
Evolution of Arts – Arts in History

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Teacher's sheet

The Spy – An incident in History represented in Art



The Dispatch-Bearer 1880

Alphonse-Marie-Adolphe de Neuville French

The Dispatch-Bearer was exhibited at the Salon of 1881.

As de Neuville explained in the exhibition catalogue, this painting depicts an incident from the Franco-Prussian War, 1870–71.

A French soldier, disguised as a peasant, was caught during an attempt to pass through the German lines surrounding the French city of Metz. He knew that when the German officers finished their search and interrogation he would be shot.

Metz capitulated after a fifty-four-day siege, and after the war, the city was ceded to the Germans.

The present painting, extolling the courage and bravery of the captured Frenchman, is an example of the numerous paintings with patriotic and nationalistic themes that appeared in the Salons during the seventies and eighties.

As one critic wrote, "This dark-haired man with his fine proud features, and strong agile body, and solid lively elegance, this man carries in his face the authentic mark of the race. Who could fail to recognize in him a son of France?"

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/437219> Public Domain

Instructions – Text - Cloze

- Display the painting and the text on the overhead. Students read it in silence. Give them time to look up for new unknown words and write some notes. They can exchange information in plenum.
- *Alternative:* **Online class**, share the screen. You can also let **Microsoft Word** read the text by a native speaker (*settings*: please organize it in time). You could also allow one of the students to **share the screen** (send the document to all) and he/she can insert the right words in the blanks with the help of all the other students (Interaction).
- Cover the text leaving only the painting on the board.
- Give each student a copy of the **Cloze** – and ask them to do the task together with a partner. 15 Minutes time.
- Show the overhead text again. Students compare and correct it.
- Ask some students to read it out aloud. Pronunciation should be corrected later.

Teacher's sheet - Crossword - KEY

Across	Down
6. captured - <i>arrested</i> 9. gave up - <i>capitulated</i> 10. try - <i>attempt</i> 11. an agricultural labourer - <i>peasant</i> 12. transferred - <i>ceded</i>	1. camouflaged - <i>disguised</i> 2. incident - <i>something that unexpected happens</i> 3. describes - <i>depicts</i> 4. appearance - <i>features</i> 5. praising - <i>extolling</i> 7. part of a specific culture - <i>race</i> 8. was shown - <i>appeared</i>

Puzzle Instructions – Teacher's sheet

Puzzle - Cards— what is happening here?

Put students in pairs and cut a set of the painting 'puzzle cards for each pair. Let them organise the painting puzzle. Students take notes, make assumptions of what is happening, and discuss it together and later in plenum.

Alternative: **Online Class** – **Share your screen**. Show a piece of puzzle at a time and let students comment what is happening there. Group work. Help them with vocabulary.

(Puzzle Cards) available in Student's sheet.

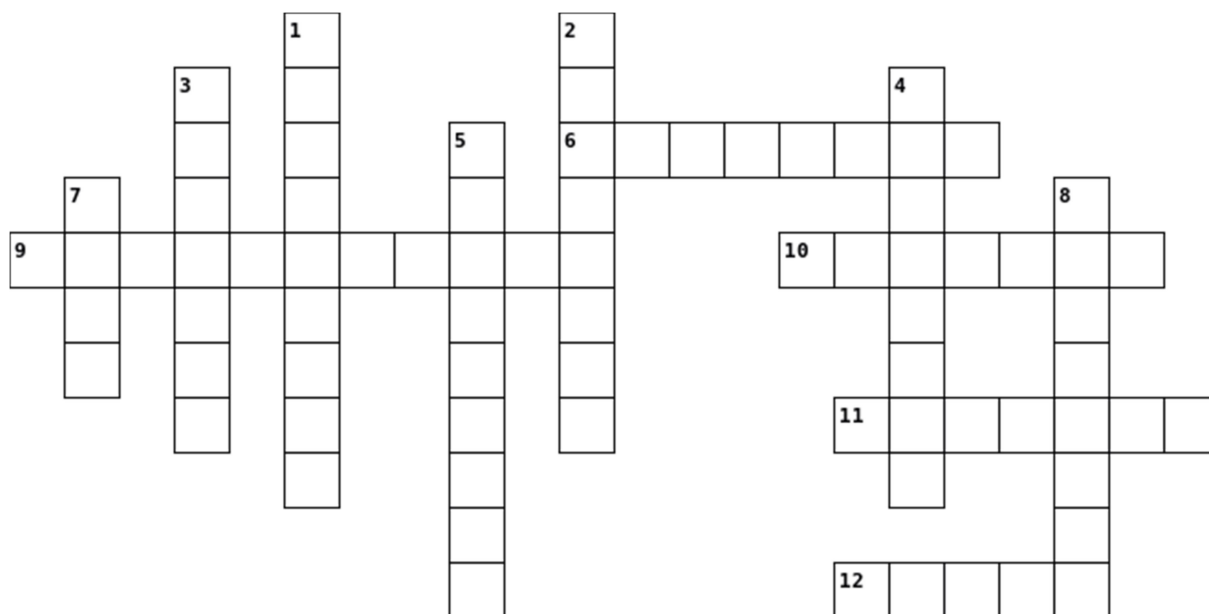
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Crossword – Print a crossword for each student. Let the students read the text on the overhead or give them a copy of it. Tell them to look for words that best describes the words in the crossword.

Alternative: **Online class** – **Share your screen** (Students will decide which words fit best and you could insert it in the appropriate place). If wished, **break-out** session, so that students could work in pairs. Give them 10 minutes to solve the task. After that discussion in plenum.

<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/the-spy-4>

Students' sheet - Crossword - Read the text "The dispatch Bearer" and look for words that best describes the words in this *Crossword*. Discuss with your partner.



Across

- 6. arrested
- 9. gave up
- 10. try
- 11. an agricultural labourer
- 12. transferred

Down

- 1. camouflaged
- 2. something that unexpected happens
- 3. describes
- 4. appearance
- 5. praising
- 7. part of a specific culture
- 8. was shown

<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/the-spy-4>

Puzzle Cards – Students' sheet



Students' sheet - Cloze

The dispatch-Bearer - Painting 1880

Alphonse-Marie-Adolphe de Neuville French

Put the words below in the right place on the text. Compare with your partner.

*authentic / appeared/ attempt/ body/ bravery/ capitulated/ critic/ exhibited/
Germans/ lines/ officers/ painting/ patriotic/ proud/ proud/ recognizes/
search/ soldier/ shot/ war*

The Dispatch-Bearer was _____ at the Salon of 1881. As de Neuville explained in the exhibition catalogue, this _____ depicts an incident from the Franco-Prussian War, 1870–71. A French _____, disguised as a peasant, was caught during an _____ to pass through the German _____ surrounding the French city of Metz. He knew that when the German _____ finished their _____ and interrogation he would be _____. Metz _____ after a fifty-four-day siege, and after the _____ the city was ceded to the _____. The present painting, extolling the courage and _____ of the captured Frenchman, is an example of the numerous paintings with _____ and nationalistic themes that _____ in the Salons during the seventies and eighties. As one _____ wrote, "This dark-haired man with his fine _____ features, and strong agile _____, and solid lively elegance, this man carries in his face the _____ mark of the race. Who could fail to _____ in him a son of France?"

Interactive Cloze

<http://l.georges.online.fr/tools/cloze.php>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/437219>

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