trip to a famous Russian Art Gallery. You should take your fellow students on an excursion and tell everything you know about the picture and the artist. Your task is to explain why the picture (**Set 1: *The Merchant's Wife* by Boris Kustodiev**) is so famous and why people should see it.

Speak about:

The artist's life	The theme of the painting
The history of the painting	Cultural value of the painting

You can make notes during the preparation time, but YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in your presentation.

Task 2

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (**Set 2: *Bogatyr* by Viktor Vasnetsov**).

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the picture to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED



The Merchant's Wife by Boris Kustodiev, Russia - USSR

<p>The Artist's Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian and Soviet painter and stage designer • Born in Astrakhan (1878 – 1927) • 1896 – 1903 attended Ilya Repin's studio at the Imperial Academy of Arts in St.Petersburg • The artist penetrated the complex world of human soul creating portraits • Illustrated books: Nikolai Gogol's <i>Dead Souls</i>, <i>The Overcoat</i>; Leo Tolstoy's <i>How the Devil Stole the Peasant's Hunk of Bread</i> and <i>The Candle</i>. • Designed stage scenery at the Moscow Art Theatre. • 1916 tuberculosis of the spine made him paraplegic. Colourful paintings and joyful genre disguised his physical suffering, giving the impression of a carefree and cheerful life.
<p>The History of the Painting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His most famous picture <i>The Merchant's Wife</i> oil on canvas created in 1918 (exhibited in the State Russian Museum). • Art Nouveau style. • Continued to paint moving and colourful images even after illness had deprived him of the power to move independently. • According to the artist, he inhabited a magical kingdom of recollections, daydreams and nostalgic visions.
<p>The Theme of the Painting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kustodiev's motifs and subjects symbolised a life that had disappeared irrevocably into the past, yet had still lost none of its tart aroma. • <i>The Merchant's Wife</i> is an excellent example of an artistic recollection of resplendent beauties, azure evenings, unhurried tea drinking ceremonies and a seemingly permanent way of life. • The sumptuous still-life on the table, the gleaming samovar, the bright watermelon, the marble shoulders of the heroine — the painterly beauty and expressiveness of every detail fill the canvas with light and colour. • The most striking image here is the merchant's wife drinking tea, her ample figure dominates the tea table and the surrounding area by her bulk and her self-satisfied expression. She is as round and as succulent as the fruit on the table.
<p>Cultural Value of the Painting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the most iconic paintings representing national Russian tea drinking culture. • The painting depicts the merchant class and adds a note of satire. • The artist used the bright reds and blues of Russian folk art. • Kustodiev delighted in painting merchants' plump wives during their leisure activities. • This work has an oriental richness of colour that Kustodiev saw as part of his Astrakhan heritage.

Speaking

Set 2 Student 2

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

National Character in Russian Art

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (**Set 1: *The Merchant's Wife* by Boris Kustodiev**).

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the picture to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

Task 2

1. Monologue: Time 3 - 4 minutes

Your English School Club is planning to organize a trip to a famous Russian Art Gallery. You should take your fellow students on an excursion and tell everything you know about the picture and the artist. Your task is to explain why the picture (**Set 2: *Bogatyrs* by Viktor Vasnetsov**) is so famous and why people should see it.

Speak about:

The artist's life	The theme of the painting
The history of the painting	Cultural value of the painting

You can make notes during the preparation time, but YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in your presentation.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED



BOGATYRS by Viktor Vasnetsov, Russia, USSR

<p>The Artist's Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in Vyatka Governorate (1848 – 1926). • Entered the Imperial Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg (1867). • Joined Peredvizhniki colony in Paris (1876-1877). • Concentrated on illustrating Russian fairy tales and epic narrative poem - Bylinas (1870s). • Turned to religious subjects, executed a series of icons for Abramtsevo estate (1880s) • Painted frescos in the St. Vladimir's Cathedral of Kiev (1884 -1889). • Worked on stage designs and costumes for the opera <i>The Snow Maiden</i>. • Designed the façade of the Tretyakov Gallery, was its regent. • Created <u>budenovka</u> - a military hat, reproducing the style of ancient Rus' cone-shaped helmets. • Specialized in mythological and historical subjects, is the co-founder of Russian folklorist and romantic nationalistic painting. • A key figure in the Pseudo-Russian style movement.
<p>The History of the Painting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil on Canvas (446x295,3 cm) bought by Tretyakov, now exhibited in the Tretyakov Gallery. • Painted the most notable picture <i>Bogatyrs</i> - the embodiment of the Russian spirit (1881 – 1898). • Started this most famous epic painting in Kiev which took him many years to create. • Mythological painting (Romanticism, Symbolism). • Patrons: Pavel Tretyakov, Savva Mamontov.
<p>The Theme of the Painting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The picture presents 3 mythical Russian knights - Dobrynya Nikitich, Ilya Muromets and Alyosha Popovich, a famous trio who served Prince Vladimir I of Kiev, each man known for a specific trait: wits, courage, spiritual power. • The picture is a glimpse of a long adventure story of the knights. • Every hero is adored by the people as they defended their land and fought the enemies. • They are guarding the Russian borders on horseback. • The men belong to different social orders: the princely family, the peasant and the son of a priest, this is obvious from their clothes and horses.
<p>Cultural Value of the Painting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the most iconic paintings representing entire Russian genre of bylina. • Since childhood the Russians are familiar with Viktor Vasnetsov's "Bogatyrs" ("The Epic Heroes") from school textbooks. • In search of elevated feelings, the painter turns to the old days of Russia, to the bylinas and fairytales. • His depiction of Russia's epic heroes has captivated many generations. • It made the great contribution to the understanding of the uniqueness of the nation's cultural heritage.

Speaking

Set 3 Student 1

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

National Character in Russian Art

1. Monologue: Time 3 - 4 minutes

Your English School Club is planning to organize a trip to a famous Russian Art Gallery. You should take your fellow students on an excursion and tell everything you know about the picture and the artist. Your task is to explain why the picture (**Set 3: *Boyarynya Morozova* by Vasily Surikov**) is so famous and why people should see it.

Speak about:

The artist's life	The theme of the painting
The history of the painting	Cultural value of the painting

You can make notes during the preparation time, but YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in your presentation

Task 2

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (**Set 4: *The Hunters* by Vasily Perov**).

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the picture to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED



Boyarynya Morozova by Vasily Surikov, Russia

The Artist's Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in Krasnoyarsk, Yeniseysk Governorate (1848 – 1916). • Graduated from the Imperial Academy of Arts in St.Petersburg (1875). • Painted a series of historical paintings. • Had his first exhibition with the Peredvizhniki. • Visited Switzerland and painted <i>Suvorov Crossing the Alps</i> (1897), which was purchased by Tsar Nicholas II. • Russian Realist history painter. • Patron: Pavel Tretyakov.
The History of the Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted one of the most famous and notable pictures <i>Boyarynya Morozova</i> (1887) oil on canvas (304 x 587,5 cm), exhibited in the Tretyakov Gallery. • Realism, History painting (style) • Famous for its gigantic size. • The picture is amazingly well organized despite the rare multiplicity and variety of types. • Surikov was attracted not only by the exotic side of the past, but also by the invariable strength and steadfastness of the people's spirit.
The Theme of the Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents the victorious image of an unbroken woman being carried in the sledge to prison for her religious principles. • The historic period dates to the 17th century. • Boyarynya, dressed in expensive clothes, is chained. • Her character shows how insanely devoted to her faith this old-believer is, who would never refuse it even at the cost of her life. • People in the crowd have mixed feelings: they display fanaticism side by side with fervent belief and naïve curiosity. • To the artist history is a drama, and its main characters are people. • The main character of the picture is the embodiment of the strong spirit and faith.
Cultural Value of the Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the most iconic paintings representing Russian history. • The picture combines epic force with the finest lyricism in art. • The masterpiece strikes the viewers with its depth and convincing restoration of old Russian life, types, costumes. • The artist conveys the complex interplay of passions and the emotive state of numerous personages. • The image of Boyarynya in her black clothes is one of the most dramatic images in Russian historical painting known to most Russians since childhood from textbooks.

Speaking

Set 4 Student 2

Preparation – 15 minutes

Presentation and questions – 10 minutes

Task 1

National Character in Russian Art

1. Listen to the presentation of your partner (**Set 3: *Boyarynya Morozova* by Vasily Surikov**).

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Ask 2 QUESTIONS about the picture to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in the presentation.

Task 2

1. Monologue: Time 3 - 4 minutes

Your English School Club is planning to organize a trip to a famous Russian Art Gallery. You should take your fellow students on an excursion and tell everything you know about the picture and the artist. Your task is to explain why the picture (**Set 4: *The Hunters* by Vasily Perov**) is so famous and why people should see it.

Speak about:

The artist's life	The theme of the painting
The history of the painting	Cultural value of the painting

You can make notes during the preparation time, but YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO READ them during the presentation.

2. Questions/ Answers: Time: 2- 3 minutes

Answer 2 QUESTIONS from your partner, who wants to get ADDITIONAL INFORMATION not mentioned in your presentation.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE RECORDED



The Hunters at Rest by Vasily Perov, Russia

The Artist's Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russian painter, one of the founding members of Peredvizhniki. • Born in Tobolsk (1834 – 1882). • Being perfect in calligraphy took pseudonym Perov. • Moscow School of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture (1853). • Received the title of an academician (1866). • Became Professor at Moscow School of Arts, joined Peredvizhniki (1871). • A key figure of the Russian Realist movement. • Patron: Pavel Tretyakov.
The History of the Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted 2 versions of <i>Hunters at Rest</i> (1871; 1877) oil on canvas 119 x 183 cm (the 1st exhibited in the Tretyakov Gallery and the 2nd in the State Russian Museum). • Style: Realism. • Famous due to the high quality of painting and popularity of hunting in the 19th century (Perov was an avid hunter). • All the depicted characters have real prototypes: artist's friends, doctors, also avid hunters. • It accurately reflects the emotional state of the characters. • It is compared to the hunting stories of Ivan Turgenev.
The Theme of the Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The picture is packed with encrypted messages in its details: clothes, trophies, weapons. • The main feature of the picture is the psychological portraits of the heroes. • Perov's painting conceals deep philosophical meaning of collision of old age, youth and maturity. Old age is represented by an elderly hunter, living with memories and idealizing the past. Youth is represented by a young hunter, who enthusiastically believes everything he is told. Maturity is represented by a middle-aged hunter who is not easy to outwit, but relies only on his life experience. • It represents a usual life scene from the life of typical hunters of that time, though everything is not as simple as it might seem at first glance. • The background depicts a rather gloomy autumn landscape, which brings a disturbing connotation to its comic content. • It combines several painting genres: portraits, a landscape and a still life with game and hunting equipment.
Cultural Value of the Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iconic painting representing Russian hunting traditions of the 19th century. • Known to anyone in Russia. • Presents qualities of the hunters alluding to national character traits and the perception of nature. • Has a literary element, a characteristic feature of Russian painting of the 2nd half of the 19th century. • This canvas breathes with optimism and enthusiasm, which is part of the Russian character.