



## Geographical Landmarks: Pisa Learning Tower

**Age group/class:** 13 – 14 years old

**Lesson title:** Geographical Landmarks: Pisa Learning Tower

**School Discipline:** Geography

**Key concepts:** geographical landmarks

### Aims:

- Increase students' skills in geography
- Recognize what is around us
- Enjoy the pleasure of travelling (physically and virtually)

**Skills developed:** observation, analysis and research

### Materials/Equipment needed:

- [https://www.ted.com/talks/alex\\_gendler\\_why\\_doesn\\_t\\_the\\_leaning\\_tower\\_of\\_pisa\\_fall\\_over/transcript#t-288496](https://www.ted.com/talks/alex_gendler_why_doesn_t_the_leaning_tower_of_pisa_fall_over/transcript#t-288496) (to be used in the introduction activity to provide some basic information about the Leaning Tower of Pisa)
- <https://eloquent-ramanujan-887aa5.netlify.app/math.html> (to be used for the practical VR experience)
- VR headset
- VR video / link
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KqNrZ1chnE> (to be used for the follow-up activity)

### Lesson plan:

Stages	Description of activity	Time
<b>Preparation before the lesson</b>	<p>If this is a first VR experience for students – go through the safety rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Learners are to sit down whilst using the VR glasses and not hold anything in their hands, unless the experience is of such a nature that it requires you standing, in which case, ensure enough space is allowed around all students.</li> <li>– Learners will be told to expect a feeling of vertigo. If it gets worse, students must remove VR glasses.</li> <li>– Learners need to know how to adjust the viewing focus before using the headsets.</li> <li>– Learners must not use the headset when they are: tired, need sleep, under emotional stress or anxiety, when suffering from cold, flu, headaches, migraines as this can worsen their susceptibility to adverse reactions.</li> <li>– Learners should be given the choice to opt out of using VR.</li> </ul>	
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Share Learning Intentions with students</p> <p>The aims of the current lesson plan are the following:</p>	10 min.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase students' skills in geography</li> <li>– Recognize what is around us</li> <li>– Enjoy the pleasure of travelling (physically and virtually)</li> </ul> <p>Geography is a lot more than being able to point out a country on a world map or knowing the capital city of every country in the world, but this is anyway a good starting point. Recent researches underline a decrease of students' interest towards geography.</p> <p>But geography is about getting to know our world and its people better and understanding what makes societies tick. Geography helps to trigger our curiosity and – as we become more curious – our awareness grows. It opens our eyes to different cultures and perspectives, and helps us grow as well-rounded, emphatic individuals.</p> <p>The Learning Tower of Pisa is a geographical landmark, meaning a building or a place that is easily recognized, especially one that you can use to judge where you are</p> <p>The starting point is to provide students with basic information about the Leaning Tower of Pisa through the use of a <a href="#">video</a></p>	
<b>Initial Immersive Experience</b>	<p>“And now let's go virtually to Pisa”: <a href="https://eloquent-ramanujan-887aa5.netlify.app/math.html">https://eloquent-ramanujan-887aa5.netlify.app/math.html</a></p> <p>Learners put on the VR headsets and explore the video at their own pace for about 10 minutes.</p>	10 min.
<b>Guided Immersive Experience</b>	<p>The VR immersive experience can be guided by the teacher who can provide students with some further geographical information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– information about Italy</li> <li>– information about Tuscany</li> <li>– information about Pisa</li> </ul>	10 min.
<b>Follow up</b>	<p>1) Game play</p> <p>Students are divided into 2 groups and are asked to play the Guess Geographical Place Quiz (instructions are provided within the video): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KqNrZ1chnE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KqNrZ1chnE</a></p> <p>2) Flipped classroom' exercise</p> <p>Keeping the same groups which have been already created, students are asked to search for information about Pisa from a geographical point of view, with teacher' supervision. According to the flipped classroom methodology, students are then asked to prepare a brief presentation (Power Point), summarizing up the main findings of the research activity. One representative from each group is finally asked to show the presentation in front of the classroom.</p>	<p>10 min.</p> <p>20 min.</p>





<b>Formative Assessment</b>	<p>Now let's go back to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and reply to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– in which Italian region is Pisa located?</li><li>– in which year the building of the Tower started?</li><li>– which is the original meaning of the word Pisa?</li><li>– which is the capital city of Tuscany region?</li></ul>	5 min.
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