

Creating an immersive learning project

This exercise is best followed as a group. Gather a few colleagues around and organise your own mini immersive curriculum workshop – and try to allow for plenty of time for your minds to wander!

Remember, effective immersive learning can be achieved from small-scale experiences, and this may feel like a more manageable approach to start with.

Think of a topic you're set to cover on the curriculum, then use the three steps below to discuss how you could teach the topic differently, making it exciting and immersive.

STEP 1

CHOOSE an **AMBITION** for the **PROJECT...**

- Young people feeling like heroes!
- Young people feeling like they know more than their teachers!
- Young people feeling like explorers!



These are the overall ambitions for the project, and how it should make a child feel. Will they walk away feeling like heroes, or like they've been explorers for an afternoon, working together to overcome a challenge? We know that by allowing young people's ideas to shape what happens within the project, we create the most engaging work for pupils.

STEP 2

CREATE a NARRATIVE...

CHOOSE ONE OF THESE PROMPTS...

- Having to help a character by doing work
- A curious question or mystery to discover
- Receiving a message from a character or world
- Tasking young people with solving a problem together!



The next step is to think about a story you can create to fulfil this ambition. The young people are cast as experts, and only the children can move the story forward. One example is with our project The Vanishing Land: the young people learn about an island which is disappearing (the story), they have to save it by creating maps of their local area (using knowledge about which they have expertise) and their teacher 'doesn't know' what will happen next (ie young people are the experts).

STEP 3

HOW WILL the PROJECT UNFOLD?

WHICH of the FOLLOWING IDEAS will WORK for YOUR PROJECT + SETTING?

- The sound of the room feeling different
- The lighting of the room feeling different
- Something in the room looks different!
- A sensory experience which you can feel!
- Going to a space in school that's different
- Using an interesting object



Now that you have your idea, discuss how to put it into action! Depending on scale, implementing your immersive learning experience may need to be planned a term ahead of time. Think about how the project will be introduced to the pupils. For instance, making their classroom feel or look different when they return from playtime, or a new object mysteriously appearing in the corner of the school hall. Can you leave young people to discover the surprise for themselves, later guiding teachers, parents and guardians?

Have you come up with an idea for an immersive project for your school? We'd love to hear about it! Drop us a line at hello@punchdrunkenrichment.org.uk or DM us on Twitter, <http://twitter.com/PDEnrich> to share your findings.