Codes of Cultural Heritage

CULTURAL HERITAGE TEACHING DIDACTICAL DESIGN FOR THE LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOLS UNDER THE ERASMUS+ PROJECT "CODES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE"

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Introduction and Rationale

Cultural heritage plays a significant role in shaping identities and creating a sense of belonging. As such, it is important to teach students about cultural heritage, including traditions, values, customs, and artifacts. The purpose of this curriculum is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of cultural heritage and its significance.

It's not unusual for students to feel disconnected from history and heritage, as these topics are not always given the space they deserve in the standard curriculum. That's why we're proposing a new approach that actively involves secondary education students in the preservation and dissemination of cultural heritage. By introducing them to heritage-related content and diffusion methods, and incorporating the appropriate use of ICT, we aim to provide a more holistic view of cultural history. Our training packages are being designed to address the so-called hidden curriculum and provide essential tools for successful implementation. We believe that through this project, students will gain valuable knowledge and skills while contributing to cultural preservation efforts.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

- Identify their own cultural heritage and describe its significance.
- Identify their own and of the partnering countries' Unesco Cultural Heritage Sites
- Analyze and interpret various forms of cultural heritage, such as artifacts, traditions, and customs.
- Compare and contrast cultural heritage of different regions and countries.
- Evaluate the impact of cultural heritage on communities and societies.
- Develop an appreciation for cultural diversity and respect for different cultures.

Identifying and understanding one's cultural heritage can be a rich and enlightening experience, as it allows individuals to explore their roots and gain insight into their unique beliefs, customs, and traditions. By learning about their own cultural heritage and that of other countries, individuals can gain a greater appreciation for cultural diversity, develop and promote respect for other cultures, and contribute to a more harmonious and peaceful world.

One important aspect of cultural heritage is its tangible artifacts, such as ancient ruins, historical buildings, and artistic treasures. UNESCO is a global organization that has identified and protected such cultural heritage sites around the world. By exploring and learning about these sites, individuals can gain insight into the history, art, and architecture of different cultures and societies. Beyond tangible artifacts, cultural heritage can also include intangible aspects, such as music, dance, folklore, and traditions. By analyzing and interpreting these various forms of cultural heritage, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of the values and beliefs that shape different cultures. Comparing and contrasting the cultural heritage of different regions and countries can also provide valuable insights into how different societies have evolved and developed over time. By recognizing the similarities and differences between cultures, individuals can develop a more nuanced understanding of the cultural complexity of our world.

Finally, it is important to recognize the impact that cultural heritage can have on communities and societies. By preserving and celebrating cultural heritage, individuals can help to promote cultural pride and identity, support cultural tourism and the local economy, and create a sense of community and belonging. Overall, developing an appreciation for cultural diversity and respect for different cultures can help to create a more peaceful and tolerant world, where individuals and communities can thrive and flourish.

Program Outline

Introduction to Cultural Heritage:

Cultural heritage is an integral part of our society that represents the customs, traditions, arts, and artifacts of a specific community or region. This unit delves into the definition of cultural heritage, its significance, preservation, and its role in shaping our personal and community identity.

Forms of Cultural Heritage:

Cultural heritage takes many forms, from the tangible artifacts found in museums to the intangible traditions passed down through generations. This unit explores the various forms of cultural heritage, including artifacts and museums, traditions and customs, language and literature, as well as music and dance.

Cultural Heritage of Different Regions and Countries:

Cultural heritage varies greatly across different regions and countries. This unit focuses on the unique cultural heritage in Europe and partner countries: Romania, Turkey, Italy, Portugal, Bulgaria, and Belgium. We will also look at cultural heritage that is present everywhere on Earth.

Impact of Cultural Heritage Cultural heritage has a significant impact on societies, shaping the way that people interact with one another and perceive themselves. This unit examines the influence of cultural heritage on identity, globalization, tourism, and society as a whole. We will explore how cultural heritage can be both preserved and adapted for future generations.

Teaching Strategies

Lectures and Presentations: Lectures and presentations are some of the most common teaching methods, where an expert in a specific field shares knowledge and insights on a particular topic. These sessions can be used to engage learners, provide a framework for learning through interactive sessions, effectively communicate complex information, and serve as a guide to questions.

Group Discussions and Debates: Group discussions and debates are effective ways to promote active learning and participation and help learners demonstrate their understanding of a concept or a topic. The use of groups can create shared goals and elaborate dialogues between learners which stimulate inquiry, for greater learner engagement, which can help to retain more information.

Role-playing and Simulations: Role-playing and simulations are ideal teaching methods to emphasize practical experience and hands-on learning. These methods can promote a communication skill-building experience for learners by giving them the opportunity to practice situations and encounter various perspectives.

Field Trips to Museums and Cultural Sites: Field trips are an ideal way to galvanize learners through immersive educational experiences, such as museum visits or cultural sites. These trips provide a chance for learners to engage with various cultures, environments and subjects, which helps to stimulate and inspire new learning potentialities and dispositions.

Multi-Media Presentations: Multi-Media presentations are a medium of teaching which can be useful to many learners since they cater to auditory and visual sensibilities. Delivering information in a variety of formats is essential to creating a memorable learning experience and a better way for learners to retain information.

Augmented Reality-Virtual Reality: Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality are useful teaching methods which help tutors to create an immersive and interactive learning experience. By utilizing these formats, learners become engrossed in the learning environment and enhance their creativity, analytical and problem-solving skills.

Google Arts and Culture: Google Arts and Culture is a great learning tool that provides various exhibitions from galleries and museums all around the world, allowing learners to explore, engage and learn from different perspectives on different cultures and arts.

e.g You can find for instance information about one of the partners of the Project, Complexul Muzeal Național "Moldova" of Iași, Romania, on the Google Arts and Culture platform here: ***Complexul Muzeal Naţional "Moldova" Iaşi, Iași, România — Google Arts & Culture***

Instructional Materials and Resources

Textbooks and Readings

Textbooks and readings are essential in providing knowledge and information to students and researchers alike. They are written by experts in their respective fields and are constantly updated to ensure accuracy and relevance. Whether it's for academic purposes or personal interest, textbooks and readings serve as valuable resources for gaining a deeper understanding of a subject.

Artifacts and Museum Exhibits

Artifacts and museum exhibits offer a window to the past, showcasing the history and culture of a particular era or society. They provide a tangible connection to the past and help us visualize and understand how people lived, worked, and played. From ancient relics to modern art installations, artifacts and museum exhibits provide a unique and immersive learning experience.

Primary Sources such as Literature and Music

Primary sources such as literature and music offer a firsthand account of historical events, cultural movements, and societal beliefs. They provide a glimpse into the minds and experiences of people from different times and places. By studying primary sources, we can develop a deeper understanding of our own culture and society, as well as that of others.

Audiovisual Materials such as Documentaries and Films

Audiovisual materials such as documentaries and films offer a visually engaging way to learn about a wide range of topics. They provide a comprehensive and immersive experience that can help viewers connect with the subject matter on a deeper level. From nature documentaries to historical dramas, audiovisual materials offer a unique and compelling way to learn.

Green Screen, AR Markers, and VR Apps

Green screen, AR markers, and VR apps are advanced technologies that are revolutionizing the way we learn and interact with the world. Green screen allows for realistic and immersive backgrounds and special effects in videos and presentations. AR markers provide a dynamic and interactive way to engage with physical objects and spaces, while VR apps offer a fully immersive and realistic experience in a virtual environment. These technologies are transforming the way we learn and interact with information, making it more engaging, interactive, and effective.

Assessment and Evaluation Methods

In order to assess their understanding of cultural heritage, they will be given quizzes and exams that test their knowledge of the subject. These assessments will cover various topics such as historical events, traditions, customs, art, literature, and languages, among others. By taking these quizzes and exams, they will be able to gauge their progress and identify areas that require more attention and improvement.

One way to demonstrate their understanding of cultural heritage is by analyzing and interpreting cultural artifacts. They will be required to write papers that examine various cultural artifacts such as paintings, sculptures, literature, and music, among others. Through these papers, they will demonstrate their ability to interpret and analyze these artifacts, and draw conclusions about their significance and meaning.

Another way to showcase their understanding of cultural heritage is by giving class presentations on personal or community cultural heritage. They will have the opportunity to share their personal experiences and insights and explain the significance of cultural heritage to their community. These presentations will help deepen their understanding of cultural heritage and provide an opportunity to learn from their peers.

The final project will be a culmination of their learning and understanding of cultural heritage. They will be required to showcase a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and its significance through a project that is tailored to their interests and strengths. This could be a research paper, a work of art, a documentary, or any other form of creative expression that showcases their understanding of cultural heritage.

They will have opportunities to participate in structured outdoor events and workshop designs that will immerse them in cultural heritage experiences. These events and workshops may include traditional dances, music, food, and crafts. Through these experiences, they will deepen their understanding of cultural heritage and gain a hands-on appreciation of the rich cultural diversity that surrounds us.

As part of their coursework, they will create innovative lesson plans that integrate cultural heritage into various disciplines. These lesson plans will demonstrate their ability to think creatively and adapt cultural heritage content to different learning environments. By creating these lesson plans, they will develop a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and its relevance to education.
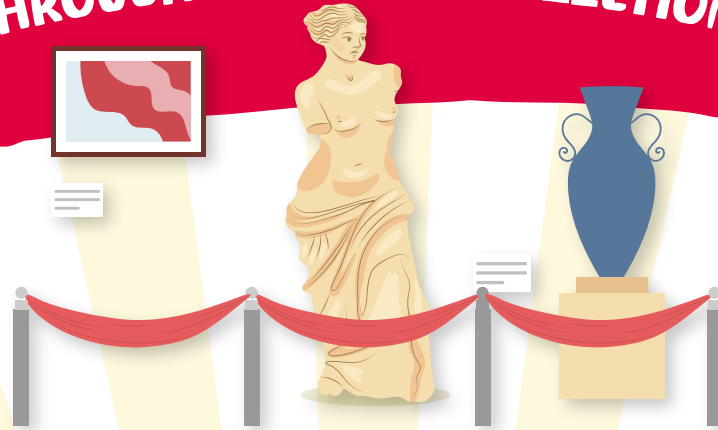
Guideline before setting up the CCH-HUBS

1- Organize content into hubs: Organizing content into hubs is a great way to make it more accessible and easier to navigate. Each hub should have a clear title that reflects its content.

2- Create an educational toolkit: An educational toolkit can be a great resource for teachers and educators. This toolkit can include lesson plans, teaching strategies, and other educational resources that are focused on cultural heritage teaching.

3- Include multimedia content: Including multimedia content such as videos, audio recordings, and interactive maps can make the content more engaging and interactive for learners.

4- Incorporate interactive features: Interactive features such as quizzes, polls, and discussion forums can help to foster engagement and interaction between learners.

5- Offer personalized learning: Personalized learning can help to ensure that learners are able to learn at their own pace and in a way that best suits their individual learning styles. Offering personalized learning can be achieved through features such as adaptive learning, customized assessments, and personalized feedback.

6- Provide access to experts: Providing access to experts such as historians, museum curators, and cultural heritage experts can help to provide learners with a deeper understanding of cultural heritage.

7- Foster collaboration: Providing opportunities for learners to collaborate and work together can help to foster a sense of community and engagement. This can be achieved through features such as group projects, peer review, and discussion forums.

8- Ensure accessibility: Ensuring that the platform is accessible to all learners regardless of their abilities is important. This can be achieved through features such as closed captioning, audio descriptions, and assistive technologies.

9- Gather feedback and evaluate effectiveness: Gathering feedback from learners and evaluating the effectiveness of the platform can help to identify areas that need improvement and ensure that the platform is meeting the needs of its users.

CCH-HUBS of the project

1- Museum Hub
2- Food Hub
3- Artifact Hub
4- Music and Dance Hub
5- Language Hub
6- Technology Hub
7- Customs and Traditions Hub

MUSEUM HUB:
EXPLORING CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

- *Virtual tours of museums and exhibitions*
- *Information on museum collections and exhibits*
- *Educational resources and lesson plans focused on museums*
- *Expert insights and interviews with museum curators and historians*
- *Historical and cultural background information related to museum exhibits*

Virtual Museum Tours: Many museums offer virtual tours on their websites, allowing students to explore exhibits and artifacts from around the world without leaving the classroom. Encourage students to explore different museums and exhibits to gain a deeper understanding of cultural heritage.

Artifact Analysis: Choose an artifact from a museum exhibit and have students analyze it by examining its materials, style, and symbolism. Encourage students to research the artifact's cultural significance and historical context.

Museum Field Trip: Take students on a field trip to a local museum to experience cultural heritage firsthand. Provide students with a scavenger hunt or worksheet to guide their exploration of the museum's exhibits.

Exhibit Design: Have students design their own museum exhibit on a topic related to cultural heritage. This can be done using online tools such as Canva or Google Slides.

Museum Reviews: Ask students to review a museum exhibit they visited or a virtual museum tour they took. Encourage them to reflect on what they learned and share their thoughts on the exhibit's effectiveness in conveying cultural heritage.

Artifact Replicas: Provide students with materials to create replicas of artifacts from a museum exhibit. This can be done using clay, paper mache, or other materials.

Museum Debate: Assign students to debate the value of museums in preserving and presenting cultural heritage. Encourage them to research and present evidence to support their arguments.

Museum Careers: Invite a museum professional to speak to the class about careers in museum work. Encourage students to consider the roles and responsibilities of museum professionals in preserving and presenting cultural heritage.

FOOD HUB:
USING FOOD TO TEACH ABOUT CULTURAL HERITAGE

- *Traditional recipes and cooking techniques*
- *Information on the cultural significance of certain foods and ingredients*
- *Videos and articles highlighting food culture and customs*
- *Interviews with chefs, farmers, and food experts*
- *Information on the history and evolution of traditional cuisines*

Recipe sharing: Encourage community members to share their favorite traditional recipes and the stories behind them. This can help promote cultural understanding and appreciation.

Cooking classes: Host cooking classes or demonstrations that showcase traditional cooking methods and ingredients from different cultures. This can be a fun and interactive way for people to learn about different cuisines.

Food tours: Organize food tours of local neighborhoods or cities that highlight the diverse food offerings and the cultural significance of the foods.

Food-related crafts: Host craft sessions that involve making food-related items such as traditional utensils or decorations for celebrations.

Food history lessons: Provide educational resources and lesson plans that teach the history of different foods and how they have evolved over time.

Food festivals: Organize food festivals that celebrate the food and cultural traditions of different communities.

Community gardens: Encourage the development of community gardens that grow traditional crops and foods, and offer workshops on gardening and food preservation techniques.

Food documentaries and films: Host screenings of documentaries and films that explore the cultural significance of food and the traditions surrounding it.

ARTIFACT HUB: UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH ARTIFACTS

- *Information on artefacts and their cultural significance*
- *Virtual exhibitions showcasing artefacts from around the world*
- *Educational resources and lesson plans focused on artefacts and their cultural significance*
- *Expert insights and interviews with historians and cultural heritage experts*
- *Creating some crafts as artefacts*
- *Artworks/Exhibitions by Artist-Teens/ART reproductions by drawing or acting the scene*

Canva: A graphic design platform that allows users to create a wide range of visual content, including posters, infographics, and social media graphics.

Adobe Spark: A suite of creative tools that enables users to create graphics, web pages, and videos.

Google Arts & Culture: An online platform that provides access to high-resolution images of artworks and artifacts from museums and cultural institutions around the world. Users can also create their own collections and virtual exhibitions.

ThingLink: An interactive media platform that allows users to create and share 360° images, videos, and other multimedia content.

Scratch: A programming language and online community developed by MIT, designed to help young people learn to code and create interactive projects, including games, animations, and simulations.)

MUSIC AND DANCE HUB:
CONNECTING WITH CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH MUSIC AND DANCE

- *Videos and articles showcasing traditional music and dance from around the world*
- *Educational resources and lesson plans focused on music and dance in cultural heritage*
- *Expert insights and interviews with musicians, dancers, and cultural heritage experts*
- *Information on the history and evolution of traditional music and dance forms*
- *Opportunities for users to learn and participate in virtual music and dance workshops*

Music and dance performances: Showcase traditional music and dance performances from various cultures, including live performances or recorded videos.

Interactive dance workshops: Organize online dance workshops that teach participants traditional dance steps and movements from different cultures.

Music and dance history lessons: Offer lessons on the history and evolution of traditional music and dance styles from different cultures.

Music and dance composition challenges: Challenge participants to compose their own traditional music and dance pieces, either individually or in groups, and share their creations on the platform.

Music and dance collaborations: Encourage cross-cultural collaborations between musicians and dancers from different traditions and showcase the resulting performances.

Music and dance games: Create interactive games that test participants' knowledge of traditional music and dance styles from different cultures.

Virtual music and dance tours: Offer virtual tours of traditional music and dance scenes from around the world, showcasing the diversity of music and dance cultures globally.

Online music and dance festivals: Host online festivals that showcase traditional music and dance performances from different cultures, with live and recorded performances.

LANGUAGE HUB: LEARNING ABOUT CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH LANGUAGE

- *Educational resources and lesson plans focused on language and cultural heritage*
- *Information on the history and evolution of different languages and dialects*
- *Expert insights and interviews with linguists and cultural heritage experts*
- *Opportunities for users to learn and practice new languages through virtual language classes and activities*
- *Videos and articles showcasing the role of language in cultural heritage preservation and transmission*

Language and culture resources: Schools can provide language and culture resources such as e-books, or podcasts that students can access to learn more about the language and culture.

TECHNOLOGY HUB AR / VR: ENHANCING CULTURAL HERITAGE TEACHING WITH AR AND VR

- *Information on how augmented and virtual reality technology is used in cultural heritage education and preservation*
- *Educational resources and lesson plans focused on using AR/VR to engage with cultural heritage*
- *Expert insights and interviews with technology experts and cultural heritage professionals*
- *Examples of AR/VR experiences and simulations related to cultural heritage*
- *Opportunities for users to experiment with AR/VR technology and create their own virtual cultural heritage experiences.*

CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS HUB: LEARNING ABOUT PARTNERS' CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

Cultural Festivals and Celebrations: Organize cultural festivals and celebrations to showcase customs and traditions.

Cultural Workshops: Conduct cultural workshops where people can learn about customs and traditions through hands-on activities

Cultural Tours: Organize tours of cultural heritage sites and landmarks that highlight customs and traditions. This could include visits to historical sites, traditional villages, and places of worship.

Oral History Projects: Collect and record oral histories from elders and other community members to preserve their knowledge and experiences of customs and traditions.

Lesson Plan Format for Each Hub

Each partner has the individual responsibility of creating lesson plans that adhere to the predefined format. It is crucial to develop four lesson plans for each hub, ensuring that they align with the format guidelines provided. These lesson plans must be transformed into real lessons that incorporate engaging videos, captivating photos, and interactive activities. The purpose of this effort is to showcase exemplary teaching practices and provide clear examples related to cultural heritage. Once completed, these lessons will be published on our platform, serving as a valuable resource for colleagues worldwide. By setting clear examples through our CCH-HUBS, we aim to inspire and guide educators around the world in delivering effective lessons on cultural heritage.

Format

I: Title:

A: Description of Context Topic
B: Total Learning Time
C: Number of Participants: [Specify the number of participants]
D: Age Group of Students
E: Materials Needed(if any)

II. Warm-up Activity (Detailed)

III. Main Activities (Detailed)

A. Activity 1
B. Activity 2
C.Sub-topics

IV. Conclusion

A. Summary of Key Points
B. Assessment or Reflection Activity
C. Closure and Next Steps

1- Experiential Learning: Engage students in hands-on experiences and immersive activities that allow them to directly interact with cultural heritage artifacts, sites, or traditions.

2- Inquiry-Based Learning: Encourage students to explore cultural heritage through research, investigation, and asking questions. Foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills by guiding students to find answers and draw conclusions.

3- Project-Based Learning: Assign projects that require students to delve deeply into a specific cultural heritage topic, encouraging them to conduct research, create presentations, or develop practical solutions related to cultural heritage preservation or promotion.

4- Role-Playing and Simulations: Use role-playing activities or simulations to allow students to step into the shoes of individuals from different historical periods or cultural contexts. This helps develop empathy and a deeper understanding of cultural heritage.

5- Multimedia Presentations: Utilize multimedia resources, such as videos, documentaries, virtual tours, or interactive websites, to introduce cultural heritage concepts, showcase important sites, and highlight significant aspects of heritage.

6- Guest Speakers: Invite guest speakers, such as cultural experts, historians, artists, or community members, to share their knowledge and personal experiences related to cultural heritage. This provides diverse perspectives and enriches students' understanding.

7- Field Trips and Site Visits: Organize visits to cultural heritage sites, museums, historical landmarks, or local communities with rich cultural heritage. These experiences offer firsthand exposure to cultural heritage and foster a deeper connection with the subject matter.

8- Storytelling and Oral Tradition: Incorporate storytelling and oral tradition as a means of transmitting cultural heritage. Encourage students to research and share stories, legends, myths, or oral histories related to cultural heritage.

9- Collaborative Learning: Facilitate group work or collaborative projects where students work together to explore and present different aspects of cultural heritage. Encourage peer-to-peer learning and foster teamwork skills.

10- Reflective Writing: Assign reflective writing activities where students can express their thoughts, emotions, and insights about cultural heritage topics. This encourages self-reflection and deepens their connection with the subject matter.

11- Artistic Expression: Incorporate creative arts, such as drawing, painting, sculpting, music, or dance, as a means of exploring and expressing cultural heritage. Encourage students to create their own artwork inspired by cultural heritage.

12- Debates and Discussions: Organize debates or class discussions on controversial topics related to cultural heritage. This allows students to develop critical thinking skills, articulate their opinions, and engage in respectful dialogue.

13- Technology Integration: Utilize digital tools and platforms for virtual exploration of cultural heritage, such as 3D modeling, augmented reality, online exhibitions, or virtual reality experiences.

14-Community Engagement: Encourage students to actively engage with their local communities, cultural organizations, or heritage preservation initiatives. This fosters a sense of responsibility and promotes active participation in cultural heritage conservation.

15-Cross-Curricular Connections: Integrate cultural heritage topics across different subjects, such as history, geography, literature, art, or social studies, to provide a holistic understanding and reinforce connections between disciplines.

Ethics and Children Rights Protection

1- Consent: Appropriate consent should be obtained from parents or guardians for students to be featured in any photos or videos. A clear explanation should be provided regarding the use of the media, and written consent should be obtained before including any identifiable images of children.

2- Privacy Protection: Students' privacy should be respected by avoiding the use of full names or any other personally identifiable information when publishing media. Initials or pseudonyms should be used instead.

3- Cultural Sensitivities: Mindfulness of cultural sensitivities should be exercised when capturing and representing images and videos of cultural heritage. Misrepresentation or stereotypes that may be offensive or disrespectful should be avoided.

4- Personal Information Safeguarding: Personal information collected for media production should be handled and stored securely, in compliance with data protection regulations. The information should only be used for the intended purpose.

5- Age-Appropriate Content: The content of the photos and videos should be ensured to be suitable for the age group of the students and aligned with educational objectives. The inclusion of any inappropriate or sensitive material should be avoided.

6- Media Release Forms: Media release forms or consent forms should be developed, clearly outlining the purpose of media usage, the rights of the participants, and the conditions for sharing and publishing the media. Copies of these forms should be provided to parents or guardians for their review and signatures.

7- Online Safety and Digital Citizenship: Students should be educated about responsible online behavior, including the respect for others' rights, the practice of good digital citizenship, and the understanding of the potential risks associated with sharing personal information online.

8- Copyright and Intellectual Property: Ensuring the necessary permissions and rights to use any third-party images, videos, or music in the production is important. Respect for copyright laws and the provision of proper attribution to the original creators should be maintained.

Note for the content developers: Remember that the content under each hub should be tailored to the needs of the platform's users and should be designed to engage and educate learners about cultural heritage!

Educational Toolkit for the CCH-HUBS platform

After the publication of our didactical design which reveals the basic principles and rules of the content development process, an educational toolkit with all the lesson plans and teacher's guide will also be published. We expect it to present:

1- Lesson plans and activity ideas: Provide educators with a range of lesson plans and activity ideas that they can use to teach cultural heritage in their classroom. These could include hands-on activities, discussion prompts, and multimedia resources.

2- Assessment tools: Offer educators with different ways to assess student learning, such as quizzes, essay prompts, or rubrics.

3- Professional development resources: Provide educators with professional development resources, such as webinars or online courses, to enhance their knowledge and skills in teaching cultural heritage.

4- Cultural sensitivity training: Include resources to help educators understand cultural sensitivity and teach it in their classrooms. This could include training on avoiding stereotypes, respecting different cultures, and promoting inclusivity.

5- Glossary of terms: Include a glossary of key terms related to cultural heritage to help educators and students better understand the topic.

6- Cultural heritage preservation resources: Provide educators with resources on cultural heritage preservation, such as how to care for artifacts or how to document cultural practices.

7- Links to external resources: Provide links to relevant websites, educational videos, and online resources that educators can use in their teaching.

8- Community engagement resources: Offer resources to help educators engage with their local communities, such as partnerships with museums or cultural organizations, or organizing cultural events.

By including these resources in an educational toolkit, educators will be able to feel confident in their ability to teach cultural heritage effectively and inclusively.