20 HANDS-ON MIDDLE SCHOOL FRENCH LESSONS

Twenty lesson topics from food to sports. Each one starts with basic vocabulary, cultural tidbits, a crossword, and a communicative activity, then finishes with a hands-on activity, ranging from a fashion show to map games.

Addresses the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning.

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Paula Camardesta Twomey
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20 Middle School Hands-on French Lessons

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About the Author

Paula Camardella Twomey is a graduate of SUNY Albany (B.A., 1970) and Middlebury College (M.A., 1971). She has taught Spanish for the past 29 years and currently teaches in Ithaca, New York. Paula is a Rockefeller Fellow and the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Independent Study Grant. She is a freelance writer, a frequent contributor to the NYSAFLT (New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers) Bulletin, and a producer of several videos in Spanish. She has most recently published Reflexiones: 35 Guided Essays in Spanish, ¡Escribamos!, ¡Te Toca a Ti!, and ¡Siga, Siga! with Teacher’s Discovery. Paula lives in Ithaca with her husband, Michael.

About the Translator

Ursula Marcella von Weinrich is a graduate of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany (M.A. and teaching degree). She taught English and French at different types of schools for 17 years, then became an assistant professor for German at the University of Maryland, Munich Campus. She currently works as a freelance translator. One of her recent translations/adaptations is Reflexionen: 35 Guided Essays in German. Ursula worked as an au pair girl in France and has traveled extensively; yearly stays in France help her to keep up with the French language and culture. Ursula lives near Munich, Germany, with her husband and two daughters.
Purpose

• To introduce and practice basic vocabulary, writing, and speaking skills in French
• To use communicative and hands-on activities to reinforce these skills

Scope and Organization

Twenty lesson topics from food to sports, each one starting with basic vocabulary, a cultural tidbit, a crossword and a communicative activity, then finishing with a hands-on activity that ranges from a fashion show to map games.

Addresses the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning.

Level

Middle school French
How To...

TIME

Cultural Tidbit and Vocabulary: 10-30 minutes
Communicative Activity: 10-20 minutes
Crossword Puzzle: 10 minutes
Hands-on Activity: 20-90 minutes, depending on the activity

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

See “Materials Needed” list on the teacher page of each unit.

INSTRUCTIONS

Make a copy of the Evaluation Rubric Form on page 1 for each student on every hands-on activity.

Select one of the 20 units, each of which is divided into four sections. Complete each section in the following order:

1. Cultural Tidbit and Vocabulary:
   • Copy and hand out to each student.
   • Teach or review the information on the page.

2. The Communicative Activity:
   • Copy and hand out to each student.
   • Students complete the activity in class, according to the directions printed on each sheet.

3. The Crossword Puzzle:
   • Copy and hand out the crossword for each student to complete in class.

4. The Hands-on Activity:
   • Gather the materials listed under “Materials Needed.”
   • Distribute the materials and direct the activity according to the instructions under “Procedure.”
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| Answer Key | 113-123 |
Dear Teacher and Colleague,

Thank you for selecting *20 Middle School Hands-on French Lessons*! I hope you enjoy using it as much as I have enjoyed writing it for my students. I guess I could say it has been a work in progress for the past twelve years of my teaching career, as it is derived from a summer Spanish camp that I taught in Ithaca. I would like to thank my students and Ithaca High School (Ithaca, New York) for helping me develop the original ideas for the communicative activities and the hands-on activities. I have also collaborated with several colleagues at Ithaca High School for their ideas and feedback.

I developed *20 Middle School Hands-on French Lessons* for students and with students, and therefore I feel it truly does reinforce oral and written language skills as well as introduce students to a new and exciting world culture.

*20 Middle School Hands-on French Lessons* is modeled on the National Standards for Foreign Language Learning:

**Standard 1.1:** Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.

**Standard 1.2:** Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.

**Standard 1.3:** Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

**Standard 2.1:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.

**Standard 2.2:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the cultures studied.

Foreign language teaching and learning is a dynamic process between teacher and student. Feel free to modify the topics as you see fit with your students. I learned a great deal about my students from the activities we did together in *20 Middle School Hands-on French Lessons*. For me, that is the power of foreign language learning. I am hopeful that you, too, will come to a deeper partnership with your students by using it.

*Paula Camardella Twomey*
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Greetings/Names

Comment t’appelles-tu?

• Cultural Tidbit and Vocabulary
• Communicative Activity
• Crossword: Greetings
• Hands-on Activity: T-Shirt Design & Fashion Show
## Culture and Vocabulary

### Comment t’appelles-tu?

#### Vocabulaire

**Greetings:**
- **bonjour** – good morning, good afternoon, hello
  (used as general greeting)
- **au revoir** – good-bye!

**Les questions:**
- **Comment ça va?** – How are you?
- **Comment vous appelez-vous?**
- **Comment t’appelles-tu?** – What’s your name?

### Réponses:
- **très bien** – very good
- **très** – very
- **bien** – I’m fine; well
- **comme ci comme ça** – O.K., tolerably well
- **assez mal** – not so well
- **assez** – enough; rather
- **merci** – thank you

#### Cultural Tidbit

French names usually consist of a first name and last name. Many French first names are hyphenated for both males and females: names such as 
**Jean-Luc** and **Marie-Laurence** are common. The French don’t generally use their middle names or initials. The father’s last name is usually taken as a family name for the wife and the children. After a divorce, women can use their maiden names again.
Communicative Activity

Comment t’appelles-tu?

Directions: Ask 10 classmates the following questions in French about their name and how they are doing. Write the information in the blanks below.

Question: Comment est-ce que tu t’appelles?
Réponse: Je m’appelle ....
Question: Comment ça va?
Réponse: Très bien/assez mal/comme ci, comme ça/bien/merci.

Vocabulaire


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<th>Comment est-ce que tu t’appelles?</th>
<th>Comment ça va?</th>
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<td>1. ____________________________</td>
<td>____________________________, merci</td>
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Crossword: Greetings

Comment t’appelles-tu?

Directions: Write the correct French word for each of the English clues below.

Horizontalement
3. how
5. fine, well
6. very
7. thank you

Verticalement
1. enough, rather
2. hello
4. very well

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Grammatical Component:
Writing names and short greetings in French

Hands-on Activity:
Students make a T-shirt that has a French greeting and their French name on it.

Materials Needed:
- white undershirt, or any T-shirt without writing or logo
- multi-colored puff paints** or fabric crayons
- pencils
- rulers

Time: 35-45 minutes**

Procedure:
Students will:
- use lead pencil to write a message in French on the front of their T-shirts
- use puff paints** or colored fabric crayons to complete the lettering
- draw pictures on the shirts to enhance the greeting and name

Teacher will:
- check all the T-shirts for spelling before students color on the lettering
- set up the classroom as a fashion show “runway” and provide music so the students can model their T-shirts and introduce themselves in French

**Caution: If using puff paints, allow 24 hours for them to dry!

Oral Component:
Students wear the T-shirts in class and introduce themselves with their French message and name as they walk down the “runway.”

Evaluation Rubric: (100 points— use Evaluation Rubric Form on page 1)
- artistic merit: neatness, colorfulness, effort 30 points
- grammatical: accuracy of French 40 points
- oral presentation: pronunciation, clarity, poise 30 points