



CLASSCAST ACTIVITIES

10 ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR WAYS TO USE THE TTS CLASSCAST ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

1. Paint Like Kandinsky (Art)
2. Forest School Nature Hunt
3. Guided Reading
4. Maths - Shapes and their Properties
5. Immersive Lessons
6. MFL Listening Activity
7. Mixed Class Teaching
8. Music Maestro
9. Art Describe
10. Read My Lips





CLASSCAST ACTIVITY #1

PAINT LIKE KANDINSKY

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Paper
- Paints
- Paint brushes

PREPARATION:

Explain that the artist Wassily Kandinsky's paintings were deeply inspired by music and they can also paint with music to see how it might influence them. Show some examples of Kandinsky's art to see that there is no defined picture usually, just shapes and lines etc.

ACTIVITY:

Give children paint and paintbrushes and put a pile of paper in the middle of each table. Children can do as many paintings as they like. Let them know that their painting is going to be influenced by music so there are no rules to how it looks at the end!

Play music through the ClassCast headphones so that each child can feel alone with their music and thoughts and let it inspire their paintings.

Children may restart their paintings or do multiple so be prepared for lots of art drying afterwards!

You may want to ask children to volunteer to talk about their inspiration while showing examples at the end.

ADAPTATIONS:

For an experiment you could give different children different musical genres through the ABC channels* i.e. classical, jazz and pop to see if their paintings reflect this. Or change the genre during the lesson for everyone, or do the lesson again with a different music.

*requires extra transmitters



CLASSCAST ACTIVITY #2

FOREST SCHOOL NATURE HUNT

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Outdoor space (not so far that the ClassCast disconnects!)

PREPARATION:

Sit children near you to try on their headphones and speak through the ClassCast transmitter to ensure that everyone has their volume set correctly and can hear you. Let them know that they will be going on a nature hunt and listening for instructions from you.

ACTIVITY:

When the children are all set up with their headphones working let them know that the challenge is to bring back as many of the items you ask for as possible, without doing any damage to the environment around them. Send them off with the first item to look for. Then at intervals, when most children have found the item, tell them the next item into their headphones. Ask each child to gather their selection and bring them over at the end so you can check through them.

List ideas: Two different leaves - Something rough - Something smooth - Something round - Something with symmetry - Something beautiful - Your favourite stick.

ADAPTATIONS:

Ask children to work in teams and only one member of each team has the headphones. The 'hearer' must then delegate to members of the team to find the items while they listen out for new ones and stay in charge of ticking off the items as they arrive.



CLASSCAST ACTIVITY #3

GUIDED READING

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Audio reading of books (you can record these yourself or find free ones online)

PREPARATION:

Before guided reading sessions set up one table with the ClassCast headphones ready for the session. You could record an audio reading of you reading a book or text so that children can read along with you on the headphones. Or download an audiobook.

ACTIVITY:

During Guided Reading one table can be listening to an audiobook or text read aloud. They could be listening while reading along with the text, or have an audiobook to just listen to and enjoy - perhaps in the book corner on beanbags if you have something similar!

If recording yourself intersperse with questions about the text to help children to move through to reading comprehension activities or ask some questions at the end. After the recording give children a task to complete with the rest of the time.

This will allow you to work with other groups while your recordings are guiding the group through their tasks.

ADAPTATIONS:

If you have multiple ClassCast transmitters use the ABC channels to give different books to different groups or let children choose a different text. Leave comprehension activities linked to each text with the headphones for each channel.



CLASSCAST ACTIVITY #4

MATHS - SHAPES AND THEIR PROPERTIES

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Sets of shapes - 2D and/or 3D depending on the class

PREPARATION:

Set up trays on each table with the 2D and/or 3D shapes you will be using. These can be sorted as per the stage of the children's knowledge. Create some cards or notes for yourself listing various properties of shapes you would like to cover.

ACTIVITY:

Give children the headphones and you keep the transmitter for the ClassCast. Ensure everyone can hear you as you whisper into the transmitter.

The headphones help children to focus on your instructions for this lesson without looking to others for help.

Ask children to pick a shape out of the tray with a particular property (i.e. 4 sides) and hold it in their hand not showing anyone. They can pass the tray around the table in order til everyone has found a shape which matches the property.

Then compare shapes to see if children have picked the same shapes or there are a mix of shapes with the same property.

ADAPTATIONS:

Give each child a shape then ask them to carefully move around the room finding other people with shapes of the same property as you say into the headphones. They can show each other their shapes and nod/shake heads but not talk.



CLASS CAST ACTIVITY #5

IMMERSIVE LESSONS

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Recordings suitable for your chosen topic - for example a rainforest

PREPARATION:

Download (or find links to stream from your device) recordings suitable for your topic. For example you could find rainforest recordings with sounds of the animals and rain as we will use for our example below. But any recordings which can immerse children will work.

ACTIVITY:

We will be using a recording of a rainforest for this example. There are sounds of the rain and some wind in the trees as well as calls from animals/birds. Give each child a set of the headphones while you play/stream the recording through the transmitter. Ask children to listen out and draw out (or write down) what they can hear. Imagine the scene. What is around us? What does it look like when you look up? You can intersperse these questions via the transmitter during the recording. Afterwards ask children to write about the rainforest based on your topic - could be writing about animals and the habitats for science or some creative writing.

ADAPTATIONS:

Set children a task to create their own recordings for the class. You could let them record outside or use sound effects online to create recordings. Then play them to the class and ask them to guess where the setting is for the recordings.



CLASS CAST ACTIVITY #6

MFL LISTENING ACTIVITY

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Recordings of the target language i.e. French
- Sheets with specific words from the recording

PREPARATION:

Find appropriate recordings online to use in the target language or record some speech yourself if you are confident in the language. Create sheets of words (with images alongside if needed) with some words which are not in the recording too.

ACTIVITY:

Using the recordings you have downloaded (or stream through the transmitter from your device) give children headphones to listen to the speaking and ask them to circle the words they hear which match words on their sheet. There should be some words on the sheet which are not in the recordings so that children have to listen carefully to the speaking. Play the recording at least twice so children have a chance to circle all the words included. Repeat the activity with multiple recordings if you wish, or turn it into a test by setting up sheets with sentences from the recording and ask children to write or circle the right missing word from each sentence.

ADAPTATIONS:

Use images alongside words to aid with understanding. And you could adapt by giving them all of the text with some words cut out separately and ask them to add the words in when they hear them at the right point of the recording.



CLASS CAST ACTIVITY #7

MIXED CLASS TEACHING

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Recordings suitable for the topic

PREPARATION:

Find and download, or stream from your device, podcasts and recordings around a specific topic for your class. Split the class into the different groups relevant for your mixed class i.e. Year 5 together on the ClassCast while you teach Year 6 live.

ACTIVITY:

Give one set of your students the ClassCast with topic/unit specific recordings and tasks while you teach the rest of the class 'live' - this works really well with mixed classes where you can split the class and teach both by using recordings you make yourself or find online suitable for your topics and the stages of the children. If you have multiple year groups in one class you could split them multiple ways using extra transmitters and the ABC channels.

While you are live teaching you can also add extra instructions to the headphone group via the transmitter without needing to call out across the class or distract from your live teaching or the group you are working with.

ADAPTATIONS:

Create a series of tasks via the headphones with specific timings built into your recordings i.e. give a task then play some classical music into the headphones for 5 minutes while they complete a task then give the next instruction. This helps keep them focused throughout.



CLASS CAST ACTIVITY #8

MUSIC MAESTRO

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Recordings of a range of musical pieces
- Paper/music books

PREPARATION:

Find and download, or stream from your device, a range of musical pieces. These can be shorter or longer depending on the age of your pupils. Choose some happier musical pieces and some sadder/more melancholy.

ACTIVITY:

Give children the headphones and ask children to listen to each piece of music and make notes on the emotions they think come across. You may want to model one altogether at first and then ask them to make notes as a class.

Give children time to consider the piece and write emotions down. For younger students you may want to write the emotion names down and ask them to circle any they feel are appropriate.

Children find the privacy of having their headphones often help them to connect more with the music as it feels like their own safe space without distraction. Discuss the pieces afterwards to see if children agree on the emotions.

ADAPTATIONS:

Alternatives could be to circle the names of musical instruments they can hear; make a note of when the musical notes go higher or lower; or pick out which celebrations they think the music is for (Traditional Christmas carols etc) depending on your topic and stage.



CLASS CAST ACTIVITY #9

ART DESCRIBE

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Recordings of you describing a picture or setting/scene
- Paper

PREPARATION:

Record yourself describing a picture in detail - include elements to help someone copy the instructions to draw the picture but do not show them what the picture looks like at the beginning of the lesson. So you must give them as much detail as possible.

ACTIVITY:

Give out the headphones and some paper. Ask children to follow your instructions on the recording to draw the picture you are describing. This could be a piece of notable art as part of an art topic for a famous artist. Or could be a setting or scene from a story.

With headphones on ask them to concentrate on their own picture and not be distracted by those around them.

At the end show them what the picture was and talk about which parts they have added which match/do not match.

(There may be a wide variety of versions which leads to great discussions about the art of describing something which can then lead to improvements of their own writing.)

ADAPTATIONS:

Ask children to use the transmitter to describe a picture to the rest of the class or a small group (who cannot see the picture) as part of improving their own instructions. This is a great team activity and you could award prizes/points for best descriptions.



CLASS CAST ACTIVITY #10

READ MY LIPS

YOU WILL NEED:

- ClassCast
- Writing paper/books
- Music for playing into headphones

PREPARATION:

Set up enough headphones for half the class. They are going to take turns using the headphones. Create a set of phrases you will put on the whiteboard for the children to use.

ACTIVITY:

Pair children up with a partner. Have them sit opposite each other in a way where one child can see the board and one cannot. Give headphones to the children with their backs to the board. Play music into the headphones. This is an added distraction on purpose!

Put phrases on the board and the children not wearing headphones need to mouth the phrase to the child wearing headphones, who must try and write it down. They can repeat 3 times each before you move on. At the end see which pair got the most correct words/phrases! This is a great exercise in focused attention and the power of distraction!

ADAPTATIONS:

You can do all sorts of variations such as using the transmitter to say a phrase to the children wearing headphones. They must then mouth the phrase to those not wearing headphones. Can they guess what was said?

You could play a version of charades this way too.