Compass for discussion on cultural heritage for children and young people
What is cultural heritage?

Cultural heritage refers to things, phenomena and environments inherited from the past that people wish to preserve and keep alive, so that they can be passed on to future generations.

- Solid, tangible cultural heritage includes, for instance, meaningful objects, art, books, photographs, buildings and landscapes.
- Intangible cultural heritage includes customs, festivities, traditions, plays and games, music, languages, food-related traditions and handicraft skills, among other things.
- You can also come across cultural heritage online, in the form of games, for instance.

- Everyone has the right to their own cultural heritage; everyone also bears responsibility for their cultural heritage.
- Cultural heritage changes over time and new cultural heritage emerges all the time.
• Cultural heritage helps me understand who I am and where I am going
• There is cultural heritage in everyone’s life
• Cultural heritage influences our lives and the relationship we have with society, the environment and other people
Why a Cultural Heritage Strategy?

• Prime Minister Sanna Marin’s Government Programme includes a decision to draw up Finland’s first-ever Cultural Heritage Strategy

• The Strategy is the Government’s plan on how to look after cultural heritage and how to use it in the future

• The decision to draw up the Strategy was made because cultural heritage offers many opportunities:
  • Cultural heritage is diverse
  • Cultural heritage helps us build a sustainable future
  • Cultural heritage unites people in a positive way
How is work on the Strategy carried out?

- The aim of the Ministry of Education and Culture’s project is to involve as many people as possible and allow them to tell what they consider important and worth striving for in cultural heritage.

- The compass for discussion on cultural heritage is a tool that enables children and young people to participate and have a say in shaping the Cultural Heritage Strategy.
  - The compass includes five themes that are reflected on through three questions.
  - The teacher or the class records responses on the Webropol form.
  - The responses are read in the Ministry and taken into account in work on the Strategy.

Kuva: Kansallismuseo kesäleiri 7. Maija Huitu 2018 / Museoviraston kuvapankki
First, reflect on these questions together

What kind of cultural heritage is familiar or close to you?

How do you identify cultural heritage?

What kind of cultural heritage do you like or what is important for you?
Five themes of the compass for discussion on cultural heritage
1. Regional equality and non-discrimination

- Cultural heritage is everywhere
  - Your own surroundings, Finland and its regions, Europe and the whole world
- Cultural heritage gives you a feeling of belonging somewhere and finding common things with others, near and far
- All cultural heritage is equally important
- Cultural heritage is a treasure and we should look after it together

Kuva: Kotkan Meripäivät. Topi Leikas 2018 / Museoviraston kuvapankki
Reflect on this question together

What kind of cultural heritage can you identify among your closest friends and family and how do you keep it alive?

Webropol questions:
• What is important in this theme?
• How is this supposed to look like in ten years?
• What can we do?
2. Cultural heritage as part of a sustainable future

- Growing concern for the environment and climate change
- Peeking into the past gives new ideas for imaging the future and helps us understand the changes that have taken place
- Changing our thinking towards sustainable habits
  - Buying less new things and recycling
  - Using handicrafts and natural materials
  - Refurbishing old buildings and furniture

Kuva: Viljelypalsta: Laura Rautjoki 2015 / Ympäristöministeriön kuvapankki
Reflect on this question together

How can we use cultural heritage to contribute to a more sustainable future?

Webropol questions:
- What is important in this theme?
- How is this supposed to look like in ten years?
- What can we do?
3. Conveying, cherishing and using cultural heritage

• We all create, experience and cherish cultural heritage

• Cultural heritage lives and prospers when it is understood, used and valued

• Cultural heritage is conveyed from generation to generation, from person to person and from culture to culture

• Through joint actions and international cooperation, valuable cultural heritage can also be protected and preserved
Reflect on this question together

How can you cherish and use cultural heritage?

Webropol questions:
• What is important in this theme?
• How is this supposed to look like in ten years?
  • What can we do?
4. Wellbeing and cultural diversity

• Cultural heritage creates wellbeing and gives energy for everyday life

• It creates and supports a sense of togetherness among people

• Cultural heritage increases understanding about yourself, other people and the world

• Everyone has the right to their own cultural heritage and everyone’s cultural heritage is equally valuable
Reflect on this question together

How can we use cultural heritage to increase discussion and understanding among different people?

Webropol questions:
  • What is important in this theme?
  • How is this supposed to look like in ten years?
    • What can we do?
5. Reliable information

• Cultural heritage is constantly explored from many different perspectives in various fields of science

• Information can be found in museums, libraries and archives, for instance
  • There is also all kinds of information available online
  • Everyone should develop their online media literacy in order to recognise reliable information

• We are also experts in cultural heritage ourselves as we all create, experience and use it

• By getting to know cultural heritage, you can find interesting and useful information about things and phenomena

• Information helps us understand the world and create better solutions for the future
Reflect on this question together

Where and how could you use cultural heritage information?

Webropol questions:
• What is important in this theme?
• How is this supposed to look like in ten years?
• What can we do?
Links:

Video about cultural heritage: 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHHI-t4jepl&t=68s
[Finnish Heritage Agency and Visit Finland 2018]

Webropol response form: 
https://link.webropol.com/s/lapsillejanuorille

Information about cultural heritage strategy: 
https://minedu.fi/kulttuuriperintostrategia
The Webropol response form is open until 15 October 2021.

Wishing you fruitful discussions!