



EduTrend Contents

P4C · AESTHETICS AND ART · PRIMARY

Is It Beautiful?

Sorting beautiful things starts an enquiry into beauty

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Is It Beautiful?

Children look at a set of pictures and objects: a sunset, a spider's web, a muddy puddle, a shiny stone, a crumpled painting and a smiling grandparent. They place each on a line from "beautiful" to "not beautiful". Different children place them differently. They create questions and vote on one, such as "What makes something beautiful?"

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- share views about beauty;
- ask a question about beauty;
- give a reason;
- listen to others.

KEY WORDS

beautiful · pretty · like · ugly · look · feel

CURRICULUM LINKS

Art: looking at art. Science: nature. English: describing words.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Beauty line
- Picture and object cards
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Stimulus	Sort the pictures on a beauty line.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
5–12 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
12–26 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“What makes something beautiful?”</i>
26–30 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Say what makes one thing beautiful to you.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

The part of philosophy that asks about beauty and art is called aesthetics.

Young children quickly notice that people disagree about beauty, which opens up philosophical questions.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Beautiful means pretty.” Beauty can be surprising.
- “Everyone agrees about beauty.” People differ.
- “Only things in museums are beautiful.” Everyday things can be.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use four pictures.

Stretch

Ask: can a sound be beautiful?

WORKSHEET 1

My beauty line

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw.

My beauty line

Beautiful	Not sure	Not beautiful

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Can something be beautiful to one person and not to another? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Shares views	Gives a reason	Listens to others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Is It Beautiful? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Aesthetics and Art programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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