

CONNECTING LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND LIFE



YOUNG & WISE

A Magazine for Curious High School Minds

**15th JULY DEMOCRACY AND
NATIONAL UNITY DAY**

**WHY HOBBIES, SPORTS
AND ART MATTER**

**DIY PROJECTS
WITH RECYCLED MATERIALS**

**BLUE SHORES, ECHOES OF
HISTORY 'ANTALYA'**

**BARCELONA: A CITY BEYOND
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**A SUMMER TO DISCOVER
YOURSELF**

**12 IDIOMS THAT
BRING LANGUAGE TO LIFE**

TÜRKİYE'S OLYMPIC JOURNEY • A HISTORY OF THE FIFA WORLD CUP • THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR TRAVELLERS • THE IMPACT OF AI ON ART • EBRU: THE ELEGANT DANCE OF COLOURS ON WATER • SOUND FROM WOOD: LUTİYE • WHAT SHOULD YOU TRY THIS SUMMER?



ORTAÖĞRETİM
GENEL MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ

JULY 2026



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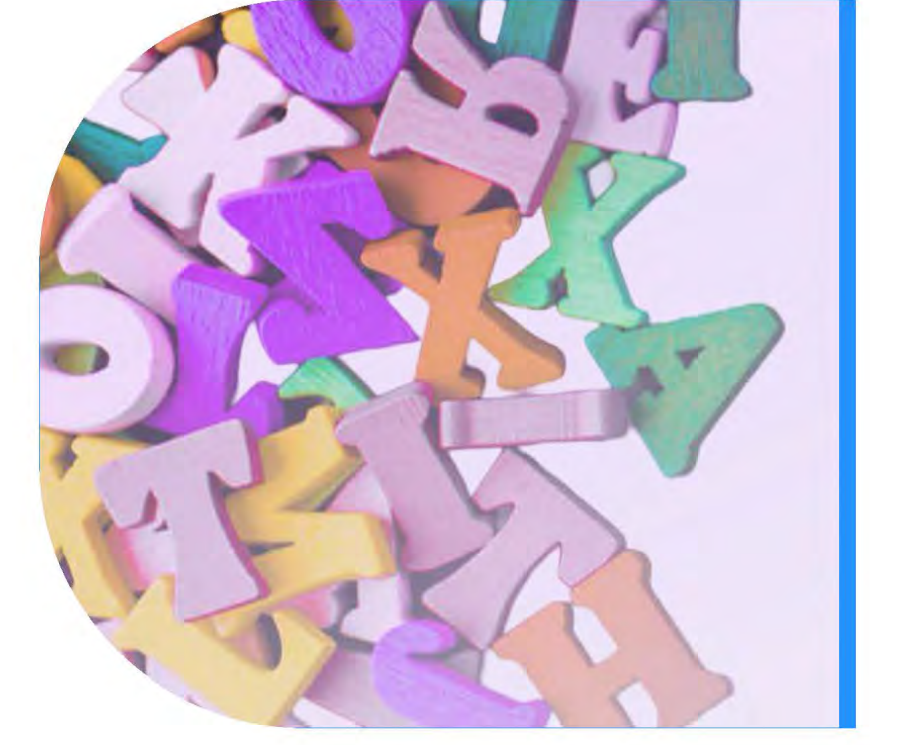
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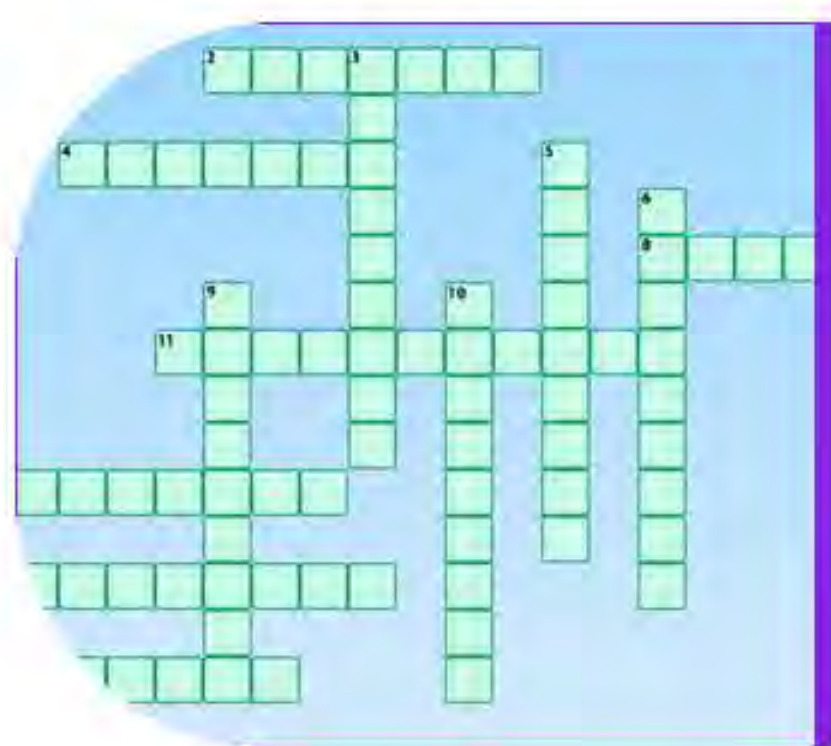
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*Dear Students, Esteemed Teachers,
and Respected Parents,*



Cengiz METE
*Directorate General
for Secondary Education*

The main aim of education is to help students use language correctly and confidently. It also supports them in understanding what they read and expressing their ideas clearly, accurately, and in a well-organised way. As the General Directorate of Secondary Education, we consider it a top priority not only to support academic achievement but also to strengthen our students’ language skills, foster a robust culture of reading, and make foreign language learning an integral part of lifelong learning.

A reading habit does more than help individuals reach information; it strengthens their ability to understand, interpret, and question what they read. In the same way, learning a foreign language allows students to explore different cultures, follow global developments, and express themselves in wider contexts. From this point of view, language learning is not only about vocabulary and grammar; it also helps individuals communicate effectively and see the world from different perspectives.

Each material created with this idea aims to support students’ reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills equally. It helps them use English in real-life situations. Meeting different text types and learning language through culture and art makes learning last longer and feel more meaningful.

Digital platforms like OGM Material and MEBİ Individual Learning Platform are key to this process. These platforms support individual learning and let students study in their own way.

The ‘Young and Wise’ magazine is prepared with this approach in mind. Our magazine offers original content for learning English, texts that support reading habits, and activities that help students think, question, and create. By bringing together academic content, culture, art, and daily life, it shows the student-centred vision of the General Directorate of Secondary Education.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this magazine. I hope it inspires students, supports teachers, and adds value to education.

Respectfully,

Make This Summer Meaningful

A Summer to Discover Yourself

This summer, give yourself a chance to rest, explore, create, learn and grow. Sometimes, even a small new experience can help you discover a completely new side of yourself.

Slow Down and Recharge

The summer holiday is finally here! It is an exciting time when you can rest, dream, spend time with your friends and make more space for yourself. But here is an important question: Will you spend your summer holiday only resting, or will you also use this valuable time to discover yourself, explore new interests and notice your potential?

During the school year, life usually becomes very busy with lessons, exams, projects and responsibilities. The summer holiday gives you a chance to slow down for a while and look at different parts of life. It creates more space for art, culture, technology, sports, hobbies and friendships. Research shows that students under high stress may experience problems with attention, memory and focus. The summer holiday can help the mind recover naturally. When people feel more relaxed, creativity becomes stronger. Sometimes, your best ideas may appear when you are simply walking, listening to music or doing nothing special. For this reason, the summer holiday should not be only about studying or only about resting. The important thing is to find a healthy balance between them.

Improve Your Foreign Language Skills

The summer holiday can be a great opportunity to improve your foreign language skills. A foreign language helps you connect with different cultures and follow the world more closely. You can watch your favourite series with subtitles, listen to songs, read lyrics or improve your skills through short videos and digital content.

Create with Technology

Technology can become a useful tool when it is used creatively. Instead of only consuming content on social media, you can try coding, digital designing, video editing or artificial intelligence tools. In this way, you may discover talents and interests that you have never explored before.

Balance Your Screen Time and Social Life

Finally, remember to balance your social life and screen time. Spending the whole holiday in front of a screen may make you feel mentally and physically tired after some time. Meeting friends face to face, walking outside, doing sports or joining social activities can help you feel healthier and happier. Screens do not need to disappear completely from your life, but using them more consciously and moderately can make a big difference.



Think About Your Future

You may also use this time to think about your future career. Many students feel unsure about what they want to do in the future, and this is completely normal. During holiday, you can research university departments, professions and different fields that interest you, such as technology, health, engineering, communication, art or social sciences. Choosing a career is not only about deciding on a job; it is also about deciding what kind of life you want to build.

Make Space for Art

At the same time, do not forget to make space for art. Art is one of the strongest ways to express yourself and look at life from different perspectives. You can draw, write, take photos, make music, try digital drawing or create short videos. The important thing is not to create something perfect. Instead, try new things, produce something of your own and express yourself freely.



Stay Connected to Learning

Of course, the summer holiday does not mean completely breaking away from lessons. However, studying in summer does not have to mean following a very strict study programme. Short, regular and focused revision can help you feel more confident when the new school year begins. Instead of studying everything again from the beginning, you can focus on subjects that you find difficult. You can also use active learning methods such as solving questions, preparing concept maps or explaining topics to someone else. For this, you can benefit from video lessons, question solutions and other digital materials on MEBİ.

15 JULY DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL UNITY DAY

The Will That Defeated the Darkness: July 15 and Us

History is shaped by turning points that determine the destiny of nations. Some nights are illuminated not only by the sunrise but also by the blazing spirit of a nation determined to defend its freedom. The night of **15 July 2016**, when the violent coup attempt was carried out by the FETÖ terrorist organisation, was a monumental night when one of the greatest epics in our glorious history was written with bare hands against the roar of fighter jets tearing through the sky and the rumble of tank tracks shaking the streets. This year marks the 10th anniversary of that historic night, reminding us that its legacy of courage, unity, and resilience continues to inspire future generations.

Many of you remember that night through the eyes of a child. Today, however, as high school students, you are old enough to understand that the determination shown by the people on 15 July was the very same spirit that inspired the heroes of Manzikert, Gallipoli, and the Turkish War of Independence.

When we look back at that warm summer night in 2016, many of you were still in primary school. You may remember the unusual news on television, the worried expressions on the faces of your family members, the sound of fighter jets overhead, and the confusion in the streets. At that age, it was difficult to understand what was really happening. But as the years went by, you grew up; your perspective on the world, your country, and history changed. You have now reached an age where you can fully grasp, in all its reality, what was actually at stake that night and what was saved.

That night was the night when democracy—the sole guarantee that you can freely debate ideas in your schools today, fearlessly dream of your own future, and make your own decisions of your own free will—was fighting for its very survival.

From the Pages of History to the Streets

When we read about the Turkish War of Independence, the Battle of Gallipoli, and the extraordinary sacrifices people made for their country's freedom, we often think of these stories as chapters that belong only to history books. We tend to believe that such acts of courage are part of a distant past and that they could never happen again. However, the treacherous coup attempt by the FETÖ terrorist organisation proved to us all that the spirit of independence never sleeps in these lands, but merely waits to erupt like a volcano whenever the need arises. It has always remained alive, waiting to emerge whenever the country needs it most.

The people who stood in front of tanks, fighter jets, and armed soldiers that night were not superheroes wearing capes. They were your teachers, the baker from whom you bought bread every morning, your downstairs neighbour, and your own parents. Workers with calloused hands, civil servants in ties, and university students stood side by side that night. Their only weapon was their unshakeable belief that no human power could stand above their own free will and their love for their country.

Dear young people, as you walk through the corridors of your schools and dream freely in your classrooms today, remember the people who shed their blood on the streets that night, those who stood bravely in front of the tanks, and **Ömer Halisdemir**, who shot the traitor and walked towards martyrdom without hesitation. A country's greatest and strongest shield is not its weapons or border walls, but the noble blood that flows through the veins of its young people.

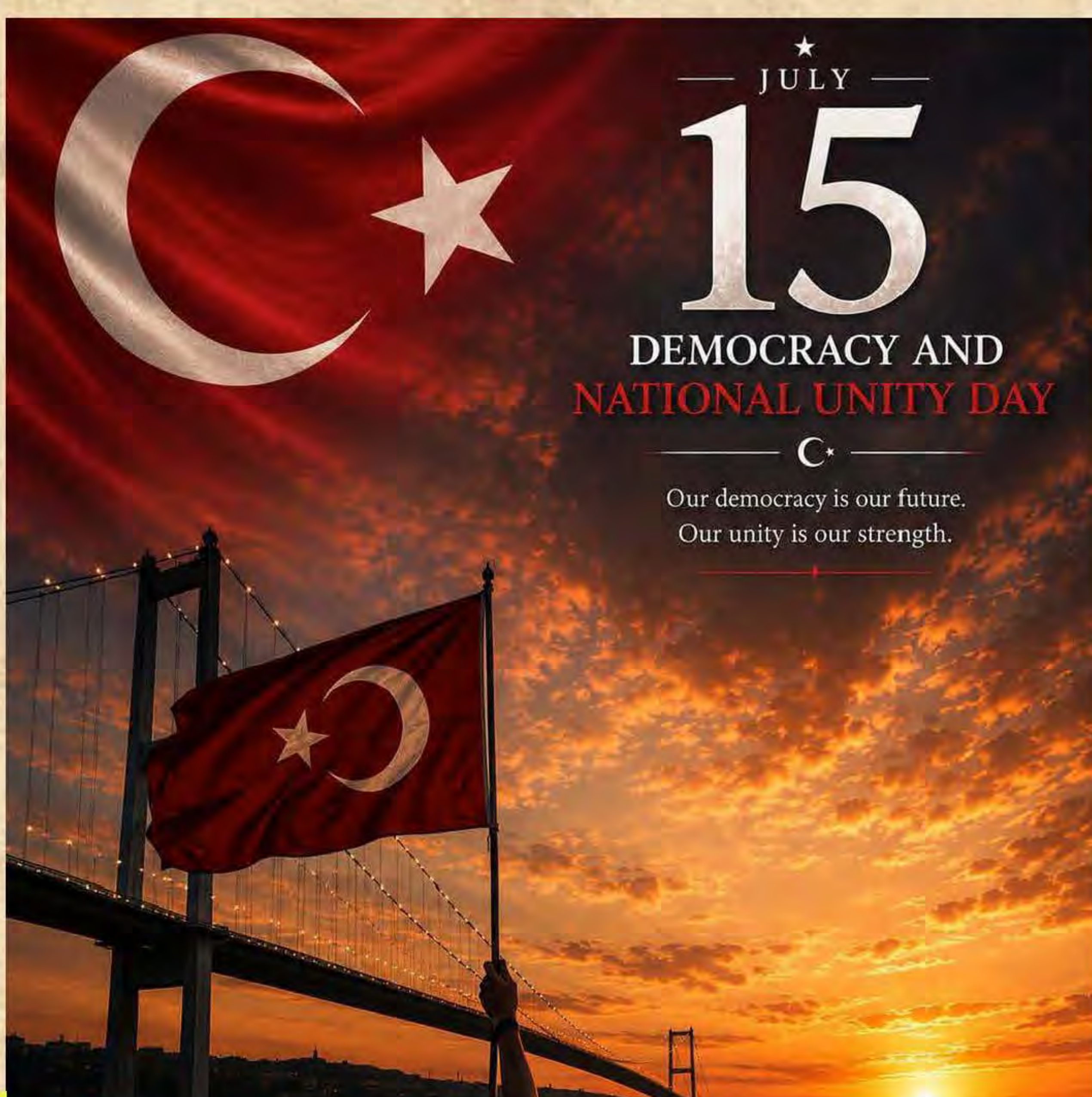
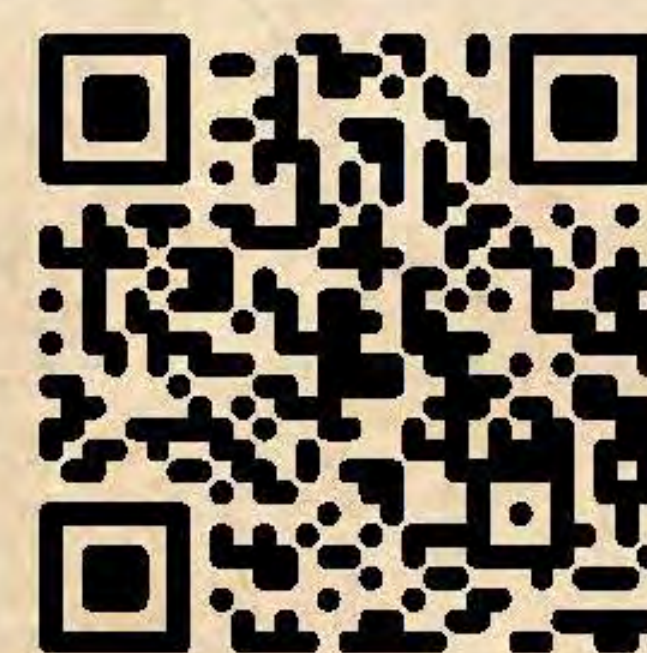
Keeping Your Mind and Conscience Free

The greatest strength of a nation is the clear and independent minds of its young people. There was a bitter truth behind FETÖ's attempt on July 15: A mindlessly obedient structure whose members unconditionally surrendered their reason, free will, and conscience to others.

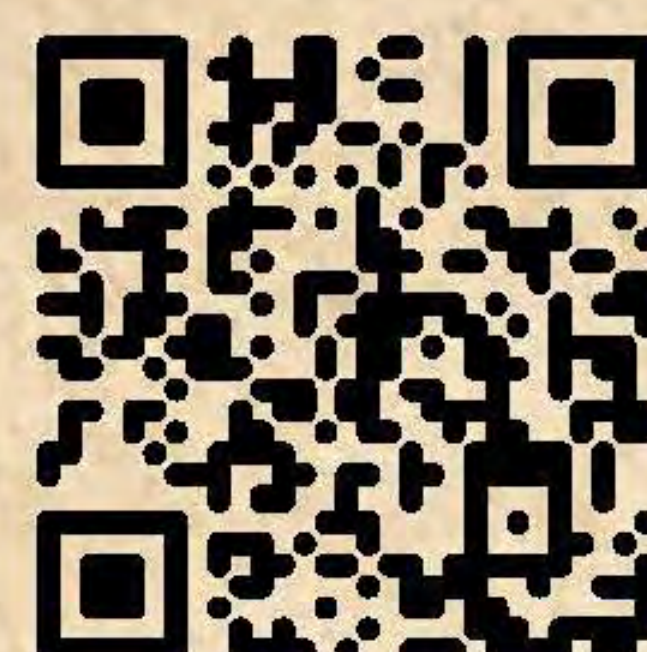
At this point, the terrible situation of that group of traitors offers an important lesson for us all. A person is truly human as long as they can think and question. The moment you allow someone else to think for you and make decisions on your behalf, you accept the greatest form of slavery. Growing up as generations with free minds, free consciences, and free understanding is the greatest and most lasting service you can offer this country and those who sacrificed their lives during the failed coup attempt on 15 July.

Your responsibility is not only to remember this important chapter in history but also to carry its lessons into the future. Just as countless people showed great courage in defending their country that night, you can protect your future by standing against ignorance, injustice, and every form of oppression. You will never allow any power to control your ideas, your will, or your conscience. Through knowledge, science, technology, and art, you will lead this country to the highest levels in the world. A person who truly loves their country fulfils their responsibilities, respects the rule of law, values human rights, protects the environment, and works for the benefit of society. These values form the foundation of a peaceful and secure future.

Remembering 15 July is not simply about recalling a single day in history. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the importance of democracy, the rule of law, national unity, and responsible citizenship. The lessons of the past guide us as we build a stronger future. Young people who understand their history, protect their shared values, and look to tomorrow with hope will continue to help Türkiye move forward with confidence.

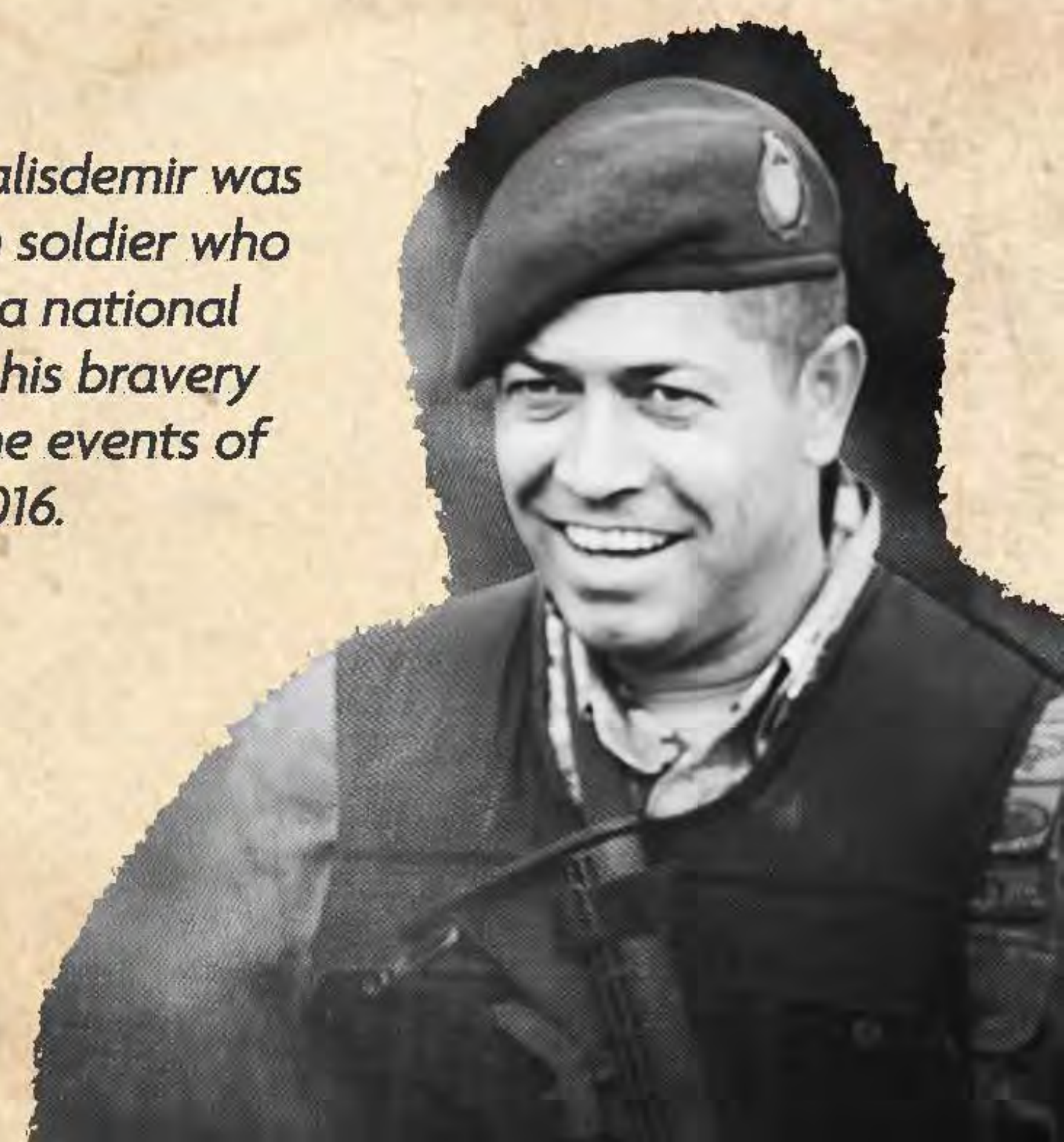


Scan the QR code to watch the 15th July movie.



Scan the QR code to watch the 15th July documentary.

Ömer Halisdemir was a Turkish soldier who became a national hero for his bravery during the events of July 15, 2016.





Democracy and National Unity Day

**THE WILL IS OURS,
THE VICTORY IS OURS!**



WHY HOBBIES, SPORTS AND ART MATTER



More Than Just Free Time

In today's busy world, many students spend most of their time studying or using their phones. While these are part of our daily lives, it is also very important to have hobbies and activities that make us feel happy and relaxed.

Stay Active, Feel Better

Doing sports is one of the best ways to stay healthy. It helps our bodies become stronger and gives us more energy. At the same time, sports can improve our mood and reduce stress. When we play a game or go for a run, we can forget our worries for a while and feel more positive.



Express Yourself Through Art

Art helps us express our thoughts and feelings. Drawing, painting, music, or photography allow us to share our ideas in creative ways. You don't have to be perfect—what matters is enjoying the process.



Personal Growth Starts Here

Hobbies are a powerful way to improve yourself. When you try something new, you step out of your comfort zone. This helps you become more confident and open to new experiences.

You also learn that mistakes are part of the learning process. This mindset makes you stronger not only in your hobbies but also in school and daily life.



Feel Better Inside

Hobbies support your emotional well-being. After a stressful day, doing something that you enjoy can help you relax and feel calm.



Produce, Don't Just Consume

Today, it is easy to spend hours on social media or watching videos. Instead of only consuming content, try creating something of your own. Make a short video, design a poster, write a blog, record a podcast, or build a simple app. Creating something gives you a sense of achievement and helps you develop valuable digital skills for the future.

Connect with Others

Joining a team or a group activity helps you meet new people. You learn how to communicate, cooperate, and build friendships.



Did You Know?

Students who have hobbies are often more motivated and successful at school. Because they learn how to focus, manage time, and stay positive.



Build Strong Life Skills

Hobbies teach many important skills:

- **Patience**
You learn to wait and improve step by step.
- **Discipline**
Regular practice helps you get better.
- **Problem-solving**
You find new ways to complete tasks.
- **Time management**
You balance school and free time.

TRY THIS WEEK!

Choose ONE activity and try it:

- ✓ Draw something you see every day
- ✓ Learn a new sport
- ✓ Create something using recycled materials



**So
This Summer
MOVE,
CREATE and
DISCOVER
WHAT YOU
LOVE!**

Hobbies, sports, and art
are not just ways to spend the time.
They help you grow, feel stronger,
and enjoy life more.

GOLDEN MOMENTS:

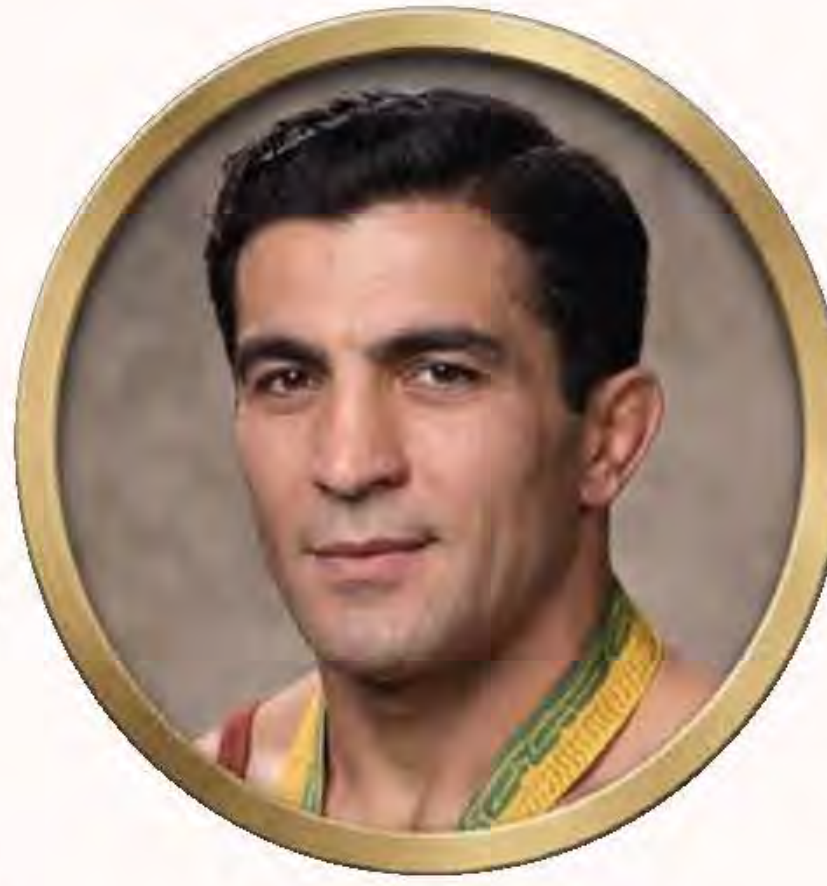
TÜRKİYE'S OLYMPIC JOURNEY

The Olympic Games are the highest level of international sports competition. Türkiye has a long and successful history in the Olympics, especially in wrestling and weightlifting. Behind every medal, there is a story of hard work, passion, and national pride. Here are our most important milestones that shaped our Olympic journey:

1936 – Berlin:

The First Gold Medal and a Historic Telegram

Yaşar Erkan won the gold medal in wrestling, becoming the very first Turkish athlete to win an Olympic gold medal. This was not just a sports victory; it was an incredibly proud moment for the newly founded Turkish Republic. After his victory, the founder of the Republic, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, sent him a special telegram to celebrate his success. Yaşar Erkan's achievement inspired future generations of Turkish wrestlers and contributed to Türkiye's growing reputation in the sport of wrestling.



CELAL ATİK



YAŞAR DOĞU



NASUH AKAR

1988 – Seoul:

The Legend of the Pocket Hercules

Naim Süleymanoğlu achieved something that seemed physically impossible. Although he was only 1.47 metres tall, he managed to lift three times his own body weight. This amazing physical strength earned him the famous nickname 'The Pocket Hercules'. In Seoul, he broke multiple world records and shocked the global audience. He won three Olympic gold medals in total (1988, 1992, 1996). Beyond his medals, he left a massive mark on the history of weightlifting.

1948 – London:

The Birth of a 'Wrestling Giant'

The 1948 London Olympics showed the entire world the true strength of Turkish wrestlers. Legendary athletes like Yaşar Doğu, Nasuh Akar, and Celal Atik led the national team to an unbelievable success. The Turkish team won 6 gold medals out of the 11 wrestling categories. After this incredible victory, the international sports media officially began to call Türkiye a 'wrestling giant'. This massive success brought immense joy and motivation to the country.

1992 – Barcelona:

A Historic Bronze Medal

Hülya Şenyurt made history at the 1992 Olympics by winning the bronze medal in judo. What makes her story truly amazing is that she was only 19 years old and had to compete against much older, highly experienced athletes. This was a very special moment because she was the first Turkish female athlete to step onto the Olympic podium. Her courage and discipline opened the door for future generations. She inspired thousands of young girls in Türkiye to believe in themselves and start doing sports.



HÜLYA ŞENYURT
(JUDOKA)

NAİM SÜLEYMANOĞLU
(POCKET HERCULES)

YAŞAR ERKAN
(BERLIN 1936)

THE FUTURE OF TURKISH SPORTS IS IN SAFE HANDS

2020 – Tokyo:

The Golden Archer and
Filenin Sultanları

Tokyo 2020 was a fantastic turning point for modern Turkish sports, and it brought incredible joy to the entire country. Mete Gazoz won the historic gold medal in archery. His iconic smile, his famous victory pose, and his incredible focus under heavy pressure made him an instant role model for millions of young people. He proved that with patience and calm nerves, any target can be reached.

In the same Olympics, the Women's National Volleyball Team, known as 'Filenin Sultanları' (The Sultans of the Net), made the whole country proud by reaching the quarter-finals. However, their amazing journey did not stop in Tokyo. In fact, 2023 became their golden year. First, they achieved great success by winning the FIVB Nations League. Then, just a few months later, they won the European Championship after a breathtaking final match. Thanks to these historic victories, they officially reached the number one spot in the world rankings.

The secret to their success is hard work, discipline, and a fantastic team spirit. Star players like Captain Eda Erdem, Melissa Vargas, and Zehra Güneş showed incredible performances on the court. With their powerful spikes and never-ending energy, they won the hearts of millions. During their matches, giant screens were set up in city squares across Türkiye, and people of all ages watched them with great excitement. Today, the 'Sultans' are more than just a volleyball team; they are a huge inspiration, especially for young girls. They showed the unifying power of sports and proved that Turkish women can reach the top of the world. They are true symbols of determination for everyone.



2024 – Paris:

Girl Power in the Ring and on the Mat

At the 2024 Paris Olympics, Turkish female athletes showed magnificent performances and proved their strength to the world once again. We witnessed the incredible rise of Turkish women in combat sports. The competition in Paris was extremely intense, but our athletes stayed completely focused and calm under pressure. Athletes like Buse Naz Çakıroğlu and Hatice Akbaş competed bravely against the toughest opponents in the world and won precious medals in boxing. Their technical movements, speed, and powerful punches were praised by international sports experts.

At the same time, Buse Tosun Çavuşoğlu won a historic bronze in wrestling after a series of very difficult and tiring matches. These strong women proved to the global audience that true success requires years of discipline, hard training, and a never-ending competitive spirit. They showed that barriers can be broken with determination. Through their historic achievements in France, they became the new heroes of Turkish sports history and bright role models for the next generation.

2028 – Los Angeles:

The Bright Future

The next stop for the Olympic flame is Los Angeles in 2028. Türkiye is preparing a very strong, energetic, and young squad for this massive global event. Our sports federations are already working very hard and organizing long training camps because we have great potential across many different sports. Fans and families are already counting down the days with great excitement. For example, our golden archer, Mete Gazoz, will aim for another gold medal with his historic focus, sharp intelligence, and calm nerves. He wants to make history once again under the bright lights of the USA.

Also, the Women's National Volleyball Team has a fantastic squad with wonderful young talents. After their unforgettable European and world championships, they are definitely one of the strongest favourites for a historic Olympic medal in Los Angeles, USA. Millions of fans will be in front of their screens to support them with passion. Moreover, we expect great success from our talented young boxers, wrestlers, and shooters who are currently breaking records in youth tournaments. These young stars are training day and night to represent our flag. With their hard work, non-stop discipline, and national passion, we believe the Turkish national anthem will be heard many times in the grand arenas of the USA. The future of Turkish sports is in safe hands, and our athletes are ready to write a new golden chapter.

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH:

A HISTORY OF THE FIFA WORLD CUP

The FIFA World Cup is the biggest sporting event in the world. It brings people from different countries and cultures together through the universal language of football. Here is how this amazing journey evolved from the past to the present:



1930

The Beginning

The story started in 1930. The very first tournament was held in Uruguay. Traveling across the world by ship was very difficult and expensive in those days, so only 13 teams participated. The host country, Uruguay, became the first world champion in history.



2000s-2020s

The Modern Era

In the 2000s, the World Cup travelled to new places. In 2002, it was held in Asia (South Korea and Japan) for the first time. In 2010, the tournament went to Africa. Today, technology plays a big role in football. Video referees help officials make decisions, and billions of people watch the matches on TV and online. With five championships, Brazil is still the most successful nation in the history of the tournament.

1950 World Cup in Brazil. However, the team could not travel to South America due to difficult global conditions and long travel distances.

Our first actual appearance on the World Cup stage was in Switzerland in 1954. The team played with great courage, and the most memorable moment was our historic 7-0 victory against South Korea.

The most legendary chapter in Turkish football history is undoubtedly the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan. Our players played wonderfully, reached the semi-finals, and eventually won the bronze medal by beating South Korea 3-2.



With this unforgettable victory, Türkiye officially became the third-best team in the world.

1940s-1950s

The Difficult Years and the Return

The tournament was planned to happen every four years. However, the world faced a dark time. Because of the Second World War, the games were cancelled in 1942 and 1946. Finally, the tournament returned to Brazil in 1950, and football fans celebrated together once again.

2026

The Biggest Tournament Yet

Now, we are in a new era. The 2026 World Cup in the USA, Canada, and Mexico is the biggest one in history. For the first time, 48 teams are competing for the cup. From a small tournament with 13 teams in 1930 to a massive global festival today, the World Cup continues to grow and unite the world.



1970s-1980s

Legends and the Golden Trophy

In the 1970s and 1980s, the World Cup became a truly global event. Fans watched legendary players like Pelé create magic on the field. Also, the iconic gold trophy that we know today was introduced in 1974. Every football player dreamed of lifting this beautiful prize.

Türkiye's Journey in the World Cup

Türkiye has a very proud, but sometimes unlucky, history in this massive global tournament. After the Second World War, our national team successfully qualified for the



After a long wait, our new generation of talented young stars successfully qualified for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Sadly, our 2026 adventure was very short. Although we had big dreams, we were very unlucky. We lost against Australia (2-0) and Paraguay (0-1) despite playing well and taking control of the matches. After these two unlucky defeats, Türkiye was unfortunately out of the World Cup. However, our young team did not give up. In our final group match on the 26th of June in Los Angeles, we played against the host nation, the United States. Our boys played with great passion and pride. In a thrilling and high-energy game, Türkiye defeated the USA 3-2. It was a wonderful victory that gave great joy to our fans before saying goodbye to the tournament. This final match proved once again that this young team has amazing potential. They will definitely learn from this experience and come back much stronger next time. We are always proud of 'Bizim Çocuklar' (Our Boys)!

Rising Strength:

The Journey of Türkiye's National Sitting Volleyball Teams

While winning is important, sport also teaches courage, determination, and inclusion. The achievements of Türkiye's national sitting volleyball teams show how sport can change lives and raise social awareness.

In recent years, Türkiye's national sitting volleyball teams, especially the men's sitting volleyball team, have shown significant progress in international competitions. Although they faced difficulties at the beginning, they never gave up.

One of the most remarkable achievements came in 2024, when the team won the Silver Nations League and the European Championship B Category without losing a single match. These successes prove that consistent effort brings progress over time. While the men's team has achieved

remarkable success, it is also vital to highlight the role of women in sitting volleyball. In 2025, Türkiye's national women's sitting volleyball team demonstrated their growing strength by finishing second in the European Sitting Volleyball Championship Division B—an outstanding achievement that reflects years of dedication and hard work. Their participation helps break stereotypes and inspires young girls to take part in sports.

Supporting both men's and women's teams is essential for building a more inclusive sporting culture. Another important aspect of this journey is social responsibility.

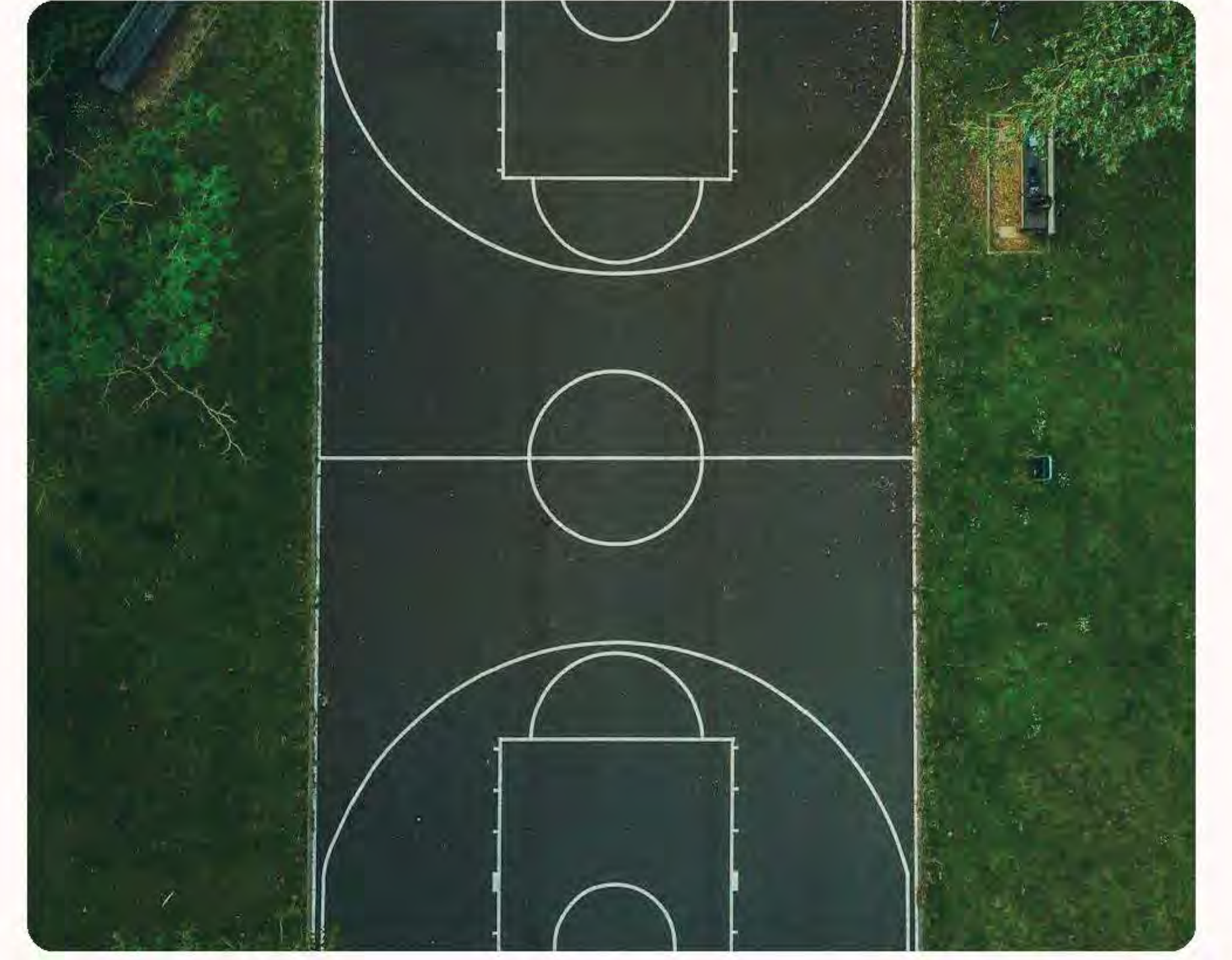
After the 2023 earthquake in Türkiye, the team visited cities such as Kahramanmaraş, Adıyaman, and Malatya to meet young people affected by the earthquake. They used sport

to encourage their social participation and well-being. This shows that sport is not only competitive but can also be healing and unifying.

Looking ahead, Türkiye's national sitting volleyball teams aim to reach higher levels in international competitions. With each competition, these teams grow stronger and their goals climb higher. They prove that with enough effort, no obstacle is truly impossible to overcome.

In conclusion, the story of Türkiye's national sitting volleyball teams is a powerful example of perseverance, development, and social awareness. These athletes represent our country with pride and remind us that the greatest victories are not always measured in medals.





Step Onto the Court: A Guide to Basketball Refereeing

Do You Love Basketball and Want to Stay Close to
the Game in a **Different Way**?



Then, You Already Have **the First Requirement**
to Be a Referee!

Basketball Refereeing is a **Fantastic Way** to
Remain Involved in the Sport You Love

The Core Skills of a Referee

To be a successful referee, you need three main skills: making decisions under pressure, being aware of your responsibilities, and mastering the rules of the game. In addition to these, a high school degree is required to become a basketball referee. Their role is to maintain order on the court and ensure that the game is played fairly.



How to Become a Referee: Requirements & Process

1. Candidate Requirements

Citizenship: Turkish citizen

Education: High school graduate (or equivalent)

Age Limit: Under 30 years old (waived for former national, professional, or 5-year licensed players)

Health: Medically fit (requires a doctor's report)

Background: Disciplinary and disciplinary record

2. Certification Process

Attend a Course: Join a local/TBF Candidate Referee Course.

Pass the Tests: Successfully complete the written exam and the physical fitness (running) test.

Get Assigned: Receive match assignments from local representatives to start your career.

NOTE

Please follow the current announcements on the official website of the Turkish Basketball Federation (TBF) for the most up-to-date information and course dates.

On-Court and Off-Court Duties

Depending on the match level, basketball games feature either two court referees and three table officials (youth games) or three court referees and three table officials (higher-level matches). While the table officials are responsible for recording the score and managing the game and shot clocks, the court referees divide the court into areas to monitor player movements and stop play when rule violations occur to ensure fairness.



Why Should You Become a Referee?

- **Confidence and Leadership Development:** Taking responsibility on the court helps you build self-confidence. You learn how to stay calm under pressure, make quick decisions, and develop strong leadership skills.
- **Health and Fitness:** Referees stay active and healthy. They run constantly during the match and train when there is no game. Every season, you take physical tests to make sure you are fit.
- **Social Connections:** It is not just about blowing a whistle. Outside of match hours, you can meet new people from different professions and build a strong social network.

Challenges and Solutions

Is everything always perfect on the court?

Of Course Not!

Players and coaches may object to your decisions or put pressure on you. You can overcome these challenges by knowing the rules well, applying them fairly, and using good communication skills.

Not interested in running on the court?

You can still be part of the excitement as a table official, which is also a great way to earn extra income.

“
Are you ready
to make a
difference after
graduation?
*You can step onto
the court, take the
whistle, and then
the journey will
start!*

”



Note: Refereeing is not usually a primary, full-time career for a lifetime, but it is a highly rewarding part-time opportunity during your youth and university years.

HIT THE ROAD. THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR TRAVELLERS

Travelling is one of the best ways to learn about different places beyond your textbooks. Whether you are heading to a historical site in Anatolia, going on a school trip, or visiting relatives in another city, a good journey starts with a smart plan.



From stations to coach journeys, here are some useful tips for your next adventure!

1.

Before You Set Off:

The Game Plan

A great holiday is not just about the destination; it is about the memories you make along the way. That's why good planning is the first step to making unforgettable memories.

Offline Maps are Life-Savers:

You might lose your mobile signal on mountain roads or between cities. Download 'Offline Maps' so you can always find your way when you are not able to access the Internet.



The Power of Student Status:

Always keep your student ID card with you! In Türkiye and many countries, it gives you brilliant discounts at museums, national parks, and even on trains.



Check the Weather Forecast:

Do not just look at the daytime temperature. If you are travelling by coach or train at night, it can get much colder than you expect.



2.

Packing Like a Pro:

What's in the Bag?

When travelling by land, you have plenty of flexibility, but here is the golden rule: Only pack what you can easily carry! You don't want to be exhausted before you even arrive at the place you will stay.

The Essentials

(Do not leave home without these):

A Reliable Power Bank:

Between taking photos and checking maps, your battery will go flat quickly. Keep your phone charged for the whole journey!



Reusable Water Bottle:

It is better for the environment and much cheaper than buying plastic bottles at every motorway service station.

Personal Hygiene Kit:

Pack a small pouch with hand sanitiser, wet wipes, and tissues. These can be extremely useful during long road trips.



Pack Right:**For Nature & Hiking:**

Pack thick woolly socks and a raincoat. Weather in the mountains can change quickly, even in the middle of summer.

For City Tours:

Your most comfortable trainers are your best friends. You'll be exploring museums and historical streets all day, so leave the uncomfortable shoes at home.

For the Creative Soul:

Bring a small journal or sketchbook. Use it to write down interesting moments, sketch what you see, or collect tickets and small souvenirs from your journey!

Long journeys can be a bit dull if you are not prepared.

3.**On the Road: Coach & Train Survival****The 'Snack Attack' Bag:**

Shops at service stations can be quite pricey. Pack some nuts, fruit, or a homemade sandwich to keep your energy up.

Entertainment:

Download your favourite podcasts, films, or an e-book. If you're travelling with friends or family members, word games or travel riddles are a great way to spend the time together.

Comfort is Key:

Wear loose clothes like hoodies or tracksuits. If it's a long overnight journey, a small travel pillow will comfort your neck.

4.**Safety & Responsibility****Keep Someone Informed:**

Always let your parents or teachers know where you are. Send a quick 'live location' using a mobile application when you reach a new stop.

Organise Your Money:

Split your cash. Keep some in your wallet and a 'backup' amount in a different pocket of your bag just in case.

Be a Conscious Traveller:

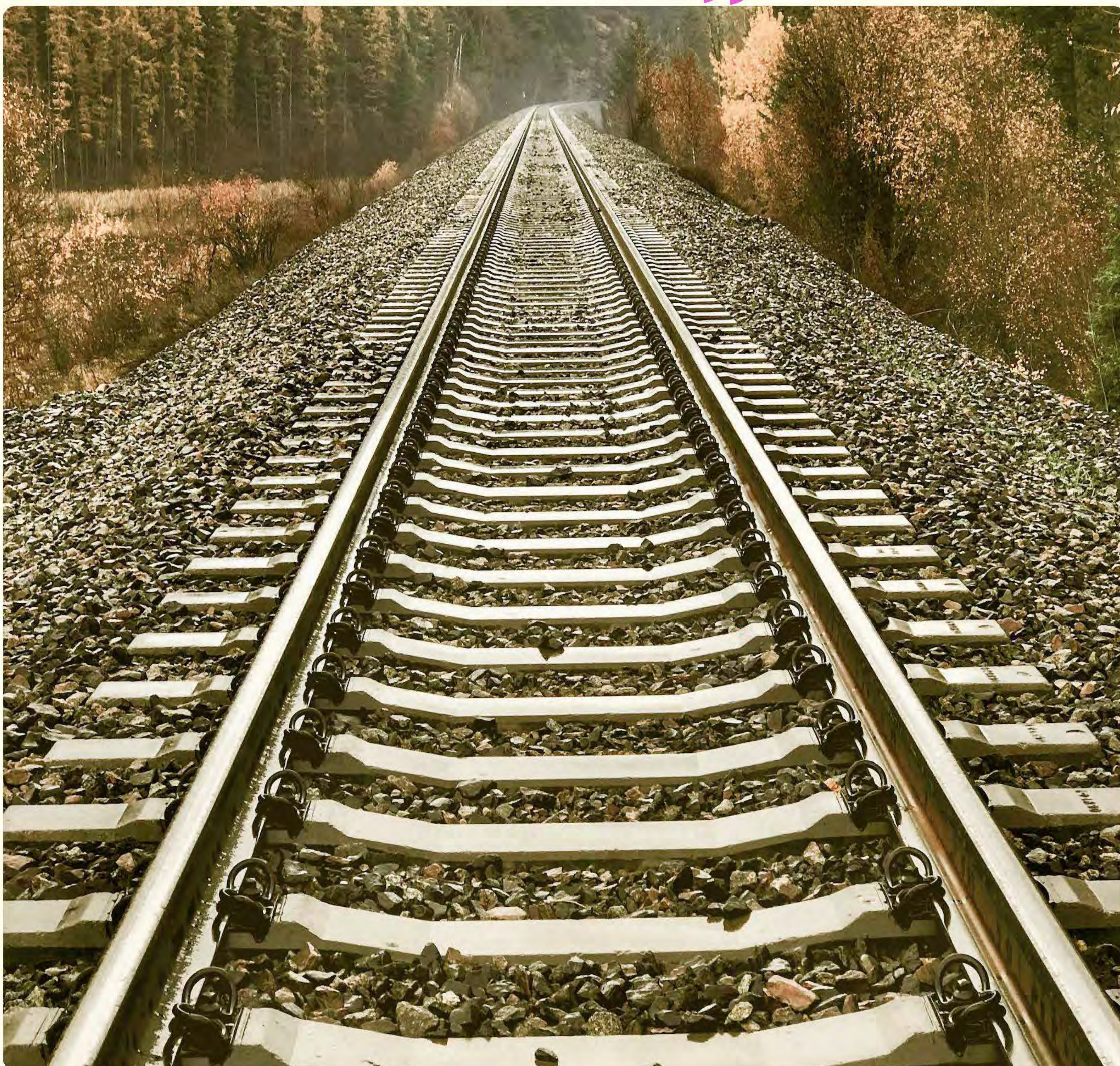
Take photos, leave only footprints. Never leave rubbish behind at rest areas or historical sites.

READY TO GO?

Grab your kit, invite your best friends, cousins, or family members, and start exploring! The adventure is waiting for you.

**TIP:**

Always write down emergency and important phone numbers on a piece of paper in case your phone gets lost or the battery runs out. Even better, memorise at least one key number—you never know when your own memory will be your only backup!





TIPS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

Take Better Photos with Your Phone

“ You already have a great camera in your pocket. But here’s the truth: amazing photos are not about the phone; they are about creativity and technique. ”

Let’s level up your photos with some tricks most people don’t know!

1-The Power of Good Lighting

- Try to keep the light in front of your subject instead of behind them.
- If the sun is behind your subject, tap the screen and lower the brightness. You get a dramatic silhouette.



Secret tip:

Use your hand to soften strong sunlight entering the lens. This gives a softer light on the face.

2-Photographing Large Buildings

Tall buildings often look boring in photos. Try this:

- Go very close and shoot from a low angle.
- Stand in the centre for a more symmetrical photo.
- Include a person in the photo, as it shows how big the building is.



Secret tip:

Tilt your phone slightly upwards to create a powerful, tall effect.

3-Selfie Glow-Up Tips

Most selfies look the same. Make yours better:

- Turn your face slightly to the side instead of looking straight ahead.
- Hold your phone a little higher than eye level.
- Use window light, not room light.



Secret tip:

Look just next to the camera, not directly into it. It looks more natural!

4-Create 'WOW' Illusion Photos

This is where photography becomes really fun:

- Make it look like you are holding the sun.
- Pretend to push a building or 'hold' it.
- Use distance to create fake size effects.



Secret tip:

Use forced perspective photography trick to make ordinary scenes look surprising and creative.

5-Shoot Objects from Crazy Angles

Don't always shoot from eye level! Put your phone on the ground.

- Shoot from above (top view).
- Go closer to show details.



Secret tip:

Move around the object. The best angle is often not the first one!

6-The Hidden Composition Trick

Yes, use the grid—but also try this:

- Leave empty space around your subject.
- Make your photo look clean and modern.

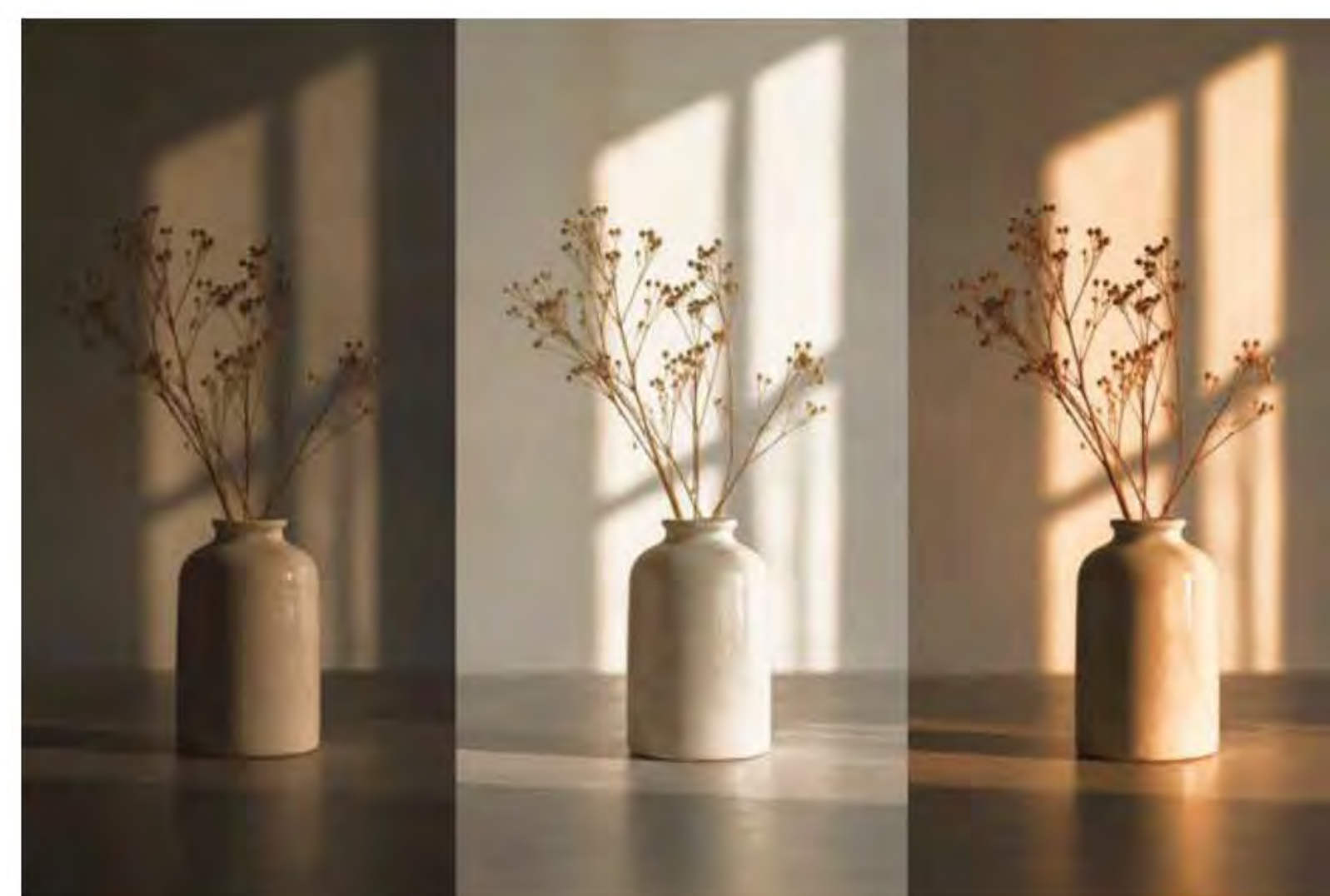


Secret tip:

Keep in mind that simple photos often look more powerful than complicated ones.

7-Edit Like a Pro (Without Overdoing It)

- Fix brightness and shadows.
- Straighten your photo.
- Keep colours natural.



Secret tip:

Lower the brightness a little after editing. It adds a cinematic mood.

GET READY FOR A CHALLENGE (NEXT LEVEL!)

Pick ONE object and try:

⇒ 2 creative light shots

⇒ 3 normal photos

⇒ 3 from different angles

⇒ 2 illusion photos

Compare them. Which one looks the most interesting?



Final tip:

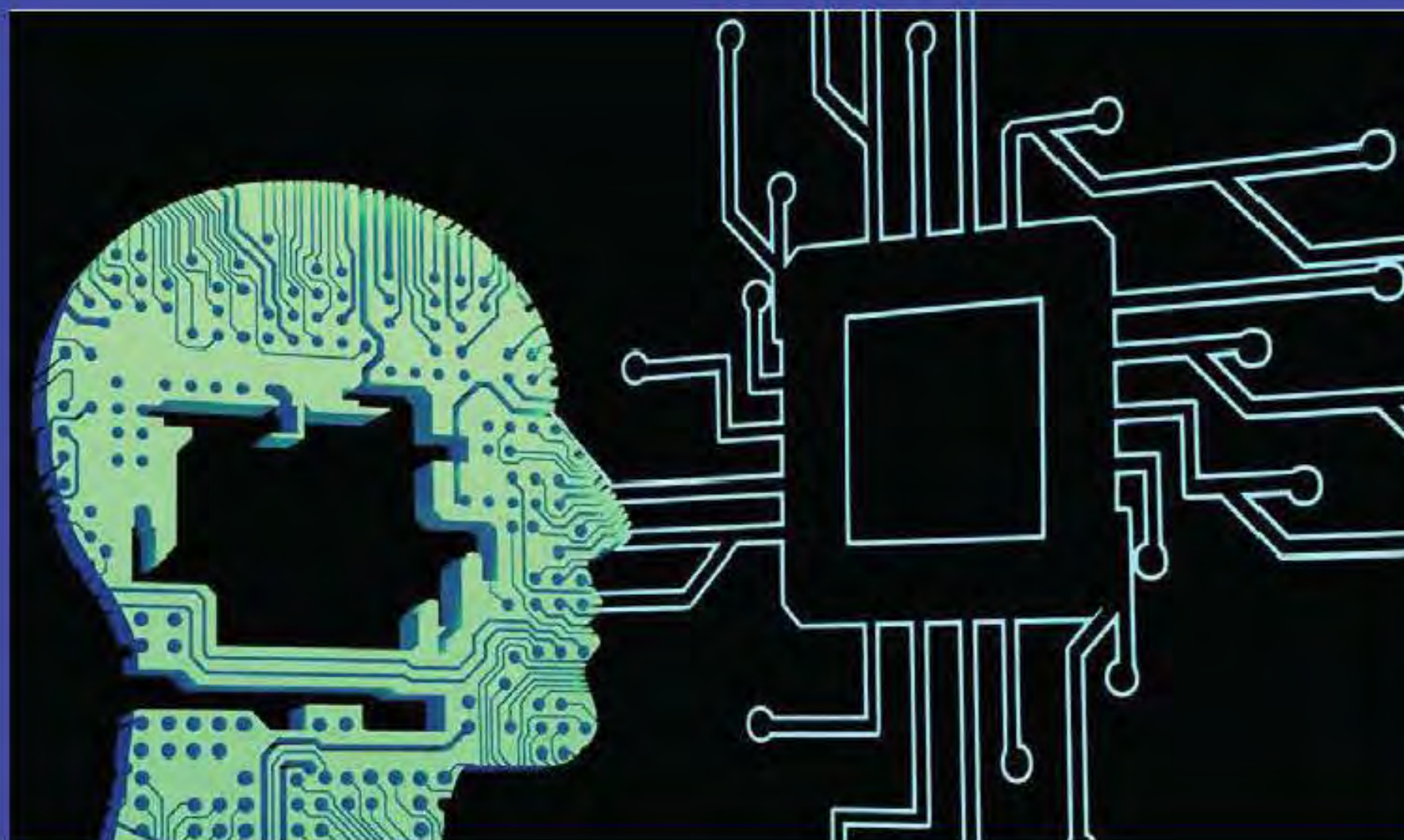
Don't just take photos. Experiment with them. Try new ideas. Break the rules.

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Art

In recent years, technology has changed how we live, work, and even how we create. One of the most talked-about topics in schools and galleries today is the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the world of art. While some people are excited about these new tools, others are worried about what they mean for human creativity.

How Does AI Art Work?

AI does not 'think' like a person. Instead, it uses complex algorithms to look at millions of existing paintings and photos. When a user enters a prompt, the AI 'generates' a new image based on what it has learnt. Many students now use these tools to create posters or social media graphics in seconds. It is a very accessible way to make something beautiful without needing years of training.



You can get an AI generated image like the picture above if you enter a similar prompt like this: "A dramatic, artistic composition showing human and machine collaboration. On the left, a human hand covered in messy, colourful oil paint reaches out. On the right side, a sleek robotic hand made of white metal and glowing blue circuits mirrors the pose, holding a glowing digital brush. The background is a blend of a classic Renaissance art studio and a modern digital code matrix. Masterpiece, dramatic lighting and concept art."

AI in the art world is very new, and it makes us think a lot. AI does not have human feelings or real life experiences. A computer can look at many old paintings and make a beautiful new picture. But, it cannot feel sad or happy. It does not have a real soul. Because of this, AI art can look very good, but it does not tell a real human story.

On the other hand, we should not see AI as a bad thing. It is a new digital tool for artists. In the future, artists will use AI to help them. They will find new colors and shapes with it. A long time ago, the camera did not stop people from painting. AI will not stop artists, either. It will help them tell different stories. In the end, art is always about people and their feelings.

The Future of the Gallery

Will AI replace human painters? Most experts say no. Just as the invention of the camera did not stop people from painting, AI will likely become another tool in the artist's kit. However, it means that 'human-made' art might become even more valuable in the future because it represents a real person's hard work and emotion.

"Art is a conversation between two humans," and technology should simply be the bridge that connects them. In conclusion, AI is transforming the art world. It offers amazing new possibilities for 'innovation', but we must remember to protect the rights and the unique voices of human creators. As high school students, you are the next generation of artists, and you get to decide how to use these powerful tools responsibly.



The Benefits and Challenges

There are two sides to this digital revolution. On one hand, AI acts as a 'collaborator'. It can help artists brainstorm new ideas or finish repetitive tasks quickly. Because the computer is just following patterns, it does not have any personal feelings or experiences. There is also a big debate about 'originality'. If an AI creates a picture using the styles of thousands of human artists, who does the artwork really belong to?

My Monitoring Module: Digital Guidance and Smart Tracking in Student Success

MEBi





DIY Projects with Recycled Materials

You might be surprised by what you can create!

You don't need expensive materials to be creative. Sometimes, the best ideas come from things we usually throw away. Plastic bottles, old newspapers, jars, or boxes can turn into something fun and useful. Doing DIY (Do-It-Yourself) projects is a great way to relax, learn new skills, and protect the environment at the same time. This summer, instead of saying "I'm bored", try making something with your own hands.

EASY PROJECTS

Plastic Bottle Plant Pot



You need:

- An empty plastic bottle
- Scissors
- Paint or markers
- Soil and a small plant

Steps:

- Cut the bottle in half.
- Decorate it with colours or draw a face.
- Add soil and place your plant inside.
- Water it and watch it grow!

Jar Pencil Holder



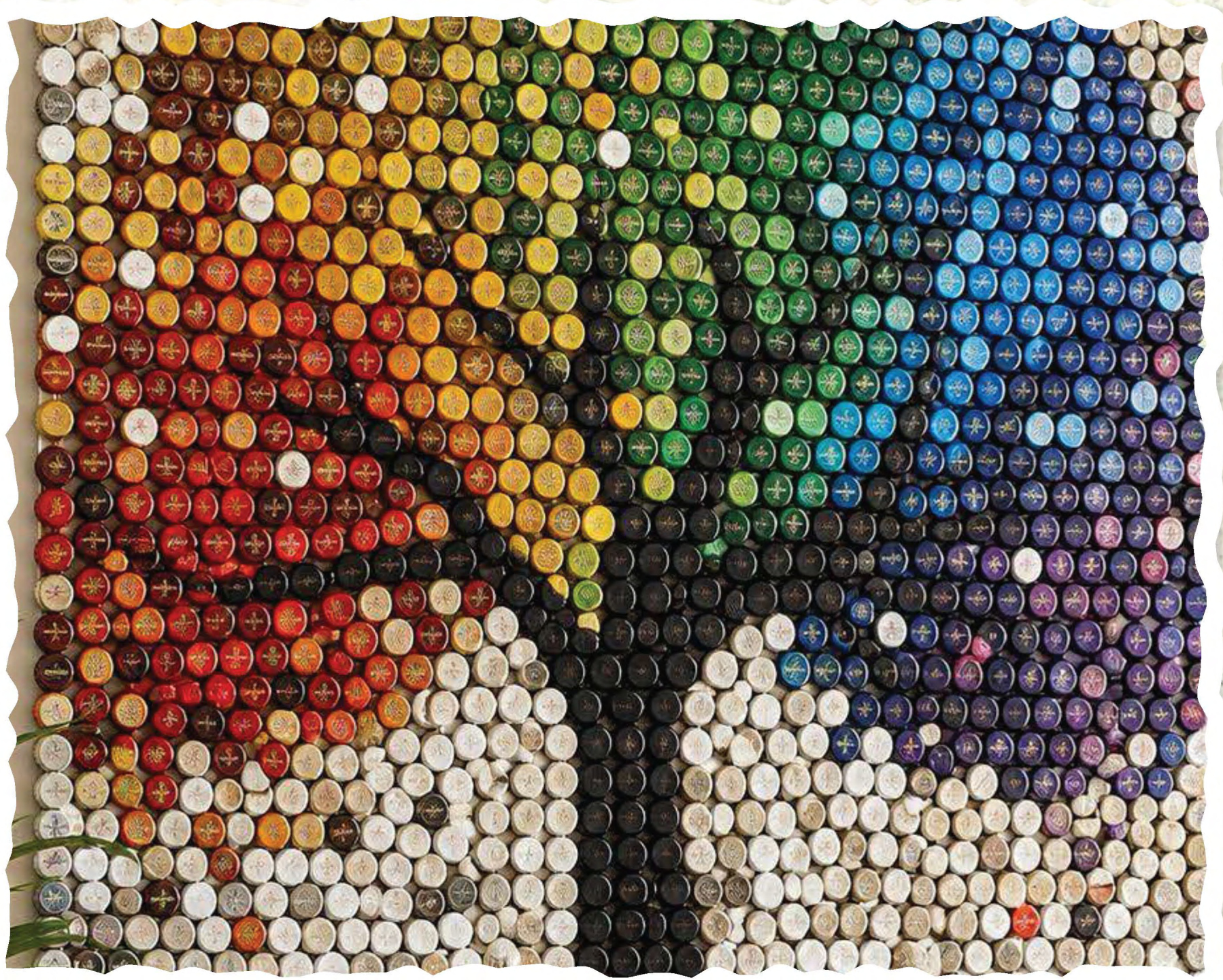
You need:

- An old jar
- Paper, fabric, or rope
- Glue

Steps:

- Clean the jar.
- Cover it with paper, fabric, or rope.
- Decorate it as you like.
- Use it to keep your pens and pencils.

Bottle Cap Art



You need:

- Bottle Caps
- Glue
- Cardboard

Steps:

- Collect colourful bottle caps or make them colourful.
- Glue them on cardboard.
- Create a picture or pattern.

Newspaper Gift Bag

You need:

- Old newspapers
- Tape or glue
- String, ribbon



Steps:

- Choose 2–3 sheets of newspaper and place them on top of each other to make the bag stronger.
- Fold the paper in half (like a book) to create the front and back sides of the bag.
- Fold both sides inward (about 4–5 cm) to create the side panels of the bag.
- Make two small holes on each side and attach a string or ribbon to create handles.
- You can add drawings, stickers, or small tags to make your bag more colourful.

T-shirt Tote Bag (No Sewing!)



You need:

- An old T-shirt
- Scissors

Steps:

- Cut off the sleeves.
- Cut the neck to make a wider opening.
- Tie the bottom with knots.
- Your bag is ready!

Cardboard Phone Stand

You need:

- A small cardboard box
- Scissors
- Tape



Steps:

- Cut two pieces of cardboard. One piece should have a small slot at the bottom.
- Make sure both pieces are the same size. One can have a slightly curved top.
- Insert one piece into the slot of the other piece.
- Gently open the cardboard to form a triangle shape.
- Fold a small piece at the front to support your phone.
- Make sure the stand is strong and does not move.
- Draw or add stickers to make it more fun.
- Put your phone on the stand.
- Now your phone stand is ready to use!

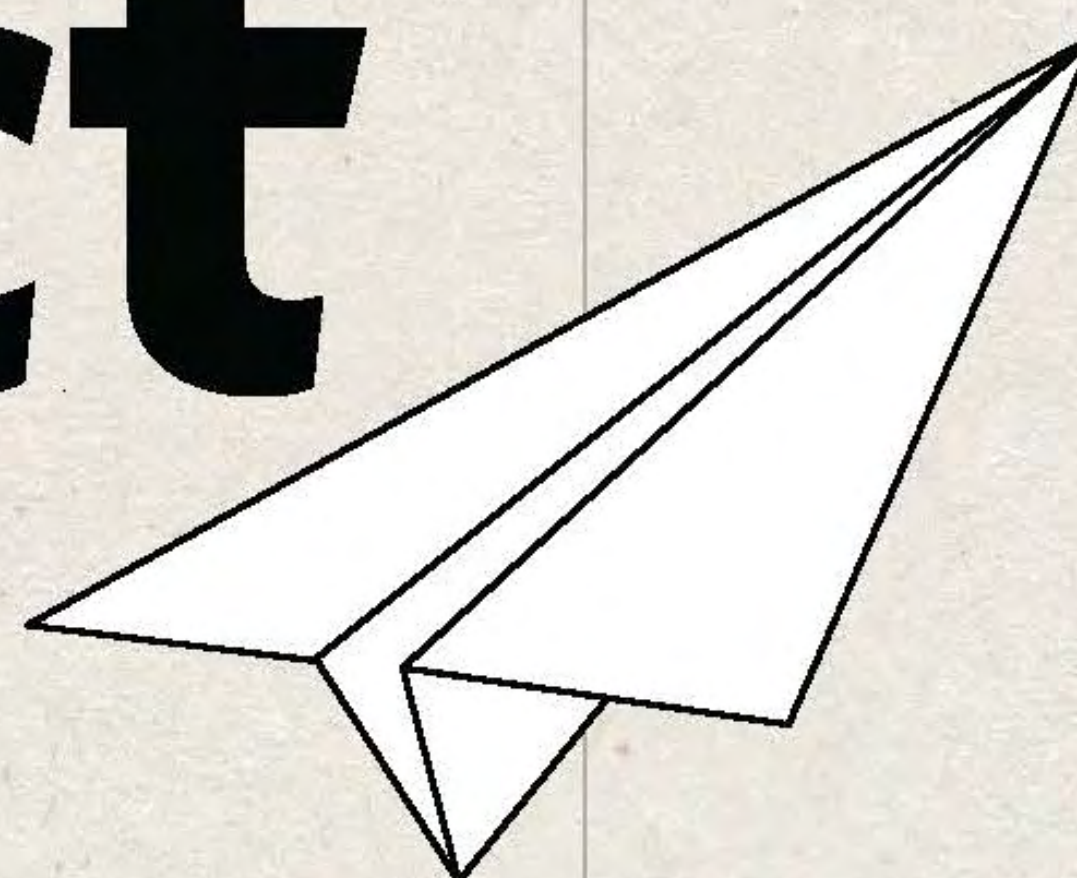


ATTENTION:

Be careful when cutting plastic bottles, using scissors, glass jars, and glue.

Small Actions,

Big Impact



Reusing materials helps reduce waste and protect our planet.

Every small action matters.



So, what will you design this summer?

Ink and Elegance: The Art of Calligraphy

What is Calligraphy?

Calligraphy is the art of 'beautiful writing'. In Turkish, we call it *Hat Sanatı*. It is more than just writing words; it combines writing and visual art. For hundreds of years, artists have used this art to decorate books, mosques, and palaces.

İstanbul: During the Ottoman period, İstanbul became the centre of this art. There is a famous saying: "The Quran was revealed in Hejaz, recited in Egypt, and written in İstanbul."

Essential Materials

A calligrapher uses special traditional tools:

Reed Pen: This is a pen made from a dried reed. The calligrapher cuts the tip at a special angle.

Soot Ink: This natural ink is made from the soot of oil lamps. It lasts for hundreds of years.

The Inkwell: Inside the inkwell, there is raw silk (Lika). It helps the pen take just the right amount of ink.

Polished Paper: This handmade paper is very smooth. If the artist makes a mistake, they can carefully remove small mistakes with water.

How to Become a Master

To become a *Hattat*, you must find a master. This is called the 'Master-Apprentice' tradition. The tradition follows strict rules. The size of every letter is measured by dots. This helps create balance and harmony in the writing. Also, the artist must be very calm and breathe slowly while writing. After 5 to 10 years of practice, the student receives a diploma called an *İcazet*. Without this, you cannot sign your work.



Calligraphy Today

Today, calligraphy is still popular in the modern world. Some artists mix traditional writing with modern painting. This is sometimes called 'Calligraffiti'. You can see these designs in cafes, hotels, and galleries. If you want to see the best examples of calligraphy, there are several important places:

Sakıp Sabancı Museum (İstanbul):

This museum has one of the best calligraphy collections in the world. You can see very old and beautiful manuscripts here.

The Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts (İbrahim Paşa Palace):

Located in Sultanahmet, this museum has very rare and ancient examples of the Quran and imperial documents.

IRCICA (Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture):

They organise international calligraphy competitions every few years. Artists from countries ranging from Malaysia to Morocco send their work to İstanbul.

Temporary Exhibitions:

Many cultural centres in cities like İstanbul, Ankara, and Bursa organise modern calligraphy exhibitions. You can often find them in places like the **Atatürk Cultural Centre (AKM)**.



Nowadays, you can follow platforms like 'Yeditepe Bienali' or museum websites to see current exhibition dates. Digital technology also helps; some museums now have virtual tours where you can see calligraphy masterpieces from your computer.

In conclusion, calligraphy is a peaceful art in a fast world.

IT TEACHES US
PATIENCE AND
BEAUTY.



Scan the QR code to
take virtual tour.

Ebru

THE ELEGANT DANCE OF COLOURS ON WATER



Scan the QR code to watch the documentary.

Imagine you are a painter, but you do not have a normal canvas. Instead of fabric, paper, or a wall, your canvas is a tray filled with liquid.

You carefully drop colours onto the surface and watch them move slowly across the water. Then, with gentle hand movements, you shape the colours into patterns and transfer them onto paper. This is the world of *Ebru* art.



Unlike traditional painting techniques where colours are applied directly to a solid surface, *Ebru* is created on a liquid base. Because the water is always moving, every design becomes different. Every *Ebru* creation has its own identity.

Known internationally as paper marbling, *Ebru* is one of Türkiye's most famous traditional arts. With its flowing colours and unique patterns, this art form continues to attract both artists and young learners today.

From Central Asia to Istanbul

The word *Ebru* is believed to come from a Persian word related to cloud, which reflects the soft and flowing patterns of this art. Experts believe that *Ebru* first appeared in Central Asia and later spread to Anatolia through cultural exchange and trade routes.

During the Ottoman period, it became an important decorative art used in books, calligraphy works, and official documents. Over time, several masters helped develop and preserve this traditional art. One of the best-known names is Necmeddin Okyay, who became famous for floral *Ebru* designs.

Another important master was Mustafa Düzgünman, who trained many students and continued traditional techniques. Earlier masters such as Hatip Mehmet Efendi also played an important role in the development of *Ebru* art.

In 2014, *Ebru* was added to the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO, helping more people around the world learn about this traditional Turkish art.



More Than Paint and Water

Designing an *Ebru* pattern requires balance, careful movements, and attention to detail. The process begins with a wide tray, traditionally called a *tekne*, filled with specially prepared water thickened with natural substances. Artists add a natural substance called *kitre* to make the water denser so that the colours can stay on the surface instead of sinking.



Scan the QR code to discover more.





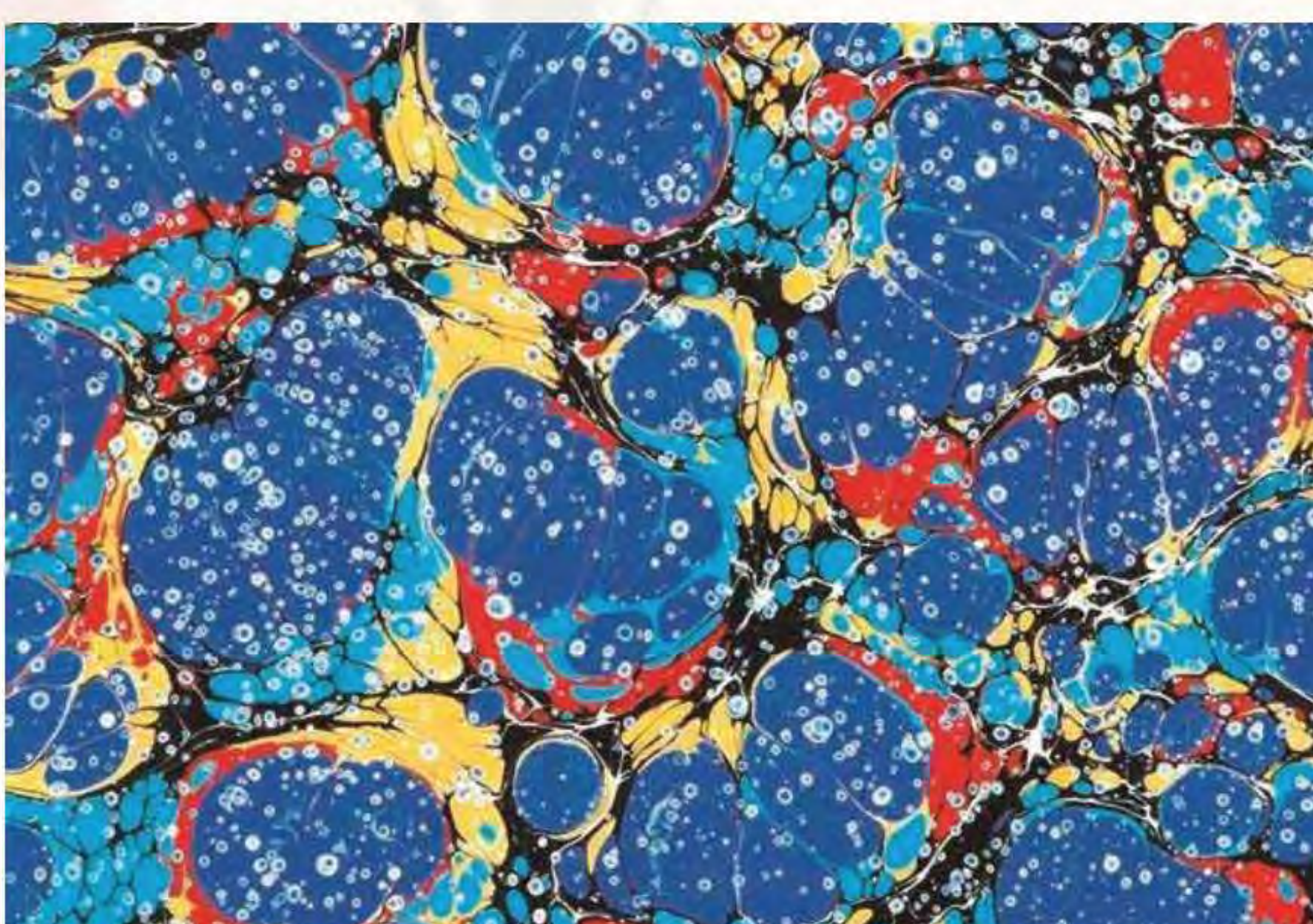
Traditional *Ebru* colours are usually prepared from natural pigments obtained from soil, stones, and minerals. The most commonly used colours are blue, red, green, yellow, and brown. These natural pigments give *Ebru* its soft and balanced appearance.

Next, the colours are gently dropped onto the surface using handmade brushes traditionally made from rose branches and horsehair.

Another important ingredient, ox gall, helps the colours spread smoothly across the surface without mixing too quickly. In this way, *Ebru* combines artistic skill with a careful balance of chemistry.

Patterns in Motion

After the colours begin to float on the surface, the artist shapes them using thin metal tools called *biz* or special combs. Different hand movements create different patterns and flowing lines. If you try *Ebru* yourself, you quickly notice that even small movements can completely change the design on the water.

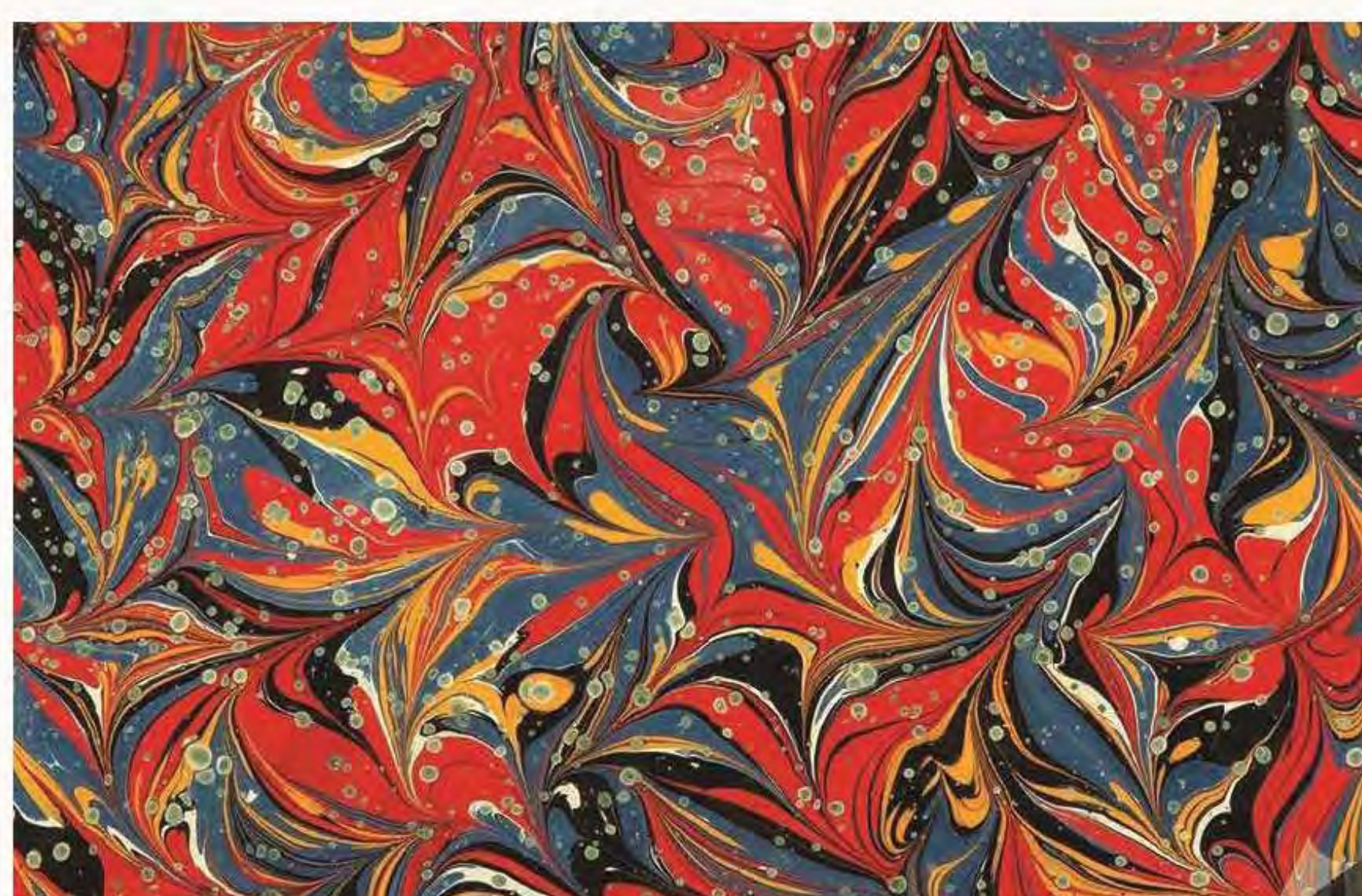


Battal Ebru



Taraklı Ebru

Over time, artists developed traditional styles such as *Battal Ebru*, *Gel-Git Ebru*, *Taraklı Ebru*, *Şal Ebru*, and *Bülbül Yuvası Ebru*. *Battal Ebru* is known for its large and scattered patterns, while *Gel-Git Ebru* creates wave-like movements across the surface. *Taraklı Ebru* uses special combs to form repeating lines, and *Bülbül Yuvası Ebru* features spiral shapes created through circular hand movements. Floral designs featuring tulips, roses, and carnations later became especially popular with masters such as Necmeddin Okyay.



Şal Ebru

The final and most critical stage is the transfer. A sheet of paper is carefully placed over the water's surface. After a few seconds, the paper is lifted from the tray, and the design is permanently captured on the paper. The paper is then left to dry, resulting in a unique work that reflects the balance between human skill and the laws of nature.

A Tradition Still Alive

Today, *Ebru* continues to attract people of all ages, especially young learners who are interested in art, culture, and hands-on experiences. In a world filled with fast digital content and constant screen time, *Ebru* offers a slower and more careful way of expressing ideas through colour and pattern. Although *Ebru* has a history that goes back centuries, its flowing colours and unique patterns still attract people today and help new generations connect with art and cultural heritage in a meaningful way.

Scan the QR code to discover more.



THE SILENT LANGUAGE OF ANATOLIA



FROM ANATOLIA TO EUROPEAN PALACES

This beautiful Anatolian tradition reached its highest level in one special place. In the 15th century, Uşak became the centre of carpet weaving. Artists in the Ottoman palaces drew the designs, and talented weavers in Uşak turned them into special pieces of art. Later, in the 16th century, these carpets were exported to Europe through the Port of İzmir. Kings and rich families in the West loved them deeply. Europeans called them 'İzmir Carpets'. Because they were so beautiful and valuable, people did not want to put them on the floor. Instead, they became a strong sign of power, wealth, and high status. Famous painters of that time even included Uşak carpets in their paintings of kings and important people to show their greatness. Today, you can see these priceless carpets in the most famous museums in the world, like the Louvre in Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

THE STORY OF WEAVING

Weaving is one of the oldest arts in history. In Anatolia, its story goes back thousands of years—from nomadic tents to Ottoman palaces. It started as a basic need to survive, but it became something very special. Anatolian women do not just make carpets; they also tell stories of their culture and history through their work. This is why every carpet is actually a living artwork. Colours and patterns are words in this language. For example, a tree pattern may represent hope or a wish for a long life. A bird can have different meanings, like happiness or good news. Flowers can often be linked to a rich or full life. The colour **red** can show strength and love. **Blue** can show peace, trust, and protection from bad things. **Green** can represent hope and freshness, and **yellow** can show the sun, light, and wealth. These meanings can be different in each region or family.



Detail from The Ambassadors by Hans Holbein (1533)

FAMOUS UŞAK CARPETS

Uşak carpets reached their golden age during the rule of Suleiman the Magnificent. Artists in the Ottoman palace drew their beautiful designs. Today, people know these carpets mostly for these famous styles:

1. Two Main Types Of Classic Uşak Carpets

Medallion Uşak Carpets



These carpets have a large central medallion that shows the endless power of the empire. These carpets were made only for palaces, so they could be over 20 metres long.

2. Carpets Named After European Painters

Lotto Carpets



These carpets get their name from Lorenzo Lotto, a famous painter from Venice. They mix patterns like birds, dragons, and the tree of life. Together, they tell a deep story about the endless circle of life.

Star Uşak Carpets



These carpets have dark blue or yellow stars with six or eight points. These patterns show the endless balance of the universe. European kings loved them, so you can still see these carpets in many old palaces today.

Holbein Carpets

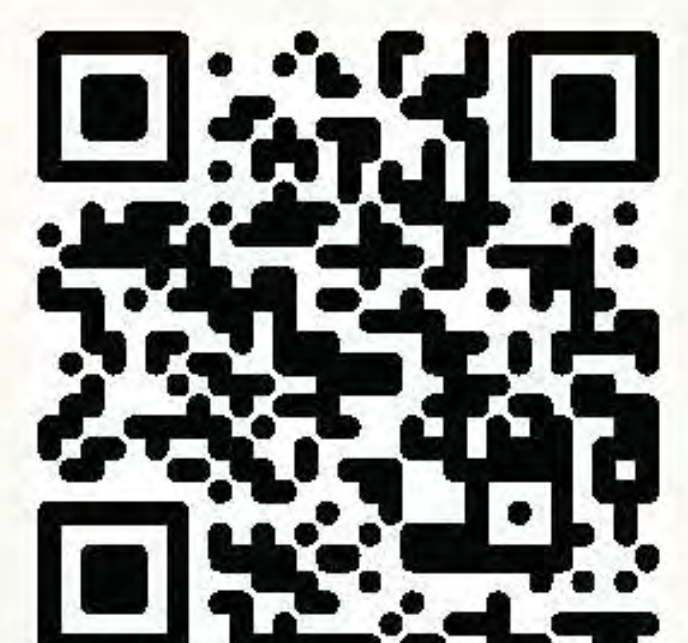


These carpets show power and beauty with their geometric shapes. They appear in the works of the Renaissance artist Hans Holbein. In his detailed paintings, they show the wealth and importance of powerful kings like Henry VIII.

LEGACY OF ANATOLIA

Every carpet is a special messenger that carries our rich culture from the past to the future. Across Anatolia, weaving is a priceless historical treasure. All Anatolian carpets share the same strong roots: pure wool, natural dyes, and the famous 'Gördes Knot' (Turkish Knot). However, talented Uşak weavers took these traditional techniques and turned them into palace masterpieces.

If you are keen to discover the beautiful stories behind these Anatolian carpets, scan the QR code to watch the *Düğüm* documentary on TRT 2!



Scan the QR code to watch the documentary.

The White Gold of Eskişehir:

MEERSCHAUM

(LÜLETAŞI)

Discover the unique stone that comes from the depths of the earth to the hands of masters.

If you visit Eskişehir, you will see beautiful white statues and jewellery in every gift shop. This special material is called Meerschaum, but in Türkiye, we know it as *Lületaşı*. It is one of the most famous symbols of the city.

What is Meerschaum?

Meerschaum is a soft, white mineral. People call it 'White Gold' because it is very valuable and rare. You can find it in different parts of the world, but the highest quality meerschaum comes from the villages of Eskişehir.



How do we get it?

It is not easy to find this stone. Miners dig deep wells, sometimes 100 metres underground. When the stone first comes out, it is soft and wet. This allows artists to carve it more easily. When it dries, it becomes harder and lighter.

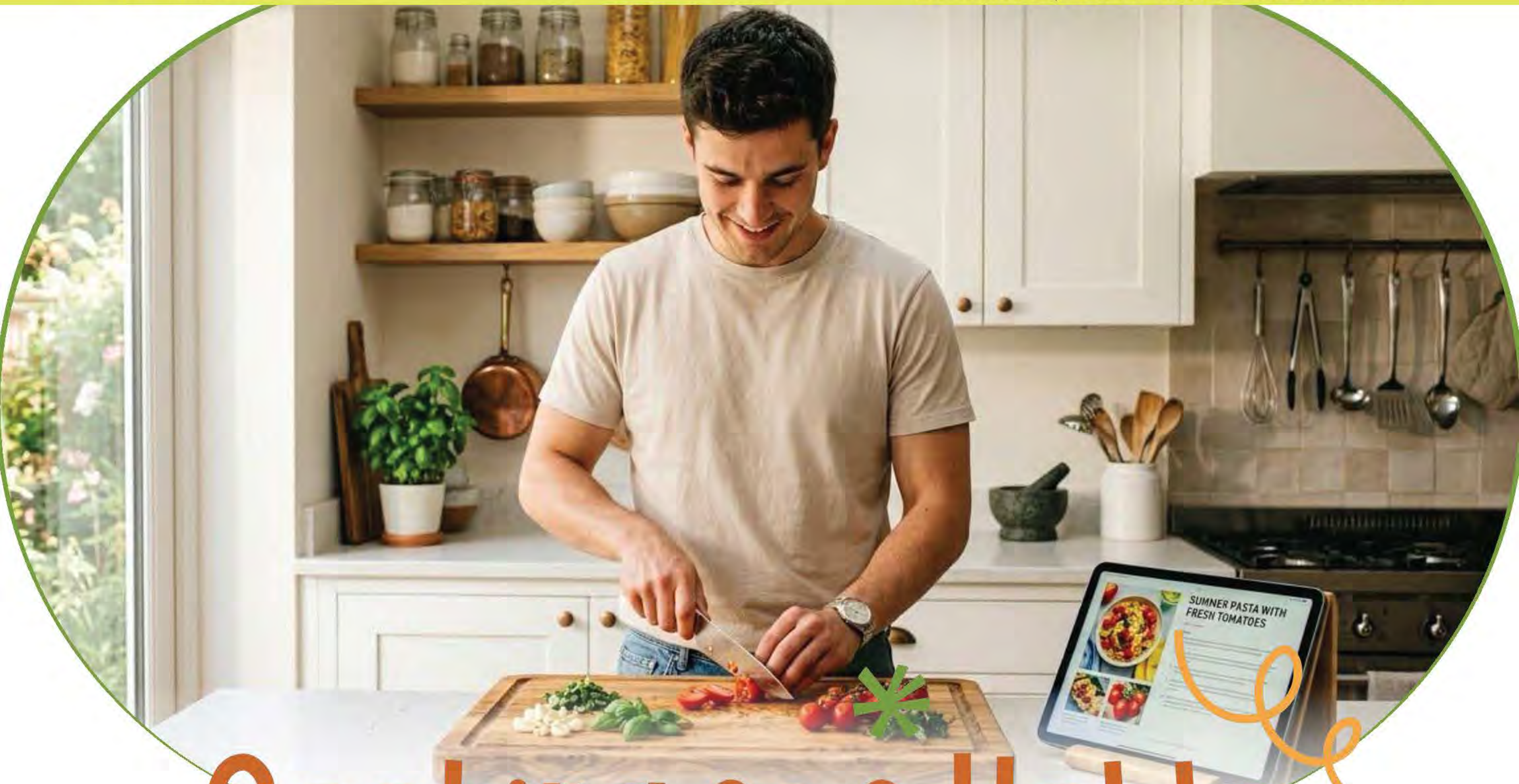
Why is it special?

- **Artistic Designs:** Masters in Eskişehir carve the stone into amazing shapes like Ottoman figures, animals, and flowers.
- **Jewellery:** Today, you can find lovely necklaces, earrings, and bracelets made of meerschaum.



A Living Heritage

The art of *lületaşı* is a traditional craft. Young people in Eskişehir are learning how to carve this stone to keep the tradition alive. When you buy a meerschaum gift, you are carrying a piece of Eskişehir's history with you!



Cooking as a Hobby

Some people think cooking is just a daily task—something you have to do to eat. But for millions of people around the world, cooking is much more than a duty. It is a creative hobby that brings joy and health to individuals, builds skills, and connects people to different cultures.

One of the main reasons people choose cooking as a hobby is that it helps reduce stress. After a busy or tiring day, spending time in the kitchen can make people feel calm and comfortable. Focusing on recipes, ingredients, and preparation allows people to forget their daily problems for a while. Many people also find happiness in the smell and taste of freshly cooked food.

Cooking at home also has practical advantages. Homemade meals are usually healthier than fast food because people can control the ingredients and the amount of oil, sugar, or salt they use. In addition, cooking can save money since eating at restaurants regularly is often expensive. For this reason, cooking is considered a useful life skill as well as a hobby.

You can also learn important life skills through cooking. When you follow a recipe, you practise reading carefully and measuring accurately. When something goes wrong, you learn to stay calm and solve problems. Many young people who cook regularly say it helps build their confidence, both in and out of the kitchen.

Another great benefit is that cooking brings people together. Preparing a meal for family or friends is one of the most generous things you can do. The kitchen becomes a social space where people share stories, laugh, and enjoy each other's company. In many cultures, a shared meal is a way of saying, "I care about you."

Finally, cooking as a hobby encourages curiosity about the world. When you try to make sushi, tacos, or a Moroccan tagine at home, you naturally start to wonder about the countries and cultures behind these dishes. Food is a delicious way to explore the world without leaving your kitchen.



So, if you are looking for a hobby that is creative, useful, and social all at once, why not give cooking a try? All you need is a recipe, a few ingredients, and the courage to make a delicious mess.

Easy ÇİĞ KÖFTE



Classic Turkish *Çiğ Köfte* can be made effortlessly in a food processor with a smoother texture, and no tired hands!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups fine *bulgur*
- 2 cups hot water
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons red pepper paste
- 1 medium onion, quartered
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons pomegranate molasses
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon of cumin
- 1 teaspoon of red pepper flakes
- Half a teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon of paprika
- 4 spring onions, roughly chopped
- Half a cup fresh parsley



STEPS TO FOLLOW

1- Soak the *bulgur*:

Place 2 cups of fine *bulgur* in a large bowl. Pour 2 cups of hot water over it, stir briefly, cover, and leave for 15 minutes until the *bulgur* is fully soft and has absorbed all the water.

2- Process the *bulgur* and spices:

Add the soaked *bulgur* to the food processor along with 3 tablespoons tomato paste, 2 tablespoons red pepper paste, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon cumin, 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes, half teaspoon black pepper, and 1 teaspoon paprika. Process for 2–3 minutes, until the mixture comes together into a smooth, uniform dough.

3- Add onion and wet ingredients:

Add 1 medium onion, quartered, 3 tablespoons olive oil, 2 tablespoons pomegranate molasses, and the juice of 1 lemon to the processor. Mix a few more times to combine everything well.

4- Add herbs:

Add 4 spring onions, roughly chopped, and half a cup fresh parsley and pulse just 2–3 times—you want them mixed in but still with a little green fleck texture, not fully blended.

5- Taste and rest:

Transfer the mixture to a bowl. Taste and adjust the salt, lemon juice, or pepper paste to your liking. Cover and rest for 5 minutes to let the flavours come together.

6- Shape and serve:

Wet your hands and shape the mixture into small oval logs or balls. Arrange them on a plate lined with lettuce leaves. Serve with lemon wedges and extra pomegranate molasses on the side.



NOTES

✂ **Equipment:** A standard food processor works best. A blender can work in a pinch but may make the texture too smooth and paste-like.

✂ **When using a food processor or blender, always use a spatula or spoon to adjust the ingredients. Never put your fingers inside the bowl while the blades are attached. Safety is the most important ingredient!**

✂ **Don't over-process:** Add the herbs and spring onions at the very end and pulse briefly—if you blend them in from the start, the mixture can turn an unpleasant green colour.

✂ **Serving ideas:** Wrap in lettuce leaves or flatbread with a squeeze of lemon and a drizzle of pomegranate molasses. Great with sliced tomatoes and pickles on the side.

Simple CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

These are very easy to make and very popular.
They are perfect for a snack or with tea.
This recipe makes about 12-15 cookies.



INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 glass of butter (soft)
- 1/2 glass of sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla
- 2 and 1/2 glass of flour
- 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1/2 glass of chocolate chips

STEPS TO FOLLOW

- Preheat your oven to 180°C.
- In a big bowl, whisk the soft butter and the sugar until it is creamy.
- Add the egg and vanilla and mix well.
- In another bowl, mix the flour and baking soda together.
- Mix slowly.
- Finally, add the chocolate chips and stir them in.
- Put small spoonfuls of the dough on a baking tray. Make sure they are not too close!
- Bake for 10-12 minutes until they are light brown.

STRAWBERRY BANANA SMOOTHIE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 banana
- 5–6 strawberries
- 1 glass of milk
- 1 teaspoon of honey

STEPS TO FOLLOW

- Wash the strawberries.
- Cut the banana into small pieces.
- Put all the ingredients into a blender.
- Blend until smooth.
- Pour into a glass.



TIP: Add ice cubes for a colder drink.
Enjoy your smoothie!



EASY CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup of milk
- 1 cup of cream
- 2 tablespoons of cocoa powder
- 2 tablespoons of sugar

STEPS TO FOLLOW

- Pour the milk and cream into a bowl.
- Add cocoa powder and sugar.
- Mix well until the mixture becomes smooth.
- Pour the mixture into a container.
- Put it in the freezer for 3–4 hours.
- Take it out and mix again after 1 hour for a creamy texture.

Serve and enjoy!



YOUR SUMMER; YOUR CHOICE

Summer is not only a break from school. It is also a time to grow, try new things, and relax. Here are some simple ideas to make your summer fun, healthy, and unforgettable.



MUSIC : CREATE YOUR OWN VIBE

Music can change your mood and help you relax. It is also a good way to express yourself. Pay attention to the language and the messages in what you listen to. This can help you make choices that support your personal growth.

You can:

- listen to different types of music
- learn a simple instrument
- write your own lyrics
- discover songs from different cultures



Music helps you understand your feelings.



TRY THIS

Make your own 'summer playlist' with your favourite songs. Give it name. Share it with friends/family.



HOME TIME : USE YOUR TIME AT HOME WELL

You may spend more time at home in summer. You can make this time useful and fun.

You can:

- clean and organise your room
- change small things in your space
- try easy cooking
- do simple projects



A clean space helps you focus better.



MINI TASK

Change three things in your room this week.



SOCIAL LIFE : SHARED MOMENTS

Summer is a good time to spend time with others.

You can:

- meet your friends
- talk with your family
- plan small activities
- spend less time online, prioritise real life and face-to-face social interactions



Good relationships make you feel happy.



THINK ABOUT THIS

Is there a friend you miss? Send a message or make a call today.



REST AND RELAX

Rest is important. Take time and relax every day.

You can:

- dance
- spend time in nature
- relax



Balance is important in life.



REMINDER

Rest helps your body and mind feel better.



Prof. Dr. Teoman Duralı: A Giant of Turkish Philosophy



Early Life and Education

Teoman Duralı was a highly respected Turkish philosopher, academic, and writer who had a profound impact on the world of thought. Born in 1947 in Zonguldak, he dedicated his life to exploring the deep connections between philosophy, biology, and language. He worked at the Department of Philosophy at İstanbul University for many years, served as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Kırklareli University, and held a position at İbn Haldun University during his final years.

Contributions to Turkish Culture

Duralı provided deep insight into the roots and traditions of Turkish culture. This enabled readers to better understand the rich heritage of Turkish society.

He was not just a teacher; many regarded him as a 'thinker of civilisation'. His work focused on the historical development of Western civilisation, the philosophy of science, and Islamic thought. He was particularly interested in how the modern world could make individuals feel isolated and alone.

In his studies, he often compared the Ottoman and Turkish intellectual heritage with Western modernism. Another important part of his philosophy was language and education. He believed that language is the memory of a nation, so protecting Turkish was crucial. He also said that education should help people think deeply and question ideas, rather than just memorising information.

One of his most remarkable characteristics was his powerful speaking style. Although his ideas were deep and complex, his speeches were very influential. He was also a strong defender of the Turkish language; he always encouraged the correct use of Turkish and criticised the use of unnecessary foreign words. He believed that language, science, and culture were all tied to a person's identity. Beyond academic life, he reached a wide audience through his television programmes on **TRT**, such as 'Felsefe Söyleşileri'. Through these shows, he made difficult philosophical topics easier for the public to understand.

His most famous books include:
Contemporary Global Civilisation (Çağdaş Küresel Medeniyet)



Scan the QR code to think deeper.

What is the Problem? (Sorun Nedir?)

What is Philosophy-Science? (Felsefe-Bilim Nedir?)

In 2021, he was honoured with the **Presidential Culture and Arts Grand Prize** in the field of science and culture.

His Legacy

He passed away in 2021; however, he still remains one of Türkiye's most original thinkers, and he is remembered for his wisdom and his efforts to understand the human experience in the modern age.



Known for his wisdom, travelling spirit, and unique style, Teoman Duralı deeply influenced Turkish intellectual life.



WORD ETYMOLOGY

Are You Ready to Dig Deeper?

From 'empty hands' in the sports hall to the 'day's work' hidden in our summer trips, the language of our passions is full of surprises.

LET'S EXPLORE!



Scan the QR code to access the activity.



TRAVEL

Did you know that travelling once meant hard work?

Today, travel often means holidays and adventure, but its origin was much less comfortable. The word comes from the Old French 'travail', meaning 'hard work' or 'difficult labour'. In the past, travelling was slow, dangerous, and physically exhausting. Long before trains or planes, every trip required great effort and patience. Even today, the word still carries the memory of those difficult journeys.



HOBBY

Did you know your favourite pastime used to be a wooden toy?

In the 16th century, a 'hobby-horse' was a popular toy for children. Just as a child would 'ride' their toy horse for hours without actually going anywhere, adults began using the word to describe favourite activities they did just for fun. By the 1800s, it was shortened to just 'hobby'.



MAGAZINE

What does reading your favourite articles have to do with a giant warehouse?

Long ago, merchants needed large buildings to store lots of different goods, like spices and fabrics, before selling them. Magazine comes from the Arabic word 'makhzan', which means 'storehouse'. Whether you are reading a sports magazine or a fashion one, you are actually exploring a 'storehouse' full of information, stories, and ideas!



ALBUM

What does your favourite singer's new music have in common with a blank wall?

In ancient Rome, before paper was common, officials used large, white boards in the city centre to write important news for everyone to read. Album comes from the Latin word 'albus', which means 'white' or 'blank'. Whether you are listening to a music album or looking at an old photo album, you are filling a 'blank space' with beautiful art and memories.



CARAVAN

Why did people travel together in the past?

Long ago, travelling alone was often difficult and unsafe. The word caravan comes from the Persian word 'kārvān', meaning 'a group of travellers moving together'. This word travelled through Arabic and French before becoming part of English. Merchants and explorers travelled in caravans to help and protect each other during long journeys. Today, the word also means a holiday vehicle where people can travel and stay without using a hotel.



SAFARI

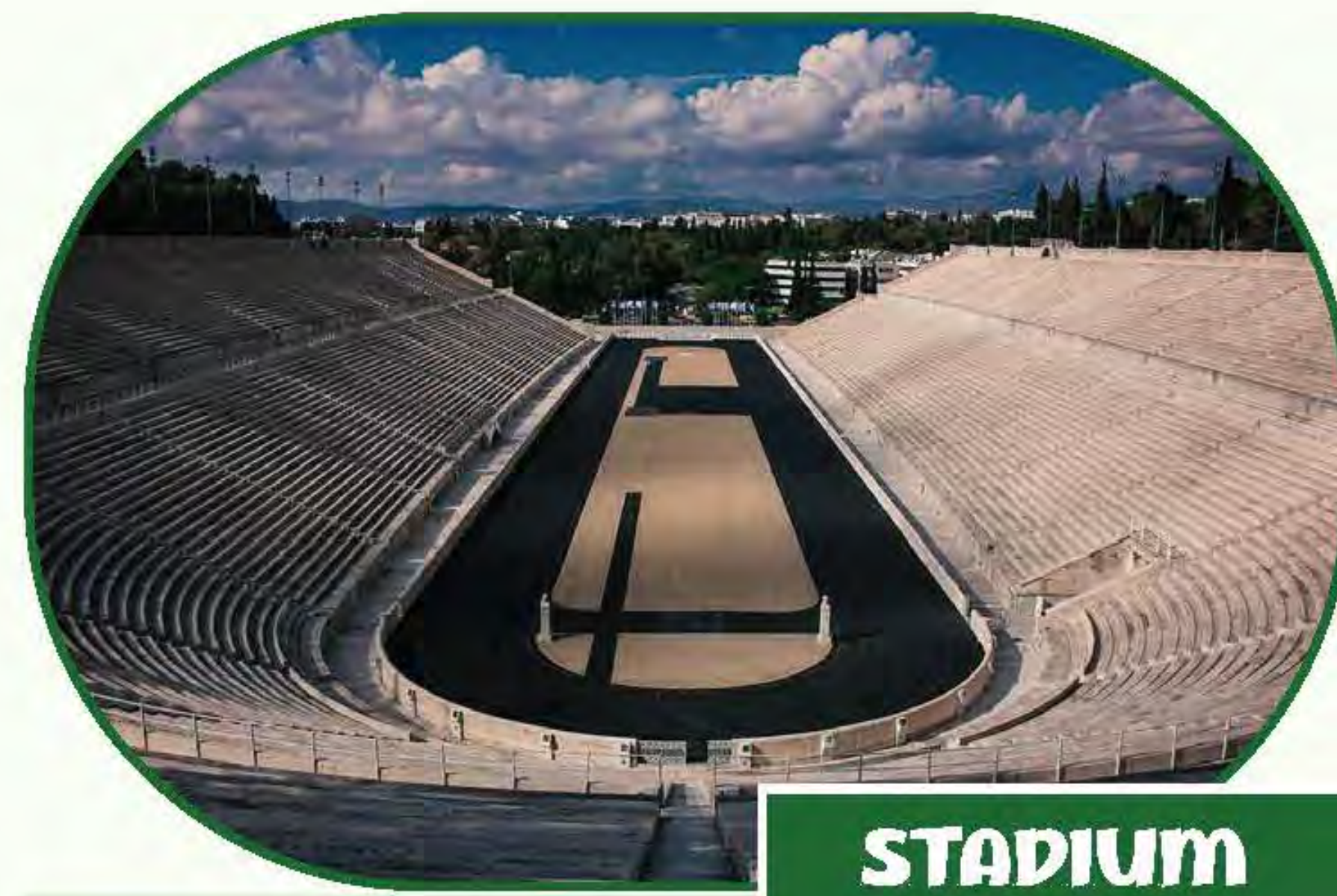
Did you know that safari doesn't actually mean nature and adventure tourism?

While we use it for wildlife trips today, the word has a very simple origin. It entered English from Swahili, and it originally comes from the Arabic word 'safar', which simply means 'a journey'. In the old days, a safari was any long trip taken on foot across the land.



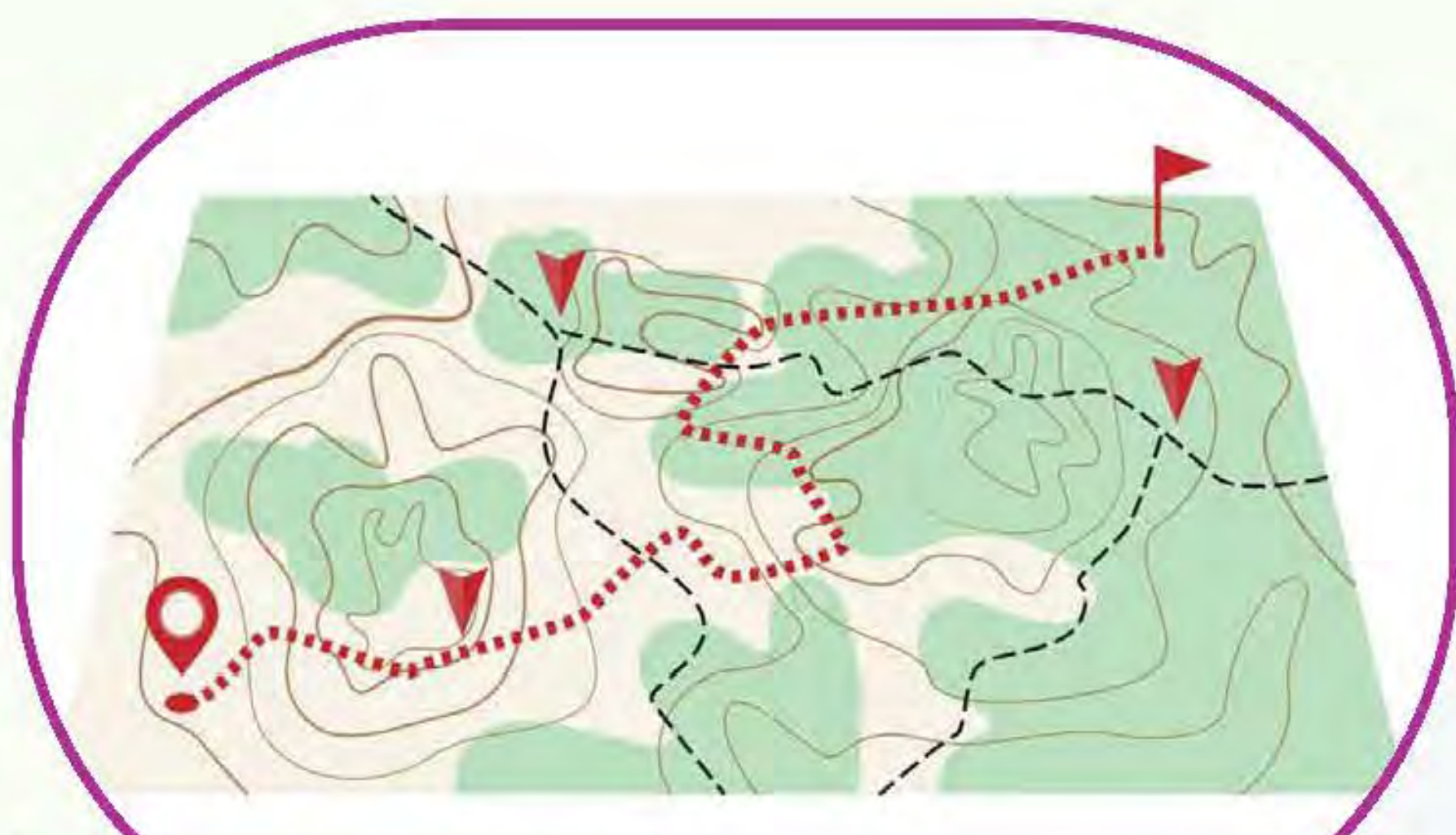
AMATEUR

Do you have to earn money to be good at something? The word amateur comes from the French 'amateur' related to the verb 'amare', meaning love. In the past, an amateur was someone who did an activity with love and interest, not for money. Today, it often means a non-professional, but its original idea reminds us that passion can be just as important as skill.



STADIUM

Why is a stadium named after a race track? According to the most common explanation, this was the standard distance for a footrace. Eventually, the name for the distance became the name for the entire building where people gathered to watch the races. Whether a stadium is for 100 metres or a football match, we still use the ancient Greek measurement.



ITINERARY

How do you plan your route? Before digital maps, travellers followed planned routes and written directions. Itinerary comes from the Latin word 'itinerarium', which means 'a written record of a journey' — from the word 'itinerarius', meaning 'about a journey', which comes from 'iter' (way/path). Your itinerary is literally the 'path' you have written down to follow on your adventure.



KARATE

Can you defend yourself with nothing in your hands? The word karate tells you exactly how it is performed. It comes from the Japanese words 'kara' (empty) and 'te' (hand). Interestingly, 'kara' originally meant 'China', but the word was changed to 'empty' in the 1930s to give the art a new identity. It describes a style of self-defence where the athlete uses only their body—leaving their hands 'empty' of any special equipment.



STUDIO

Is your creative space a place of work? Whether it is for painting or recording music, a studio is where the magic happens. It comes from the Italian word 'studio', which comes from the Latin word 'studium', meaning 'great interest' or 'study'. It reminds us that every great piece of art requires a lot of hard work and effort behind the scenes.



COMPANION

What does travelling with your best friend have to do with eating a sandwich? Hundreds of years ago, people believed that a true friend was someone you trusted enough to share your meals with during a long journey. The word companion comes from the Latin words 'com' (with) and 'panis' (bread). Whether you are going on a hike, playing a video game together, or doing a hobby, your partner is literally the person you 'break bread with'.

EVERYDAY

Ready to upgrade your English?

In this section, we explore expressions that are very common in

At the Airport

Tom: I'm a bit nervous about the flight, to be honest.

Sara: Don't worry, everything will be fine. We just need to **get a wriggle on**, or we'll miss the flight.

Tom: You're right. I don't want to hear our names being called over the speakers!

Sara: Exactly! Let's move quickly towards security.

- A** To hurry up or move faster
- B** To sit down and wait patiently



After a Gym Class

Liam: That workout session was brutal, wasn't it?

Sophie: Tell me about it! I'm **knackered** and I can barely feel my legs.

Liam: Same here. I think I'll just go home and have a massive nap.

Sophie: Good idea. I don't think I can do anything else today!

- A** To be very energetic and happy
- B** To be extremely tired or exhausted



At the Train Station

Oliver: Excuse me, is this the right platform for the train to Manchester?

Lucy: Yes, it is, but the departure board says it's **behind schedule** by twenty minutes.

Oliver: Oh, that's a bit of a nuisance! I have a meeting at 2:00 PM.

Lucy: I'm afraid delays are quite common on this line today. Hopefully, you'll still make it on time.

- A** To arrive early and wait at the platform
- B** To arrive later than expected



At the Photography Class

Pelin: I saw your photos from Cappadocia; they are absolutely brilliant!

George: Thanks! I'm still a beginner, but I've really **taken to** photography lately.

Pelin: It's a great hobby to have, especially with such lovely scenery around here.

George: I agree. I'm planning to buy a new lens next month to take even better shots.

- A** To start liking something or start a new habit
- B** To decide to stop doing a hobby forever



At the Hobby Garden

Daisy: Your garden looks lovely this spring! All the roses are blooming.

Arthur: Cheers! I've been spending every weekend out here with my plants.

Daisy: You've clearly got **green fingers**; everything you plant grows so well.

Arthur: It's a lot of hard work, but seeing the garden like this makes it worth it.

- A** To be very good at gardening and growing plants
- B** To be very bad at taking care of nature



At the Pottery Class

Mrs Higgins: Your clay vase is looking unique, Oliver.

Oliver: Thanks! I wasn't sure at first, but I've really **got the hang of** it now.

Mrs Higgins: It shows! Your technique has improved so much since last week.

Oliver: I'm actually starting to enjoy this class more than I expected.

- A** To lose interest in a new hobby
- B** To learn how to do something correctly



ENGLISH

Read them carefully and see if you can catch the 'hidden' meanings.

real-life situations.

COLOURFUL ENGLISH: EXPRESSIONS THAT POP!

In English, using the word 'very' all the time can get a bit boring. To sound more like a native speaker, we use special word combinations that fit together perfectly to create a stronger mental image. Think of these as the 'level up' versions of basic adjectives. Here are six essential expressions to add some flavour to your English:



pipng hot (extremely hot)



soaking wet (extremely wet)



**bitter cold
(extremely and unpleasantly cold)**



lightning-fast (extremely quick)



sky high (extremely high)



dirt cheap (extremely inexpensive)

Mini Challenge

1. We had to wait for our bus in the _____ wind, and we were shivering the whole time.
2. The professional oil paints I bought online were _____; they were much less expensive than I expected!
3. After forty minutes of heavy exercise and no towel, my gym shirt was _____.
4. Be careful with the apple pie. I just took it out of the oven; it is _____.
5. I wanted to visit the island by private boat, but the cost was _____, so I took the public ferry instead.
6. You need to be _____ to win this sprint race; the other runners are very quick!

Answers: 1) bitter cold 2) dirt cheap 3) soaking wet 4) piping hot 5) sky high 6) lightning fast

IMPROVE YOUR VOCABULARY:

THE SMART WAY TO LEARN

In our previous issue, we completed the first mile of our vocabulary journey. We learnt how to be word detectives and use smart exposure. Are you ready for the second half of the race? Here are the final smart strategies to turn you into a vocabulary master.

The Keyword Method

The Keyword Method (Mnemonics) connects a new English word with a familiar one in your language that sounds similar.

How to do it:

For instance, if you want to learn the word 'bell' (which means *zil* or *çan*), look for a word in your language that sounds similar to it, like 'bel' in Turkish. Then, think of something funny to connect them: Imagine a huge, heavy bell hanging from your waist (which means *bel* in Turkish). The bell rings really loudly every time you move.

This method uses your own creativity and sense of humour, which makes it very easy to learn the words.

Visual Learning: Semantic Mapping and Sticky Note Method

For some learners, word lists can be boring and difficult to remember. Visual techniques can be a good alternative. This method helps you organise words around a main topic. Instead of learning one word alone, you make a map of related words. These steps may help you remember them better.

How to do it:

1. Write the main word in the middle of a page (for example, 'travel') and draw a circle around it.
2. Draw lines out from the centre.
3. Organise the words into categories like Verbs (actions), Adjectives (descriptions), and Places.
4. Write related words under each group:
 - Verbs: to fly, to visit, to pack,
 - Adjectives: exciting, tired, expensive,
 - Places: hotel, airport, museum
5. Use different coloured pens for each group (for example, blue for verbs, red for places).
6. You can also draw small pictures next to the words to help you remember.

Another method is the Sticky Note Method. You write the English names of things on small sticky notes and stick them to the things in your home or school. You don't study or read the words in a book; you see them in the real world every time you move around your room.



Spaced Repetition and Review Strategies

a) Use Spaced Repetition

The Spaced Repetition System (SRS) is a scientific method. It ensures that learnt information moves from your short-term memory to your long-term memory by reviewing it at critical moments. This method works with the brain's natural learning process.

According to the German psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus, people may forget much of what they have learned **within the first 24 hours** if they do not review it. His research showed that memory fades quickly without review. Every time you review a word just before you forget it, you make the memory stronger. Every time you review a word just before you forget it, you make the memory stronger.



How to do it:

Studying the same word every day may not be very efficient. Instead, it can help to leave some time between review sessions, with each gap a little longer than the last. Some researchers have suggested that reviewing a word a few times over several weeks can help you remember it better. Spaced review like this may work better than studying for a long time in one day. You can use spaced repetition apps instead of flashcards.

b) Keep a Vocabulary Journal

A common mistake in language learning is trying to learn too many words at once. It can be more useful to learn a few words well than to learn many words quickly without understanding.

How to do it:



Keep a personal 'vocabulary journal'. Don't just write the meanings. Draw a small picture next to the word. If possible, add a similar word or an opposite word next to each one. The more connections you make, the harder it becomes to forget the word.

c) Talk to Yourself

Some studies suggest that you may need to see a word many times before you really learn it. One good way to do this is by practicing English out loud when you are alone.



How to do it:

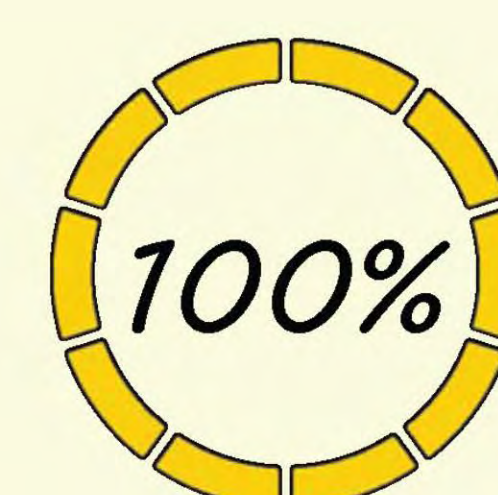
- 1. Describe your actions:** Narrate your day like a film.
- 2. Think out loud:** Plan your day in English.
- 3. Role-play:** Imagine you are in a restaurant or at a job interview. Practise the questions and the answers out loud.
- 4. Summarise your day:** Before you go to sleep, spend two minutes talking about what you did today.



Conclusion: Trust the Process

Learning a language is not a short race; it is a marathon. Some days will feel hard, and that's normal. The key is regular practice and curiosity. Don't see vocabulary as something you only study for grades. See them as keys to new cultures and ideas.

So, stop only using word lists and start living the language!



12 IDIOMS

That Bring Language to Life

01

Hit the ground running

To start something quickly and with a lot of energy and enthusiasm

"The new manager hit the ground running and introduced several useful changes in his first week."

02

Throw in the towel

To stop doing something because you believe you cannot succeed

"The boxer didn't throw in the towel after losing the first round and kept focusing on the match."

03

Level playing field

A situation in which everyone has the same opportunities and no one has an unfair advantage

"The tournament organisers wanted to provide a level playing field for all participants."

04

Go the extra mile

To make more effort than is normally expected in order to achieve better results

"Success comes to those who are willing to go the extra mile."

05

Think outside the box

To think in a creative and original way

"Successful designers think outside the box to create original and innovative work."

06

Stand the test of time

To remain good, effective, or popular for a long time

"Masterpieces like the Mona Lisa stand the test of time."

Make your English sound more natural!

07

Have an eye for something

To have the ability to notice and judge quality, style, or detail

"The young woman has an eye for art and easily recognises the artist's style in the painting."



08

Make a/your mark (on something)

To have a strong effect or become well known in a particular area

"The talented illustrator is making her mark on the digital art world with her unique style."



10

Learn the ropes

To learn how to do a new job or activity

"The young musician learned the ropes by practising basic chords with an experienced instructor."



09

In your element

To be in a situation where you feel happy, confident, and comfortable

"People who love cooking are in their element in the kitchen."



11

A breath of fresh air

Someone or something that is new, exciting, and different in a positive way

"Sometimes, all you need is a new hobby to be a breath of fresh air in your life."

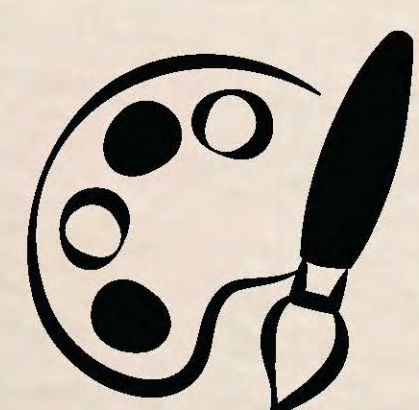


12

Blow off steam

To do something relaxing in order to reduce stress or anger

"We like to go for a long walk to blow off steam after a difficult exam."



"Idioms add colour to our conversations and make our language come alive."



Are You Confused

by These Words and Phrases



Don't worry.

Many learners find these expressions confusing.

Here, you will learn how to use them correctly and see the differences between their meanings.



Win

To be successful in a competition or to gain a victory

"The players won the match with great teamwork."

Win vs Beat



Beat

To defeat someone in a game or competition

"The home team beat the visiting team in the final."

QUICK TIP

You win a game, but you beat an opponent!



Draw

To make a picture using lines, usually with a pencil or pen

"The artist draws a realistic horse by adding fine lines and soft shading."

Draw vs Paint



Paint

To make a picture using colours, usually with a brush and paint

"Artists paint colourful landscapes to show nature's beauty."

QUICK TIP

You draw with lines, but you paint with colours!



Free Time

Time when you are not working or studying and can enjoy hobbies or simply relax

"Most people enjoy doing sports in their free time at the weekend."

Free Time vs Spare Time



Spare Time

Time available for hobbies, relaxation, or other activities when you are not working or studying

"Reading a book is a productive way to use spare time between daily tasks."

QUICK TIP

You can use free time for hobbies, but spare time can also refer to short daily gaps!



Join

To become a member of a group or team

“Teenagers join a school club to meet others with similar interests.”

Join **vs** Attend



Attend

To go to an event, meeting, or class

“Many young artists attend exhibitions to explore different artistic styles.”

QUICK TIP

You join a group or team, but you attend an event or class!



Skill

An ability you learn through practice and training

“Playing the guitar is a skill that can be improved through regular practice.”

Skill **vs** Talent



Talent

A natural ability that can grow through practice and experience

“Musical talent can help learners recognise rhythms and melodies more easily.”

QUICK TIP

Talent may give you a good start, but practice helps you develop it and build skills!



Artist

A person who creates art, such as painting, music, or sculpture, to express ideas, emotions, or beauty

“Artists use their imagination to create unique works that inspire people.”

Artist **vs** Artisan



Artisan

A person who is skilled at making things by hand, such as furniture, jewellery, or pottery

“Artisans create handmade pottery that is both practical and decorative.”

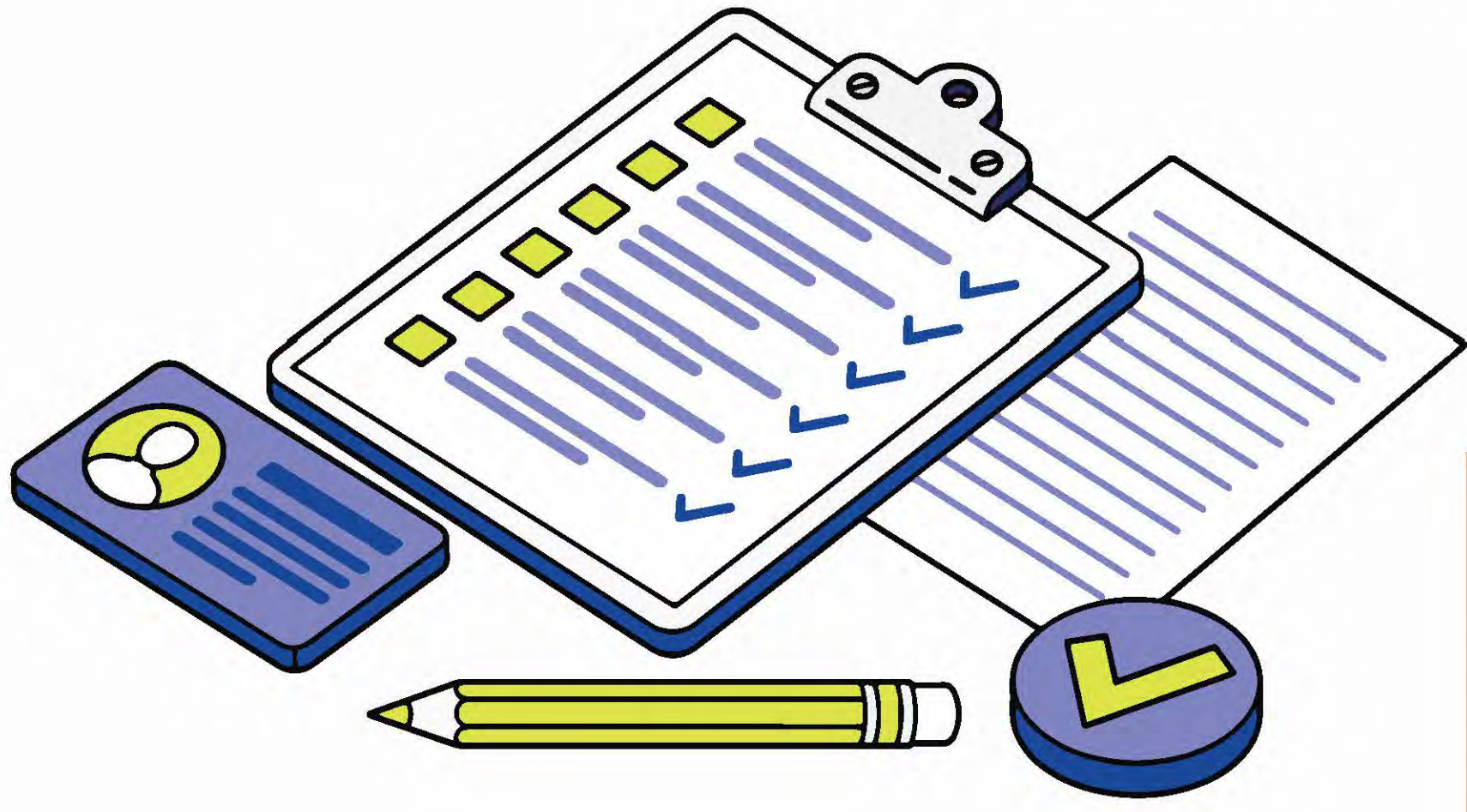
QUICK TIP

You admire an artist's creativity, but you use an artisan's practical creations!

A FINAL THOUGHT

“Words may look similar, but each one has its own meaning and purpose. Choosing the right word helps you communicate clearly, avoid misunderstandings, and express yourself with confidence.”

YDT Question-Type Strategy Guide



In our previous issues, we shared practical tips for six YDT question types. In this third issue, we focus on paragraph completion, translation, and irrelevant sentence questions, offering practical strategies to help you choose the correct answer more confidently.

Strategies for Paragraph Completion Questions

In paragraph completion questions, you need to find the sentence that best fits the meaning and structure of the paragraph. Here are some tips worth keeping in mind as you tackle these questions.

Understand Paragraph Structure

Academic paragraphs often follow a predictable three-part structure. Recognise each part before selecting your answer.



Part	Function	Key Features
Topic Sentence	Introduces the main idea	Sets scope & controlling idea
Supporting Sentences	Develops the main point	Evidence, examples, details
Concluding Sentence	Closes the argument	No new information added

Decode the Topic Sentence First

Every correct answer must remain consistent with the topic and the controlling idea. While reading, pay close attention to:

- Transition words that reveal the logical relationship between sentences
- Pronouns and demonstratives that point back to a specific noun or idea
- Repeated key concepts—the correct sentence echoes the paragraph's vocabulary.

Strategy by Blank Position

Blank at the beginning

- Skim the full paragraph before looking at options.
- The second sentence often contains a pronoun referring back to the opener.
- Be cautious about options that are too specific or too broad for what follows.

Blank in the middle

- Identify the topic/direction of the sentence BEFORE the blank.
- Then identify what the sentence AFTER the blank expects to have been said.
- Be careful about traps: topic-relevant options belonging to the wrong position.

Blank at the end

- Re-read the topic sentence to recall the main claim.
- Eliminate any option that introduces a new fact, example, or direction.
- Look for options that rephrase the controlling idea (paraphrasing does not mean repetition).

Elimination Strategy

Elimination Reason	What It Means
Unrelated topic	Introducing a completely different topic
Wrong scope	Being too narrow or too broad for the paragraph's claim
Contradicting idea	Arguing the opposite of what the paragraph states
Logical flow break	Disrupting the required transition (e.g. addition instead of contrast)
Pronoun mismatch	Referring to something unclear with a pronoun

Strategies for Translation Questions

In translation questions, your task is to identify the option that preserves the meaning, structure, and key details of the original sentence. The following strategies can help you compare the options more carefully and identify the most accurate translation.

Core Principle: Focus on Key Structures and Usage

YDT includes both Turkish-to-English and English-to-Turkish translation questions. A correct translation preserves the full meaning of the source sentence—its

grammatical structure, tense, aspect, modality, voice, and scope. Changing any one of these creates a wrong answer.

Six Grammatical Features to Check

Feature	What to Check
Subject & Verb	Does the translation use the correct subject with the correct verb form?
Tense	Is the exact tense preserved?
Modality	Do the modals match?
Connectors	Is any conjunction or transition word used?
Relative Clauses	Does the relative clause modify the correct noun?
Quantifiers	Are quantifiers included?



Elimination Strategy

- Do not waste time with slow, over-detailed translation from the start. YDT translation questions reward strategic reading over translating every sentence from beginning to end. Students with a strategic approach:
 - identify the structure quickly,
 - eliminate obviously incorrect options,
 - and focus on subtle meaning differences among the remaining choices.
- Read the source sentence and identify its key features (subject, main verb, tense, modality, conjunctions, etc.). Identify the subject and determine whether it is modified by a relative clause. If so, the same meaning must be preserved.
- Eliminate any option that changes the tense or modal verb, omits, or mistranslates a relative clause or quantifier.
- Among the remaining options, choose the one that reads most naturally and completely in the target language.



Strategies for Irrelevant Sentence Questions

To answer irrelevant sentence questions correctly, you need to understand how the ideas in a paragraph connect with each other. The suggestions below may enable you to make more accurate choices.

The Unity Rule

A well-written paragraph discusses one controlling idea from start to finish. Any sentence that shifts the subject, changes the level of generality, or breaks the logical sequence becomes the irrelevant sentence.

Three Common Types of Inconsistency

Subject Change	Introducing a completely different topic
Level Shift	Jumping from general to highly specific (or vice versa)
Broken Sequence	Disrupting chronological or causal order (effect stated before cause)

Step-by-Step Method

Be careful with supporting details. Supporting details should strengthen the main idea, not replace it. Sometimes a sentence:

- becomes too detailed,
- introduces unnecessary information,
- or shifts attention away from the controlling idea.

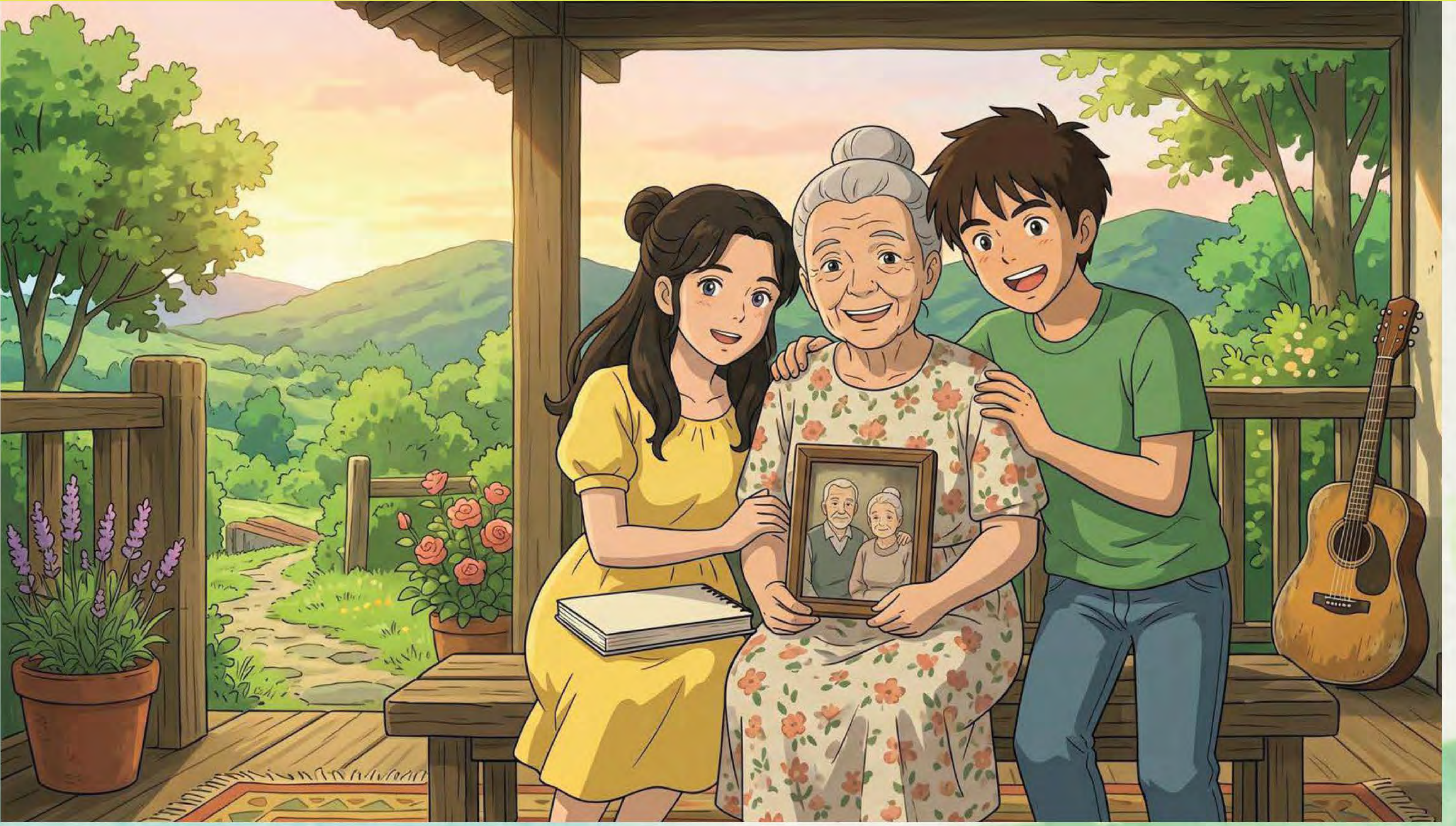
In such cases, the sentence may appear related on the surface but still damage paragraph cohesion.

- Read the entire paragraph once without stopping.
- Identify the topic and controlling idea from the first sentence. Pay attention to the second sentence because sometimes the first sentence itself may be the irrelevant one.
- Check the pronoun chain—every pronoun such as ‘this, these, or it’ must point to something already mentioned.
- Find the sentence that introduces a different subject, has a wrong level of specificity, or breaks cause-effect or time sequence.
- Verify: read the paragraph without the suspected sentence. If it flows better, that is your answer.



“Every correct answer begins with a careful read.”

Common Error
Making the object the subject and changing the verb into the passive form
Changing the Present Simple to the Present Perfect
Omitting the modal in the sentence
Using a different conjunction or connector
Attaching a relative clause to the wrong noun
Using a wrong quantifier or omitting it



THE CREATIVE SPARK



Daphne and her sixteen-year-old brother, Ken, arrived at their grandmother's old village house for the summer holidays. Their parents had sent them away from the busy city for a month. Daphne felt bored after only two days. Ken spent most of his time playing games on his phone, and Daphne kept scrolling through social media. Their grandmother watched them quietly from the kitchen window. She believed her grandchildren needed something more meaningful than glowing screens. The long, slow days in the village felt empty, and both teenagers already missed their friends back home.



One sunny morning, their grandmother brought down an old wooden box from the attic. Inside there were paintbrushes, watercolours, sketchbooks, and an old guitar that had belonged to their grandfather. "Why don't you **take up** something new this summer?" she suggested with a warm smile. Daphne picked up a paintbrush carefully, while Ken held the guitar and tried a few notes. At first, they laughed because they had no experience at all. However, they decided to give it a try, since there was little else to do in the quiet village.



The first week was honestly very difficult. Daphne's early paintings looked messy and the colours did not match. Ken could not even play one simple song correctly, and his fingers hurt after every short practice. He wanted to give up many times, but Daphne told him to **stick with** it for at least one full month before making a decision. Their grandmother often said that practice would slowly **bring out** the artist hidden inside both of them. Little by little, Daphne started to mix colours better, and Ken learned his first three chords. They began to feel quietly proud of their small progress.



As the days passed, the two siblings became calmer and more focused than ever before. Daphne painted the green village fields every afternoon under a huge tree. Ken practised his guitar by the river every evening as the sun went down. Whenever one of them felt tired or unsure, the other one always encouraged them to **carry on**. Music and art started to **lift** their spirits **up** in a way that phones and games never had. They talked more, laughed more, and even invited their cousins from the next village to come and join their little art and music afternoons.



By the end of summer, Daphne had filled an entire notebook with beautiful paintings, and Ken could play five songs from memory. More importantly, both of them had **grown into** more confident, patient, and creative young people. When they finally returned to the city, they did not give up their new hobbies. Instead, they started an art and music club at their high school. Their grandmother smiled every time they called her. She knew that summer had given her grandchildren something far more valuable than any expensive holiday gift.

PHRASAL VERB DEFINITIONS

Let's check the meanings of the phrasal verbs written in bold in the story.

Take up: To start a new hobby, activity, sport, or interest

Bring out: To make a quality, ability, or talent appear or develop in someone

Carry on: To continue doing something, especially after a pause or a difficulty

Stick with: To continue doing something even when it becomes hard or boring

Lift up: To make someone feel happier, more positive, or more hopeful

Grow into: To gradually develop and become a more mature, capable person

PRACTICE EXERCISES

1. My cousin loves drawing, so she wants to _____ painting next year.

A) carry on B) take up C) bring out D) lift up

2. Even when learning to play the piano became hard, my brother decided to _____ it.

A) stick with B) grow into C) lift up D) take up

3. My shy little sister has _____ a kind and confident young woman over the years.

A) taken up B) brought out C) lifted up D) grown into

4. Listening to my favourite songs always _____ me _____ when I feel sad.

A) takes / up B) lifts / up C) sticks / with D) brings / out

5. After a short break, the football team decided to _____ with their training.

A) take up B) carry on C) grow into D) bring out

6. Reading different kinds of books can really _____ your creativity.

A) bring out B) stick with C) grow into D) carry on

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These are not ordinary flashcards. With smooth animations and touch feedback, they offer a more realistic and enjoyable learning experience. If you need a quick refresh on any topic and only have few minutes to spare, it is the perfect game for you.



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Anatolia's Coffee Heritage

Coffee is not just a drink; it is an important part of culture in Anatolia. People prepare it carefully, serve it with care, and enjoy long conversations while drinking it. Water, coffee, and sometimes sugar are put into a *cezve* and boiled slowly over low heat. When the foam rises, it is divided into the cups before the coffee is removed from the heat.



Menengiç Coffee



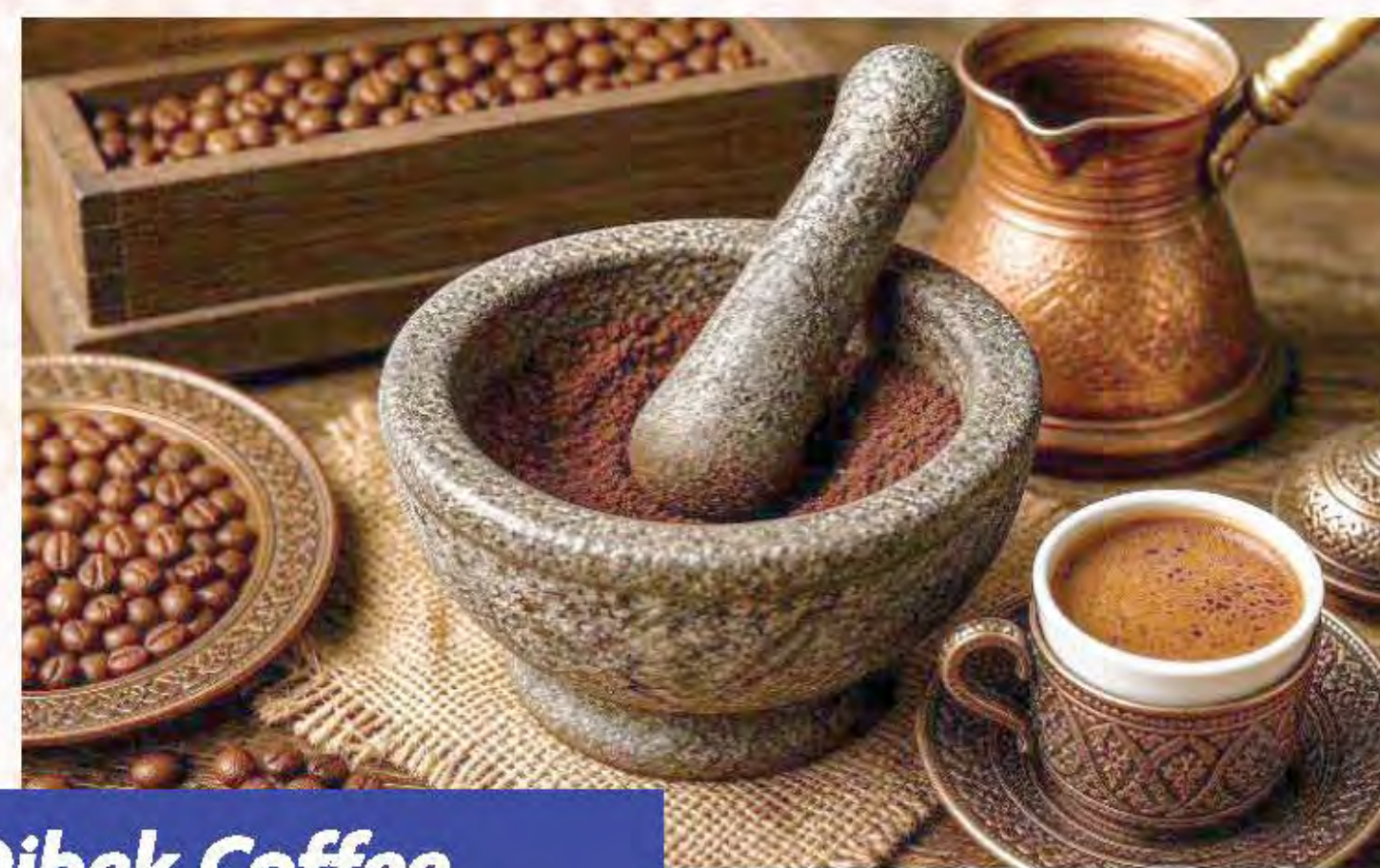
Tatar Coffee



Süvari Coffee

From the Ottoman period to modern Türkiye, serving coffee has remained a symbol of hospitality and friendship. Families have welcomed guests with coffee for centuries, turning simple visits into meaningful memories. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk also valued the warmth of these conversations shared over coffee. Even today, this tradition continues to unite people around the same table.

In Anatolia, there are many kinds of coffee. The most famous one is Turkish coffee. Finely ground coffee is slowly boiled with water in a *cezve*. Turkish coffee is usually served with water and Turkish delight, which is also one of the favourite treats of many tourists visiting Türkiye. In parts of Southeastern Anatolia, especially around Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, coffee with thick foam is called *Devebatmaz*, meaning “so thick that even a camel would not sink.” In the past, people also prepared ash coffee by slowly cooking it in hot ashes, giving it a deep and smoky aroma. However, Anatolian coffee culture is not limited to Turkish coffee. For example, *Dibek* coffee is made by crushing coffee beans in stone mortars. This gives the coffee a softer taste



Dibek Coffee



Mirra



Ash Coffee

and a stronger smell. Mirra, a traditional coffee from Şanlıurfa and Mardin in Southeastern Anatolia, is very different from other types of coffee. It is cooked for a long time and heated many times, so it has a strong and bitter taste. Hatay's double-roasted *okkalı* coffee is also famous for its intense flavour. It is often served with cardamom. In Anatolia, not all coffee is made from coffee beans. *Menengiç* coffee is made from wild pistachios. It is usually prepared with milk and has a creamy taste. Around Eskişehir, there is also *Tatar* coffee (*Tostakay*), which comes from *Tatar* culture. It is usually served in a bowl larger than a normal cup and topped with foamy milk. It is known for its relaxing and refreshing taste.

In some places, serving coffee is also an art. In Tarsus, *Süvari* coffee is served in a glass instead of a traditional coffee cup. This unique presentation reflects the social coffeehouse culture of the region, where people spend hours talking and sharing memories over coffee.

In these lands, coffee is more than a flavour. It is also a journey and a symbol of friendship. Every cup carries stories, conversations, and traditions from the past. That is why people say, “A cup of coffee is remembered for forty years”, showing that even the smallest act of hospitality can leave a lasting memory.

In Anatolia, every cup of coffee carries the warmth of hospitality, the spirit of tradition, and the echoes of stories shared for centuries.



Turkish Coffee

BLUE SHORES, ECHOES OF HISTORY

Antalya

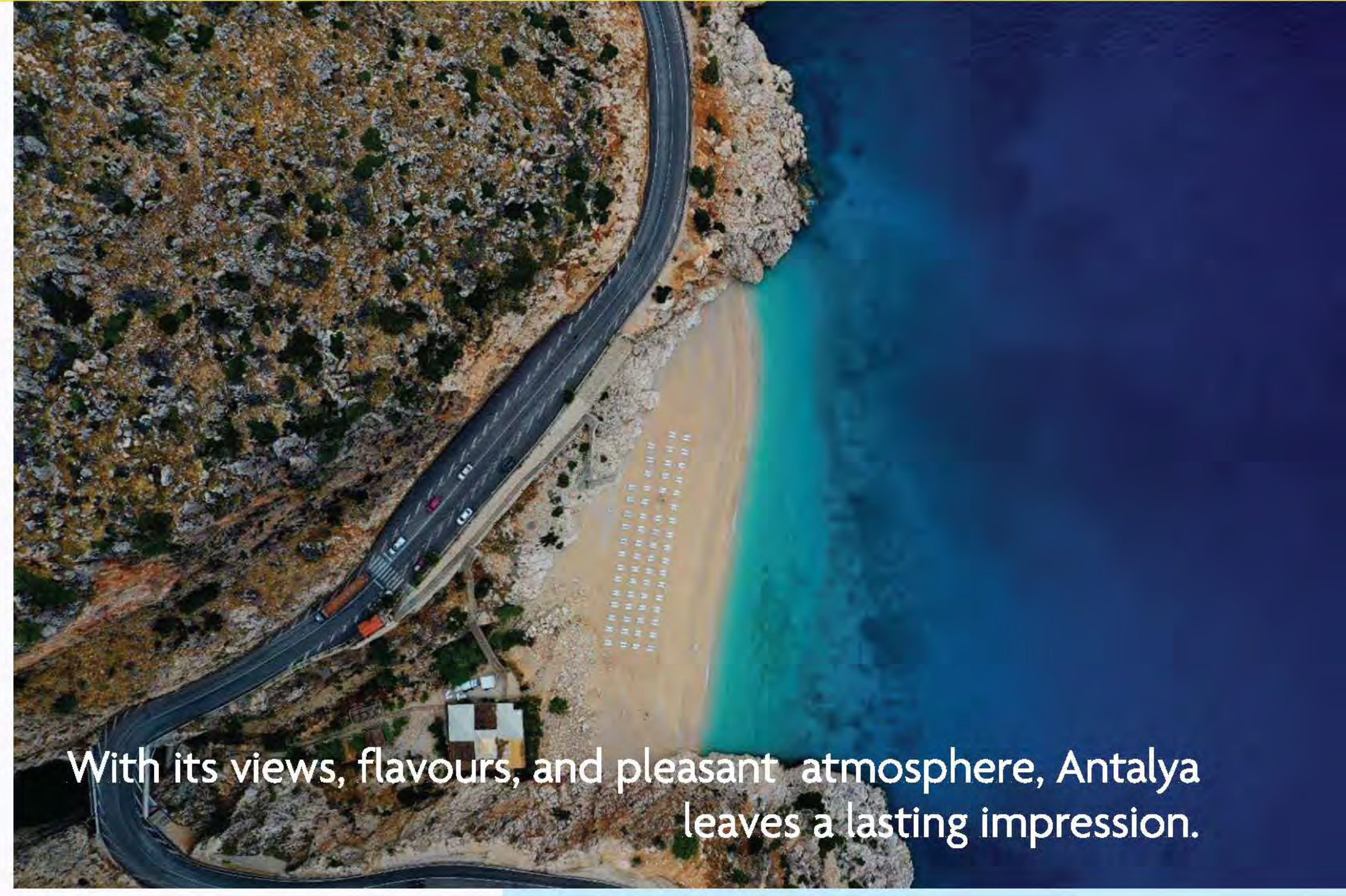
Antalya is a sunlit Mediterranean city set on Türkiye's southern coast. Blue waters meet green mountains, sunny streets, and ancient stones. These different sides give the city its colour and character. Every route opens to a new view, and every view carries a piece of history.

Throughout history, Antalya's unique location has welcomed many civilisations. The city lies between the blue Mediterranean Sea and the Taurus Mountains, which makes it an important crossroads for travel and culture. Today, the Mediterranean climate, nature, and rich history continue to shape daily life in the city.



THE COAST THAT CHANGES COLOUR

Antalya's beaches do not all look or feel the same. In the heart of the city, Konyaaltı brings lively beach energy together with stunning mountain scenery. On the road towards Kaş, Kaputaş appears between high cliffs, shining in bright turquoise water. For visitors looking for a quieter escape, Patara offers long sandy beaches, natural dunes, and a peaceful atmosphere. From city beaches to hidden natural corners, Antalya's coastline changes with every stop.



With its views, flavours, and pleasant atmosphere, Antalya leaves a lasting impression.



BEYOND THE BLUE: ANTALYA'S GREEN SIDE

Antalya is famous for its sea and shores, but waterfalls, forests, rivers, and canyons reveal another side of the city. Places such as Düden Waterfalls and Köprülü Canyon National Park remind visitors that Antalya is not just a summer destination.

Düden Waterfalls: The Fresh Side of the City

Düden Waterfalls are one of Antalya's best-known natural attractions. There are two main parts: Upper Düden and Lower Düden. At Upper Düden, there is a cave behind the waterfall. From there, visitors can watch the falling water from a different angle. Lower Düden flows directly into the Mediterranean Sea, which creates one of Antalya's most memorable landscapes.

Köprülü Canyon National Park: A Call to Adventure

Köprülü Canyon National Park shows a more adventurous side of Antalya's nature. Green forests, high cliffs, and the clear Köprüçay River shape the park's landscape. One of its most important symbols is the historic stone bridge over the river. Today, visitors come here for outdoor activities such as rafting, trekking, camping, and nature walks.



OLD STREETS, LIVING HISTORY

Antalya's history is not limited to museums. It appears in old streets, city gates, theatres, mosques, harbours, and ancient stones. In some places, the past is part of daily life; in others, it stands quietly by the sea. This is what makes Antalya's heritage feel alive.



Perhaps Mustafa Kemal Atatürk described Antalya best when he said, **“Without a doubt, Antalya is the most beautiful place in the world.”**

Aspendos: A Seat for the Past

Aspendos is one of Antalya’s strongest links to the ancient world. It was an important city in Roman times, and its famous theatre is still very well preserved today. The theatre has high stone seats, a large stage, and strong walls. Today, it is still used for concerts, festivals, and cultural events.

THE BLUE EDGE OF HISTORY

Some of Antalya’s historical places stand close to the sea. In these places, ancient ruins, green nature, and blue water come together in a quiet but powerful way.



MEDITERRANEAN LIFE AND LOCAL TASTES

Antalya’s warm climate also shapes daily life in the city. People spend time outdoors, walk by the sea, meet in cafés, and visit local markets. This relaxed Mediterranean rhythm can also be felt in the city’s food culture. Fresh vegetables, seafood, citrus fruits, and local dishes bring simple but rich flavours to the table. *Antalya piyazı*, made with beans and tahini sauce, is one of the city’s best-known tastes. Citrus jams made from oranges, lemons, and bitter oranges add colour to local breakfasts. Another local taste, *yanıksı dondurma*, offers a refreshing flavour with its slightly burnt milk taste. Together, these local tastes show the warm and colourful side of Antalya.

Kaleiçi: A Journey through Time

To feel the true spirit of Antalya, Kaleiçi is the place to start. This historic old town brings the past and the present together in the city centre. From Hadrian’s Gate to Yivli Minaret, Kaleiçi shows different periods of history in the same streets. As visitors walk through its narrow stone streets, they can see traditional houses, ancient walls, historic mosques, and small cafés around every corner. They can also stop at small souvenir shops and buy local gifts along the way. The colourful streets lead down to the Old Harbour, one of the city’s most special parts. In the past, the harbour was a busy place for trade. Today, it is a lively area with beautiful boats, yacht tours, and relaxing views of the Mediterranean.



Olympos: The Green Road to the Blue

Walking through the ancient city of Olympos feels like a treasure hunt, where historic stone walls are hidden among the greenery. After a short walk through the forest, the path opens to a crystal-clear sea. The area is also popular with young travellers because of its treehouses and peaceful energy. Çıralı Beach, near Olympos, is a protected nesting area for *Caretta caretta* turtles, adding another natural layer to the area.

Kekova and Simena: A Sunken Story in Blue

Kekova is one of the most unusual places on Antalya’s coast. Its clear blue water hides the remains of an ancient city, so visitors usually explore the area by boat. Along the route, they can see old walls, steps, and submerged ruins. Nearby Kaleköy, also known as Simena, makes the journey even more special. This small coastal village has Lycian tombs by the water and a castle on the hill with beautiful views of Kekova.



BARCELONA:

A CITY BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Located on the Mediterranean coast, Barcelona is one of Spain's most colourful and exciting cities. Its extraordinary buildings, lively streets, and seaside views make every walk feel like a small discovery. The city feels both historic and modern, with rich culture and youthful energy in every corner. With its sunshine, food, music, and friendly atmosphere, Barcelona is more than a place to visit; it is a city to experience.



THE WORLD OF **GAUDÍ** AND HIS ARCHITECTURAL VISION

Barcelona has an exceptional look thanks to Antoni Gaudí, a famous architect. His colourful and unconventional designs have transformed Barcelona into a living art gallery. He used organic shapes from nature and colourful ceramic mosaics to change the look of the city. His buildings can make you feel as if you are walking inside a dream. Some of his best works include *La Sagrada Família*, *Park Güell*, *Casa Milà*, and *Casa Batlló*.

La Sagrada Família

La Sagrada Família is one of Barcelona's most famous landmarks. Its tall towers, detailed walls, and impressive shapes give visitors a memorable experience. Surprisingly, this iconic building is still unfinished, although its construction began in the 19th century.

Park Güell

Another place that shows Gaudí's distinct style is *Park Güell*. This colourful park is full of mosaics, curved benches, and unusual shapes. The famous mosaic lizard at the entrance is one of the most photographed symbols of Barcelona. From the upper parts of the park, visitors can see a beautiful view of the city and the sea. It feels like a place where nature and imagination meet.



(Casa Batlló)



(La Sagrada Família)



(Park Güell)



THE HISTORICAL HEART OF THE CITY

The Gothic Quarter takes visitors to a different, more mysterious side of Barcelona. Its narrow streets, stone walls, and hidden squares show the city's older character. Some streets are so narrow that they feel like secret passageways. It is a great area for walking without a strict plan and discovering small details that do not appear in ordinary travel guides.

CULTURAL STOPS

When visiting Barcelona, you can add one or two museums to your plan to see the city from a different angle. The Picasso Museum is one of the most popular places because it shows the early works of the famous artist. You can also visit museums about modern art, local history, or science, depending on your interests. Football fans can visit the stadium to learn more about the city's football culture and see where many unforgettable matches have taken place.

SPANISH CULTURE ON STAGE

Flamenco is an important part of Spanish culture. In Barcelona, you can attend shows where dancers, singers, and guitar players perform together. The dancers use strong steps, hand movements, and facial expressions to tell a story without words. Watching a flamenco performance can add a lively cultural experience to a Barcelona trip.



TASTES OF SPAIN

In Spain, just like in Türkiye, food is closely connected to spending time with others, so meals often feel social and enjoyable. Some popular dishes are Spanish omelette, made with eggs and potatoes, and paella, a rice dish with vegetables, meat, or seafood. For a sweeter experience, try churros with chocolate. They are crispy, warm, and perfect after a long walk around the city. You can also visit *La Boqueria*, a local market with colourful fruits, sweets, seafood, and snacks.



MUSEUMS IN TÜRKİYE

With its thousands of years of history, Türkiye is home to more than 210 museums under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and hundreds of archaeological sites.

Among the most visited museums are the İstanbul Archaeological Museums, Topkapı Palace Museum, Museum of Anatolian Civilisations, Roman Baths Open-Air Museum, Şanlıurfa Archaeological Museum, Gaziantep-Zeugma Mosaic Museum, and Ephesus Ancient City Museum.

Let's take a closer look at some of these museums.

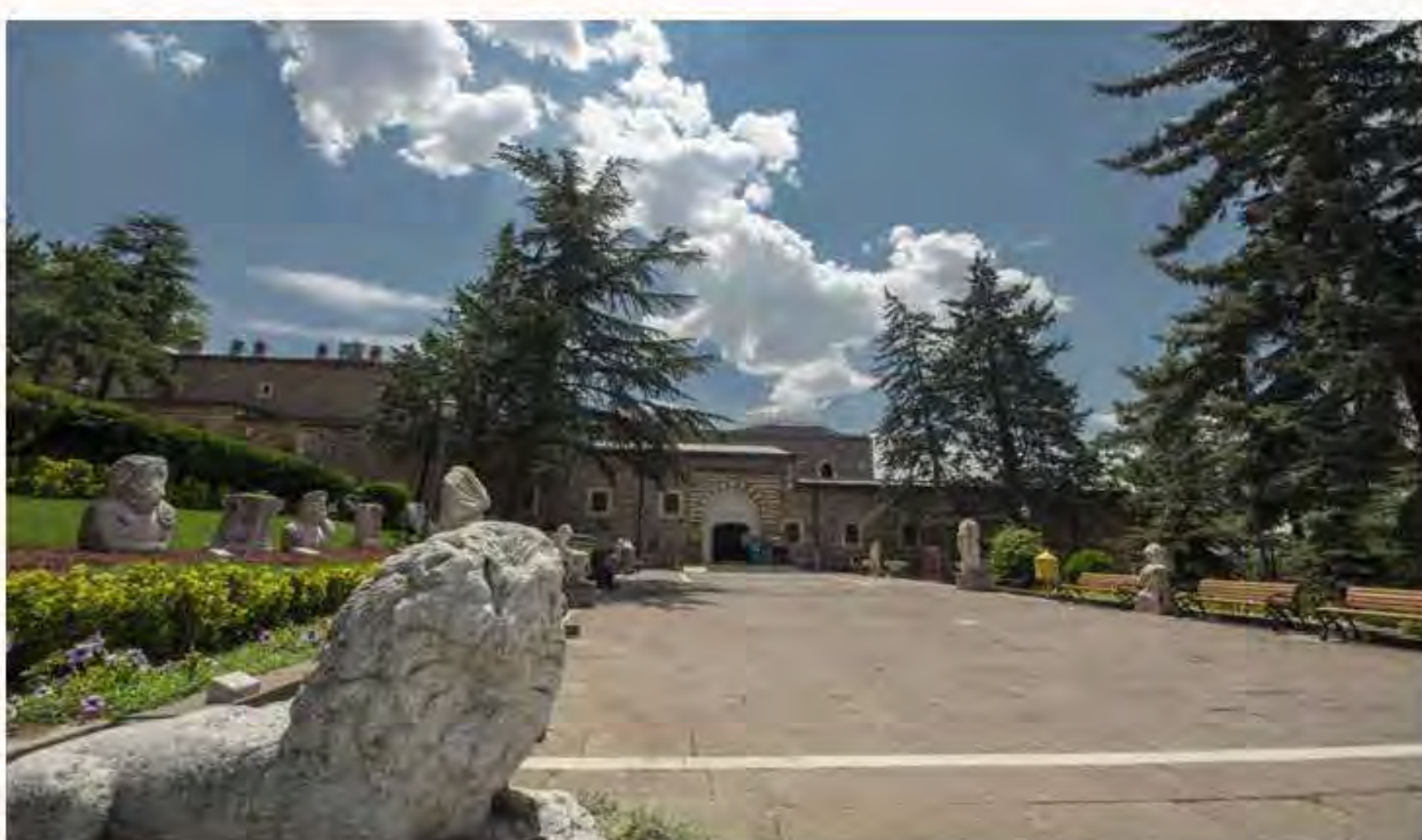
Topkapı Palace Museum

Topkapı Palace, one of the most important historical landmarks in İstanbul, was home to the Ottoman sultans for centuries.

The building, which was converted into a museum after the founding of the Republic, is located in the Cankurtaran neighbourhood of the Fatih district.

Topkapı Palace consists of four courtyards and one *harem*.

The museum displays many valuable collections, including the Imperial Treasury, Chinese and Japanese porcelain, royal garments, weapons, portraits of the sultans, and sacred relics.



The Museum of Anatolian Civilisations

The Museum of Anatolian Civilisations

The Museum of Anatolian Civilisations in Ulus, Ankara takes visitors on a journey through Anatolian history, from the Palaeolithic Age to the present day.

The museum complex consists of two Ottoman buildings. One is the Mahmutpasa Covered Bazaar; the other is the Kurşunlu Han. Both buildings were abandoned after a fire in 1881. Years later, they were restored and transformed into museums based on Atatürk's request to display artefacts collected from across Anatolia.

In 1943, while the buildings were undergoing renovations, the central section was opened to visitors. The museum complex took its final form in 1968.

Today, the Kurşunlu Han, which is used as an administrative building, houses researcher rooms, a library, a conference hall, laboratories, and workshops, while the Mahmutpasa Covered Bazaar is used as an exhibition hall.

The Museum of Anatolian Civilisations was selected as the best museum among 68 museums in Lausanne, Switzerland, on April 19, 1997, and received the title of 'European Museum of the Year'.

Ankara Roman Baths Open-Air Museum

The Ankara Roman Baths archaeological site was transformed into an open-air museum after the restoration work was completed between 1997 and 2001.

Approximately 1,000 artefacts found at the archaeological site have been divided into three main groups: gravestones, inscriptions, and architectural fragments.

Different parts of the museum display a variety of historical objects, including funerary stelae (ancient gravestone), inscribed stones, water pipes, altars, sarcophagi (plural of sarcophagus. It means coffin or a container to hold a coffin. Most sarcophagi are made of stone and displayed above ground), and lion statues.



The Ankara Roman Baths



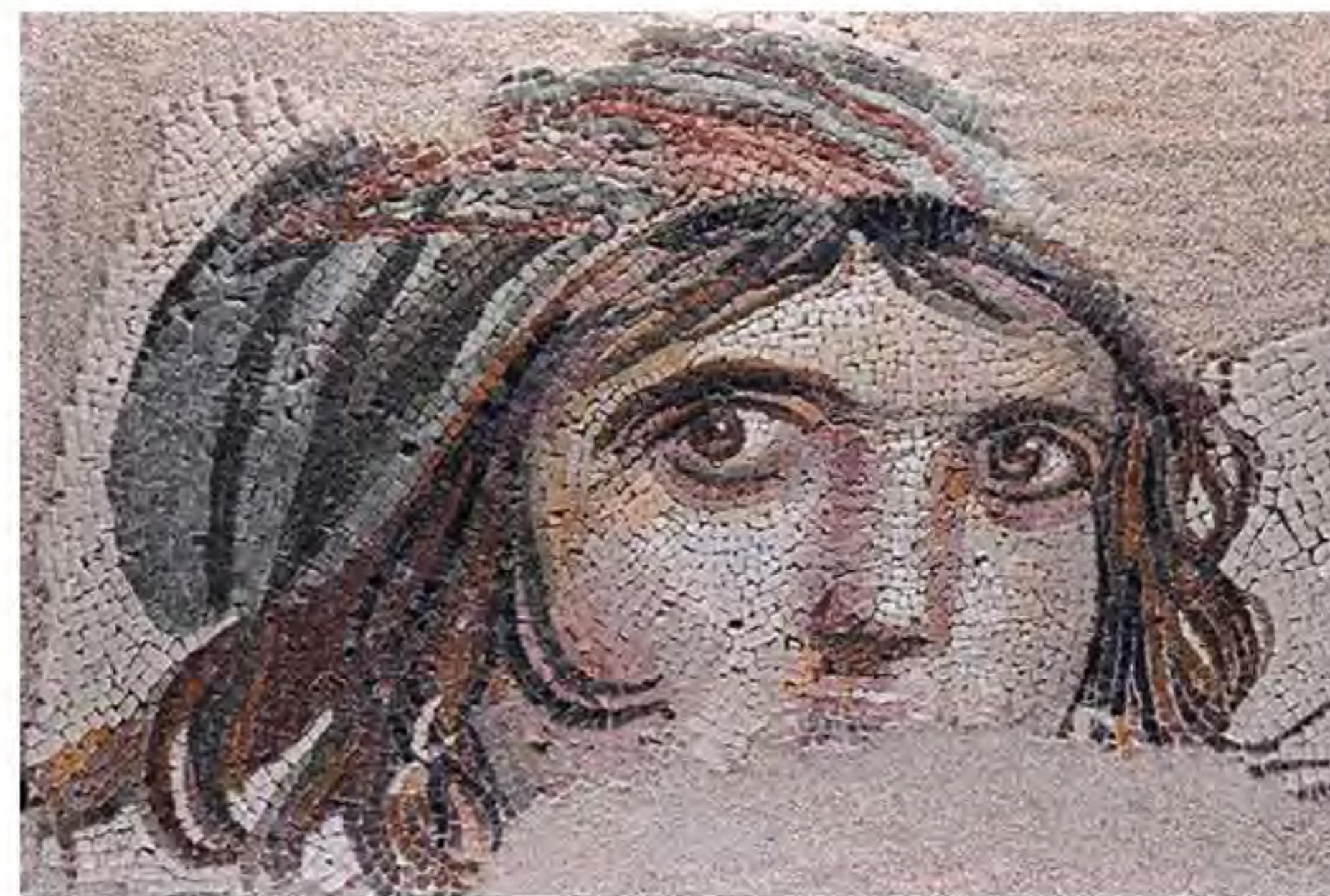
Night Museum at Ephesus Ancient City

The ancient city of Ephesus, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, can now be visited at night as part of a special night museum programme. The initiative, launched to allow tourists to explore the ancient city during cooler hours, is supported by special lighting in key areas such as the Celsus Library, Agora Square, the Street of the Curetes, the Temple of Domitian, the ancient theatre, and the Hillside Houses.

Zeugma Mosaic Museum – Gaziantep

The Zeugma Mosaic Museum is one of the largest mosaic museums in the world. It is located in Gaziantep and attracts many visitors every year.

The museum is famous for its colourful Roman mosaics showing people, animals, and scenes from daily life. Visitors can also see ancient statues, columns, and fountains from the Roman period. One of the most famous works in the museum is the 'Gypsy Girl' mosaic. It is known for its mysterious eyes and detailed design. Today, it has become one of the symbols of Gaziantep.



Bandırma Ship Museum – Samsun

The Bandırma ship enabled Mustafa Kemal Pasha and his companions to arrive in Samsun to carry out their duties. And it holds an important place in our history in the initiation of the Turkish War of Independence. It is

organised into two sections: a ship museum area and an open-air museum area. Inside the ship's cabin, there are wax figures of Mustafa Kemal Pasha and his four companions. The open-air museum features the National Liberation Monument and weapons of war.

Troy Museum – Çanakkale

The Troy Museum is located at the entrance to the ancient city of Troy, within the boundaries of Tevfikiye Village in the Central District of Çanakkale Province.

The Troy Museum tells the story of Troy and its culture, which left its mark on the Troas region, famously depicted in Homer's Iliad, through artefacts unearthed during excavations.



Şanlıurfa Archaeology Museum

With three floors and 29,000 square metres of indoor space, the new Şanlıurfa Archaeology Museum opened to visitors in 2015. The museum has 14 main exhibition halls and 33 interactive areas. In addition, the archaeological park area includes chronologically arranged examples of structures reflecting the architectural features of their period, as well as an excavation training area suitable for experimental archaeological studies.



Lutiye

Have you ever stopped to listen to the soul of a musical instrument? It's not just about the notes a musician plays; it is about the journey that began deep inside a forest. If you want to see how a simple piece of wood turns into a beautiful melody, the *Lutiye* documentary series on TRT Avaz is a journey you won't want to miss. It takes us behind the stage and into the dusty, magical workshops where music is born.



Sound from Wood: Discovering the Art of Instrument Making

Lutiye as a Word

The word might sound unusual, but it carries centuries of tradition. A *lutiye* (luthier) is a master artist who designs, builds, and repairs musical instruments. These craftsmen do not use big factory machines; they use their hands, their eyes, and their hearts. In this documentary, we witness the birth of traditional instruments such as the *tulum*, *kemençe*, *mey*, *dombra*, *tar*, *igil* and *kabak kemane*, which are played from the high mountains of the Black Sea region to the vast steppes of Central Asia.

More Than Music: A Journey Through History

Each episode of *Lutiye* is like a history lesson that feels just like a story. Before the craftsman begins to shape the instrument, he tells us about its characteristics. We learn about the instrument's history, its tonal qualities, and the regions where it is played. For example, we begin by learning that the *tulum* is a wind instrument used in the north-eastern Black Sea region. Understanding the roots helps us see that music is a bridge. It connects the past to the present and brings different cultures together under one rhythm.

From Tree to Tune: The Secret Process

The most fascinating part of the series is watching the making process. It all starts with the wood. Did you know that the type of wood changes the sound's colour? Some woods make the music feel warm and soft, while others make it bright and powerful. The craftsman does not choose a tree at random; he begins to demonstrate his art by selecting the wood, for example, for the *kemençe*, which is usually plum, mulberry, or juniper wood, and for the *zurna*, which is plum, *zerdali*, or boxwood.

As we watch, the workshop fills with wood shavings and the smell of natural varnish. The craftsman works with incredible patience. He cuts, carves, and shapes the wood with tiny tools. He assembles the parts using traditional methods. As we watch the luthier carefully crafting the musical instrument in the documentary, we realise that every millimetre counts.

This section of the documentary is very satisfying to watch because it reminds us that true art requires extreme care and time.





Scan the QR code to
watch the
documentary.

TRT AVAZ



The Magic Moment: The Sound Comes to Life

The excitement is high when the work is finally done. The workshop goes quiet, and a professional musician picks up the brand-new instrument. When the first note is played, you can feel the satisfaction of the craftsman. This final performance is the reward for hours of hard work.

We hear the unique voice of the instrument—sometimes crying, sometimes dancing. These short musical pieces at the end of the episodes make the documentary lively and give the viewer a sense of peace.

Why You Should Add ‘Lutiye’ to Your Watchlist

In our modern world, almost everything is fast, digital, and made by machines. *Lutiye* offers something different. It is a perfect series for young people because it teaches two essential life lessons: patience and creativity.

It shows that you don’t need a computer to create something amazing; you can do it by hand. For people looking for inspiration, it might even spark an interest in a new hobby or a unique career path.

It proves that traditional skills are not old-fashioned; they are timeless treasures.

The *Lutiye* documentary series is a beautiful celebration of human skill. It’s simple to understand, visually stunning, and deeply emotional. Whether you are a music lover or just someone who enjoys learning about the world, this series will change the way you look at a musical instrument. The next time you hear a song, you won’t just hear the music. You will think of the wood, the master, and the incredible journey from the forest to the stage.



CULTURE, ART, AND LITERATURE

Turkish Literature Selection: A Journey Through Time *İlber Ortaylı Seyahatnamesi*

Who Was İlber Ortaylı?

İlber Ortaylı was one of the most respected, productive, and famous historians in Türkiye. He was a brilliant academic and a passionate explorer who loved seeing new places. He strongly believed that history is not only found in old texts, yellowed ancient documents, and thick books. According to him, history also continues to live in the streets we walk, in the architecture of ancient buildings, in the atmosphere of old markets, and in the daily life practices of people. In his philosophy, to fully grasp and understand history requires seeing the geography where that history actually happened, breathing that air, and experiencing that culture in person.

The Importance of Reading and Travelling

There is a famous and traditional question in Turkish culture that is passed down from generation to generation: 'Who knows better: the one who reads a lot, or the one who travels a lot?' İlber Ortaylı gave a very clear, practical, and wise answer to this difficult question. He stated that for a person to understand the world, they must do both at the same time in a way that supports each other.

This perspective is extremely valuable for the education of young people. While the subjects in your school provide you with the necessary academic foundation you will need in life, travelling and observing the world in person gives you a real vision. Travelling helps you understand the global connections you read about in books with your own eyes, deeply appreciate different cultures, and build empathy. It turns you into a true global citizen integrated with the world.

A Unique Book: İlber Ortaylı Seyahatnamesi

The valuable work named *İlber Ortaylı Seyahatnamesi* is a perfect summary of the author's travel experiences, observations, and academic research over fifty years. In this book, Ortaylı acts both as a writer and a wise guide and a travel companion for the reader. He takes his small suitcase and invites us to join an incredible cultural journey stretching from the vast steppes of Central Asia to the historical capitals of Europe, from the challenging mountains of the Caucasus to the hot deserts of the Middle East.

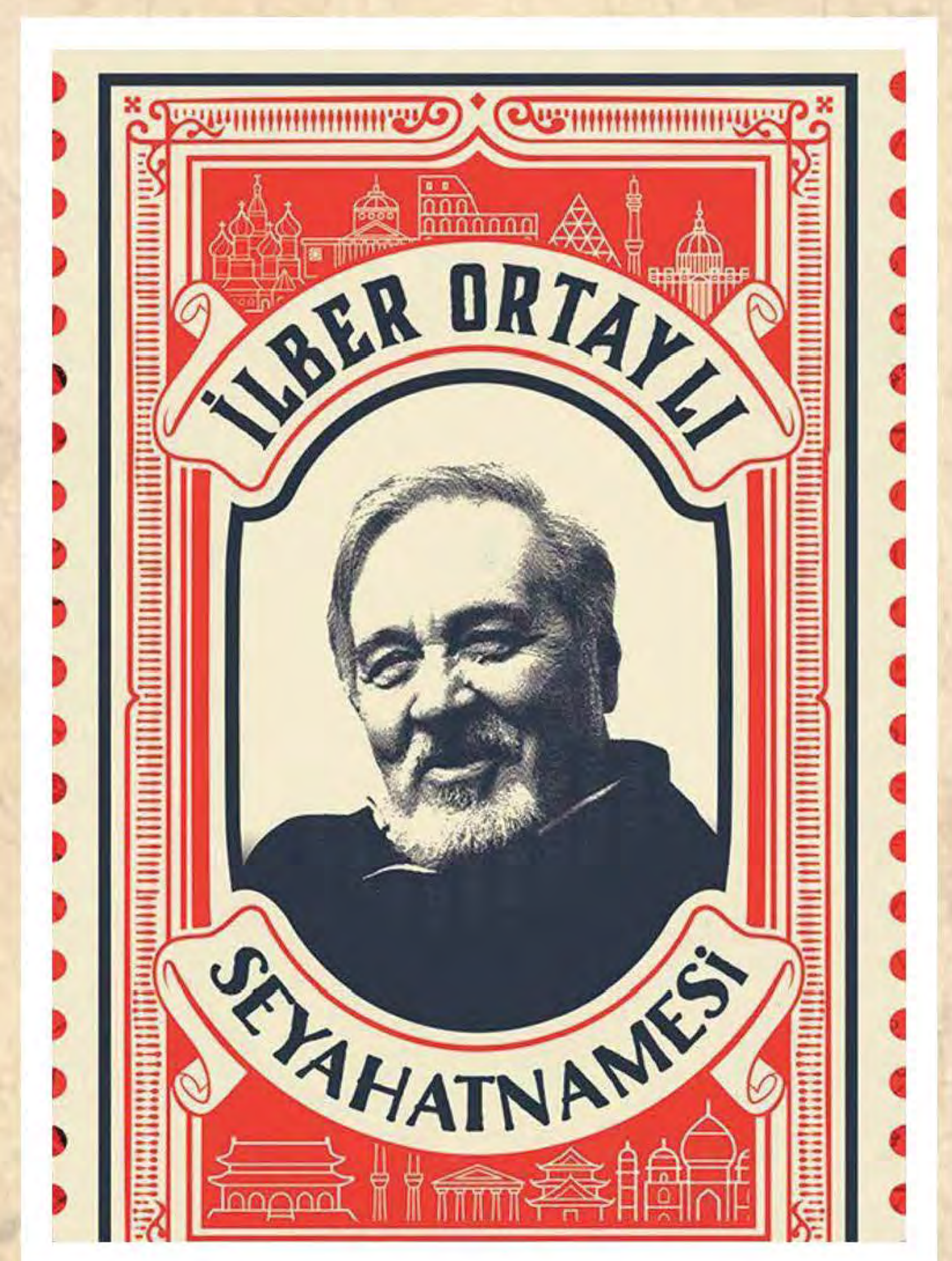
This work is definitely not a standard tourist guide. It does not tell you which luxury hotel to stay in, where to shop, or which popular restaurants to visit. Instead, it deeply explains the true soul, architectural texture, and historical identity of the countries. The author takes the reader to many fascinating and history-scented places, including Syria, Jordan, Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, Crimea, and Uzbekistan.

When writing about the Middle East in his book, Ortaylı focuses especially on the ancient cities of Syria and Jordan, which are settlements thousands of years old. These regions are of great importance for that region and also for all human history and the development of early civilisations. The author walks in the old, lively markets, describes the centuries-old historical buildings in detail, and explains the common cultural heritage shared by different nations in the region with an expert eye.

He shows with historical evidence how different communities, beliefs, and religions have lived together in peace and harmony on these lands for centuries. His

highly detailed, literary, and beautiful descriptions help the reader feel the warm atmosphere, the smell, and the deep history of these ancient lands in the comfort of their home.

The journey in the book is not limited to warm climates; the author also takes the reader north to explore the culturally rich lands of Russia. While describing the elegant palaces in St Petersburg with their architectural features, he enables the reader to learn completely new, eye-opening information about our shared history and the cultural interactions that took place in these northern regions for centuries.



The Heart of Asia: Iran, The Caucasus, and Türkistan

Another fascinating, colourful, and mystical section of the book focuses on the geography of Iran and Central Asia. When describing Iran, Ortaylı highlights its elegant poetry, beautiful green gardens, art, and ancient traditions with great respect. By providing a deep understanding of the artistic, literary, and historical soul of the Iranian people, he shows their great contributions to world culture and literature from a historical perspective.

Then, this great historian turns his route to Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, the two important centers of the Turkic world.

Uzbekistan is the historical centre of the Silk Road, the most famous ancient trade route in the world. Legendary cities like Samarkand and Bukhara have a rightful worldwide reputation with their amazing Islamic architecture, massive historical madrasas, and beautiful blue tiles.

Ortaylı explains with great pride how the great scholars, astronomers, and scientists raised in these cities made unique contributions to the world of science and philosophy in the past and thus to today's modern science.



Why Should Students Read This Book?

İlber Ortaylı Seyahatnamesi is highly recommended, a must-read book for all high school students who want to know the world. This work teaches us that the world is a vast, complex, colourful, and fascinating place waiting to be learnt and discovered.

Remember that every country has a unique story to tell the world, and every culture has valuable lessons to teach us. This unique travelogue is not just a history book about the past; it is also a guide to being a visionary person who can understand the future. It is a manifesto that encourages young people to read deeply, question, travel consciously, and constantly seek knowledge.

If you want to expand your horizon, learn how to truly observe the world, and go beyond your mental limits, this book should definitely take its place in the most valuable corner of your library.

More Than a Game: Stefan Zweig's Chess

Chess and the Human Mind

What comes to your mind when you think of chess? Maybe a quiet room, black and white pieces, careful moves, or two people thinking deeply... However, if you have read Stefan Zweig's *Chess*, your ideas about this game may have changed. In this story, chess is not presented only as a game of intelligence. It becomes a powerful symbol of memory, mental effort, and the sensitive nature of the human mind.

Stefan Zweig was an Austrian writer, born in Vienna in 1881. He became one of the most important literary voices of the early twentieth century. Zweig was especially successful at describing the emotional world of human beings. His writing is usually clear and readable, but the ideas behind his stories are deeper and thought-provoking. *Chess*, one of Zweig's best-known works, is powerful for this reason. Although it is a short work, it invites the reader on a long inner journey. Through this story, Zweig reminds us that people try to keep themselves powerful even in the most difficult times and human beings always search for meaning.

A Strange Encounter on the Ship

The story takes place on a ship travelling from New York to Buenos Aires. Among the passengers is Mirko Czentovic, a world chess champion. Czentovic is extremely successful at chess; however, outside the game, he seems cold, distant, and limited. He does not have a rich imagination or strong social skills. He sees chess as a game of calculation that must be won. For him, chess is a field of control, calculation, and victory.

During the journey, some passengers want to play chess against Czentovic. Czentovic accepts their offer and plays against them on the ship. During one of these games, another passenger, Dr. B., suddenly attracts attention. The passengers are about to lose, but Dr. B. sees the right moves and helps the game end in a draw. Later, when he faces Czentovic directly, it becomes clearer that he is not an ordinary chess player.

As the story continues, we learn that this quiet and ordinary-looking man has a very unusual relationship with chess. Dr. B. is a

lawyer who has some important and private information due to his profession. For this reason, some people want to get information from him. He is kept alone for a long time and is cut off from normal life. He has no books, no one to talk to, and no meaningful activity to keep his mind busy.



A Chess Game Without a Board

During this loneliness, Dr. B. accidentally finds a book about chess games. At first, the book seems like just an object to help him pass the time. When he realises that it is not a novel or a storybook but a technical book showing chess games, he feels disappointed. However, because he has nothing else to do, he begins to study the games on the pages.

The book includes the moves of great chess masters, the order of the games, and different chess positions. Dr. B. first tries to understand these moves, and then he starts to memorise them. Since he does not have a real chessboard, he has to build every square and every piece in his mind.

In this way, the book stops being only something to read. It becomes a new thinking space in Dr. B.'s mind, and the meaning of chess changes completely for him. For Czentovic, chess is a professional skill and a way to win. For Dr. B., however, chess becomes an inner world where he tries to keep his mind alive during loneliness. Over time, he does not only remember the moves; he becomes able to play the whole game in his mind.

The contrast between these two characters makes the story powerful. Czentovic represents discipline, calculation, and visible success while Dr. B. represents imagination, endurance, and inner effort. The chessboard brings these two different worlds together.

Success, Empathy, and Hope

One of the most striking ideas in *Chess* is that the human mind can be both strong and sensitive. Dr. B. survives because he can think, remember, and imagine. Chess gives his mind a space to hold on to. However, the story also shows that the mind is not an unlimited power. The human mind needs balance, rest, and human connection.

This message is meaningful for young readers today. Of course, students' lives are very different from Dr. B.'s experience. Still, many young people know what stress and mental tiredness can feel like. Exams, expectations, social media, competition, and the worry of failure can sometimes make the mind feel crowded and tired. In this sense, *Chess* invites young readers to ask an important question: How can we protect our inner world when life becomes difficult?

The story also makes us question the meaning of success. Czentovic is a world champion, but his success does not make him a truly admirable person. He wins games, but he does not build meaningful relationships with the people around him. Without communication, kindness, and empathy; talent remains incomplete. Dr. B., on the other hand, has a brilliant mind, but his intelligence has been shaped by isolation, mental effort, and painful memories. Through these two characters, Zweig shows that success is not only about winning or being better than others. Real success also requires balance, self-awareness, empathy, and the ability to build healthy relationships with people. Stefan Zweig's *Chess* is a short yet unforgettable work. It can be read quickly, but the questions it asks stay in the reader's mind for a long time. The story shows that the deepest struggles are not always visible. Perhaps *Chess* reminds us of this: even in the most difficult moments, the human mind does not stop searching for meaning, trying to find a way, and holding on to hope.



MEBi Song

How to Play / Game Rules

- Listen to the Mebi song carefully.
- Type the missing words into the blanks.
- You have 3 chances! When you enter three incorrect letters, the word will auto-fill, and you will lose one chance.



Scan the QR code to access the activity.

Lyrics



Verse 1

I open Mebi every day,
To learn and _____ in my own way.
Tests and videos help me see,
A better _____ waits for me.

Pre-Chorus

Step by step, I learn the _____ ,
Math and science, books and tools.
When I fail, I try once _____ ,
Mebi helps me reach the door.

Chorus

Mebi, teach me how to fly,
Help me reach my _____ so high.
Questions, lessons, all so clear,
With Mebi, _____ is near.

Verse 2

Topic videos guide my mind,
Easy _____ I can find.
Practice makes me strong each day,
Learning never fades _____.

Bridge

Every student has a light,
Mebi helps it shine so _____.
Learning smart and learning free,
Building who I want to _____.

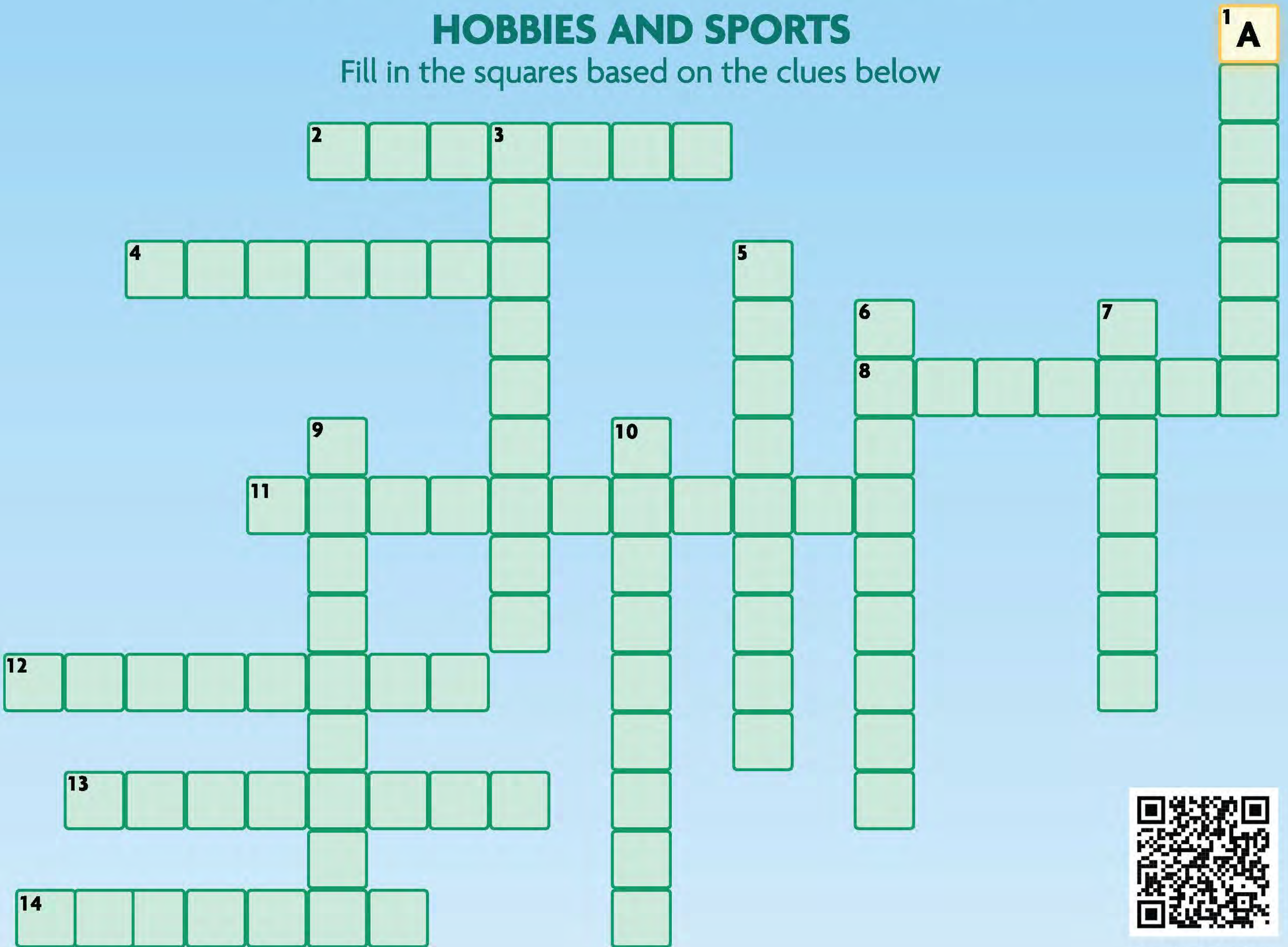
Chorus

Mebi, teach me how to fly,
Help me _____ my dreams so high.
_____, lessons, all so clear,
With Mebi, success is near.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

HOBBIES AND SPORTS

Fill in the squares based on the clues below



Scan the QR code to access the activity.

ACROSS

2. Japanese art of folding paper
4. An exciting sport that involves running, jumping, and climbing over obstacles in a city as fast as possible
8. Creating objects out of fired clay
11. The art of beautiful, decorative handwriting
12. The art of creating colourful patterns by floating ink on liquid
13. Creating fabric using yarn and needles
14. An activity where you move smoothly on ice by using special boots

DOWN

1. The sport of shooting with a bow and arrows
3. An activity of growing and tending to plants
5. Carving stone or clay into 3D art
6. Giving waste materials a better life and quality
7. A traditional sport where two people fight with long, thin swords to score points
9. Racket sport played with a shuttlecock
10. A fighting sport in which two people try to throw each other to the ground

TASK-TAC-TOE

READY FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Improve your English skills while playing against friends or AI. Complete the tasks, claim the squares, and try to make three in a row! Scan the QR code to play the game online.

How to Play

- Choose your game mode and mark.
- Select a square and complete the task.
- If your answer is correct, the square is marked automatically.
- The first player to make three in a row wins!



Scan the QR code to access the activity.

Task-Tac-Toe
Play & complete academic challenges

Show Rules

1. Game Mode
Select your challenger

Friend
AI

2. Choose Your Mark
Your playing token

X
O

Player (X)'s turn! Select a square.

1
Write 2 indoor activities.

2
Say 3 team sports.

3
Guess the hobby: People fold paper to make shapes.

4
Find the opposite of 'team sport'.

5
Say 3 sports beginning with 'B'.

6
Write 2 board games.

7
Write 3 musical instruments.

8
Say the name of a famous artist.

9
Draw a camera.

Answer Box
Active Square Task: 5

1 Answer 1

2 Answer 2

3 Answer 3

Speak
Check Answer

Solve the task and click 'Check Answer'.

* The Speak button works in modern browsers supporting speech recognition. If you cannot answer correctly in 3 attempts, an example answer appears, but the square stays empty.

What Kind of Traveller Are You?

We all love a holiday, but are you a real traveller or just a tourist who gets lost without Wi-Fi? Take this quiz to find out your 'Discovery Score'!



1.

You and your family are planning a trip for next month. What do you do?

- A) I look at maps and dream about snacks. I'm already 50% happier!
- B) I wait for my parents to tell me when to get in the car.

3.

Someone offers you a 'Strange Local Dish.' It looks... interesting.

- A) I don't know what this is, but I want to speak the language of food!
- B) No, thank you. Do you have any chips?

5.

You have been walking around a museum/park for three hours.

- A) My legs are tired, but my brain is full of 'endorphins'. I feel great!
- B) My legs hurt. I want a taxi and a nap.

How To Score:

Count your points for each answer to find your total score:

Choice A = 3 points | Choice B = 1 point

2.

You are in a historical town, and you want to find the famous old castle. What do you do?

- A) I ask a local shopkeeper for directions using a few words or hand gestures. It's an adventure!
- B) I prefer to stay in my comfort zone. I will wait until my phone finds the signal!

4.

You are at a magnificent viewpoint on top of a mountain. What is your first reaction?

- A) I take a deep breath, look at the view, and enjoy the moment.
- B) I spend 15 minutes taking 50 photos from different angles.

6.

You see a lost traveller in your town.

- A) I say 'Hello!' and help them. It's a great chance to practise my social skills.
- B) I look at my shoes and walk away quickly.



6 – 10 Points: The 'Comfort-Loving Traveller'

You enjoy familiar places, relaxing activities and a comfortable travel experience. On your next trip, try adding one small adventure to your plans. You may discover something new to enjoy!



11 – 14 Points: The 'Easy-Going Traveller'

You enjoy holidays, but you love your phone and your comfort too. Try unplugging from the virtual world next time. The real world is much more colourful when you're not looking through a screen!



15 – 18 Points: The 'Curious Explorer'

Congratulations! You are the next Marco Polo. You have a curious mind, a strong brain, and a stomach ready for anything. You don't just visit places; you live them. Keep telling those great stories!

SHARPEN YOUR MIND

How many words can you find within the 12-letter word below?
Your words must have at least 5 letters or more and appear in the dictionary.

 **Good: 5 words**

 **Great: 10 words**

 **Genius: 12+ words**

C O M P L E X I T Y

Your Score

RIDDLES

- 1- What 'ring' is square?
- 2- What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years?
- 3- Remove nine letters from this sequence to reveal a familiar English word.
BSAINXLEATNTEAR
- 4- I am a box that holds keys without locks, but they can unlock your soul. What am I?
- 5- What can you catch but not throw?
- 6- What always goes to bed with its shoes on?
- 7- What starts with an 'e' but only has a single letter in it?
- 8- What has hands that can't clap?
- 9- Everyone in the world needs it. They generously give it, but rarely take it. What is it?
- 10- What common English verb becomes its own past tense by rearranging its letters?
- 11- A girl who was just learning to drive went down a one-way street in the wrong direction but didn't break the law. How did it come?
- 12- There is a one-storey house. The walls are blue; the floor is pink. The stove and cupboards are red. What colour are the stairs?

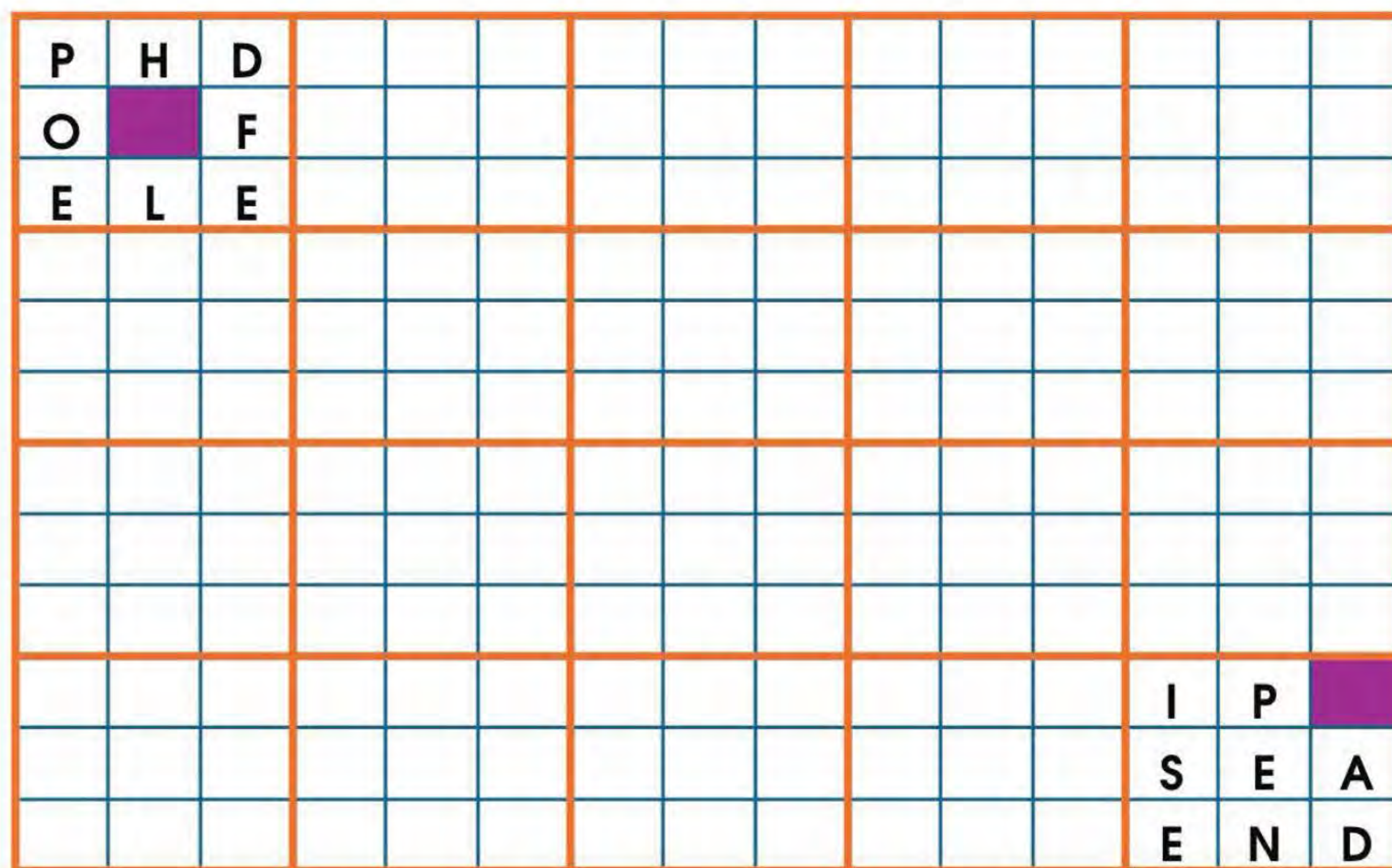
ANSWERS
5 Letter Words: Comet, motel, pixel, pilot, topic, toxic 6 Letters or More: compel, exotic, poetic, police, polite, compile, complex
RIDDLES
1- a boxing ring 2- the letter M 3- BANANA 4- a piano 5- a cold 6- a horse 7- an envelope 8- a clock 9- advice 10- 'eat' and 'ate' 11- She was walking 12- There aren't any stairs

MOSAIC PUZZLE - EASY LEVEL

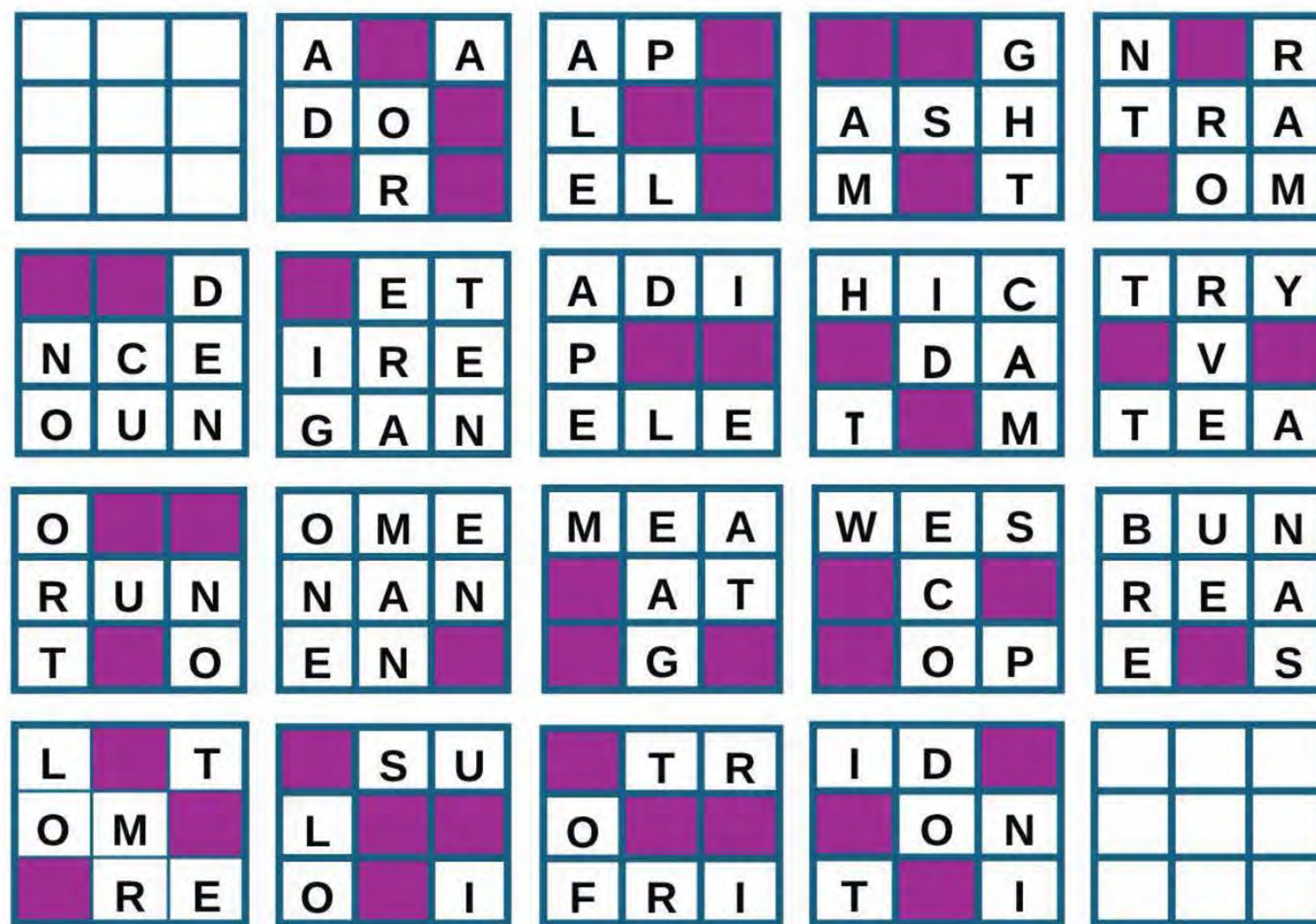
Complete the big grid by placing the small 3x3 mosaic pieces into the correct boxes. When you finish, the words must be meaningful from left to right (across) and from top to bottom (down).

Tips for Success:

- Check the letters on the edges of the small pieces to see if they match the words in the big grid.
- Some pieces are already placed to help you start!
- Both US and UK English spellings are valid.



Scan the QR code to access the activity.



MOSAIC PUZZLE - HARD LEVEL

Complete the big grid by placing the small 3x3 mosaic pieces into the correct boxes. When you finish, the words must be meaningful from left to right (across) and from top to bottom (down).

Tips for Success:

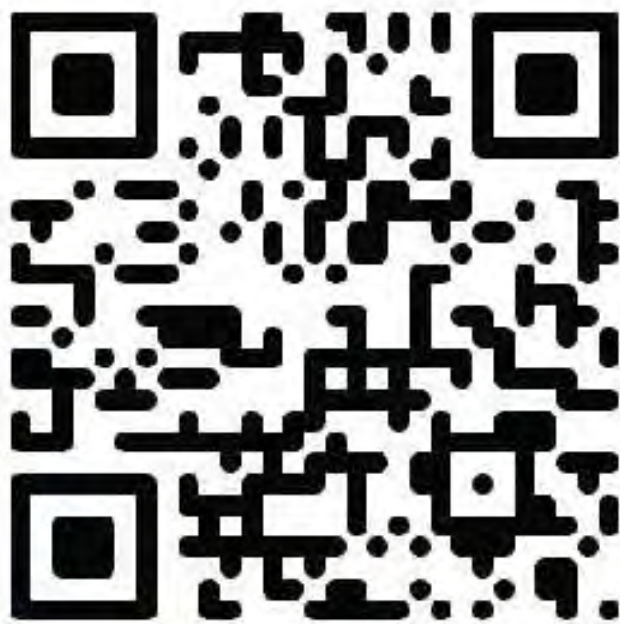
- Check the letters on the edges of the small pieces to see if they match the words in the big grid.
- Some pieces are already placed to help you start!
- Both US and UK English spellings are valid.

K	N	I					I										
I		R					N	T	E								
T	R	O						I									
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															T	L	E



Scan the QR code to access the activity.

			C	L	E				T		E		H	E
			H		A				A	S		B	A	N
			I	S	T				I		S	O	N	
I	O	L			B		O	A	R	A		E	O	N
R	E			P	U	A	T	L	C	R	O		R	O
		T	I	E	R	N	D	E	H	Y			E	T
		G		N			B		E		N	T		K
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	A	R		I	T		R		E	A				
A	L			P		C	A	S	T		H			



Scan the QR code to access the answer key.

HOW TO PLAY:

World Cup Football 3D

Game Objective

Welcome to World Cup Football 3D! This is an interactive educational game designed to test your Art & Music vocabulary. Score goals by correctly answering vocabulary questions and become the ultimate champion!



Scan the QR code to access the activity.

Basic Rules

-  **Start a Question:** Click the soccer ball on the screen to trigger a vocabulary question.
-  **Answer:** Read the question and choose the correct English word from the given options.
-  **Correct Answer:** GOAL! You score a point.
-  **Wrong Answer:** Miss! The goalkeeper saves it.

Game Modes

1 Player Mode (Solo)

- You start with **3 Chances**.
- Every wrong answer costs you one chance.
- Answer all questions correctly before losing all your chances to win!
- You have **16 shots** total—use them wisely to score maximum points.
- Reach **100 points** to become the champion!

2 Players Mode (Duo)

- Challenge a friend and play together on the same screen!
- Players take turns shooting the ball and answering questions.
- The first player to reach **10 goals** wins the match!

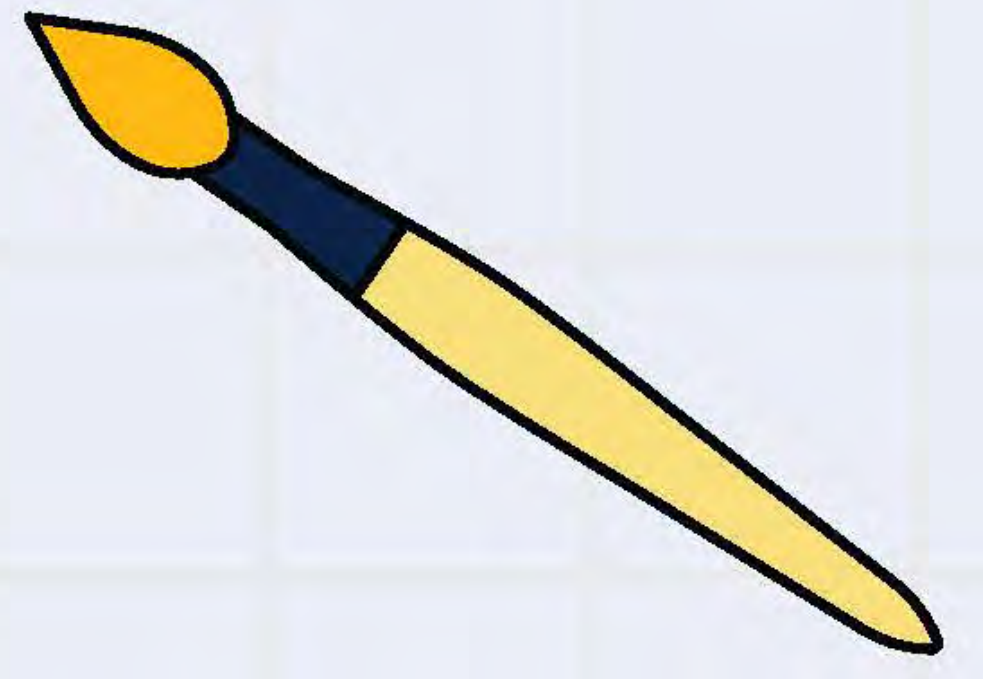
Controls

- **Mouse / Touch:** Click or tap the ball to shoot and interact with the menu.
- **Day/Night Toggle:** Click the 'DAY/NIGHT' button to change the stadium lighting.
- **Music:** Toggle background music on or off using the music button.

Good Luck and Have Fun Learning!



THE ACCIDENTAL MASTERPIECE



John

Wow, Zeynep. The colours are amazing. You have a real talent.

Zeynep

This is it! My project for the regional youth art exhibition. I worked on it for three months.



Kaan

Hey guys! My practice is finally over and I'm starving! Let's go to lunch together. What are you up to?

John

Lunch can wait for a minute, Kaan! Come here and look at this beautiful masterpiece first!

Zeynep

Thank you, Kaan! Happy to hear that.



Kaan

Wow! Look at those colours! This masterpiece is absolutely brilliant, Zeynep

Kaan

Alright, get ready for lunch! In the meantime, let me show you my new trick!



Zeynep

Kaan, stop! Not near the paintings!



Kaan

Oh no... Zeynep, I am so, so sorry! It was an accident!



Zeynep

The exhibition is in two days! I can't believe this happened.

John

Wait a minute... The ball actually made an interesting pattern.

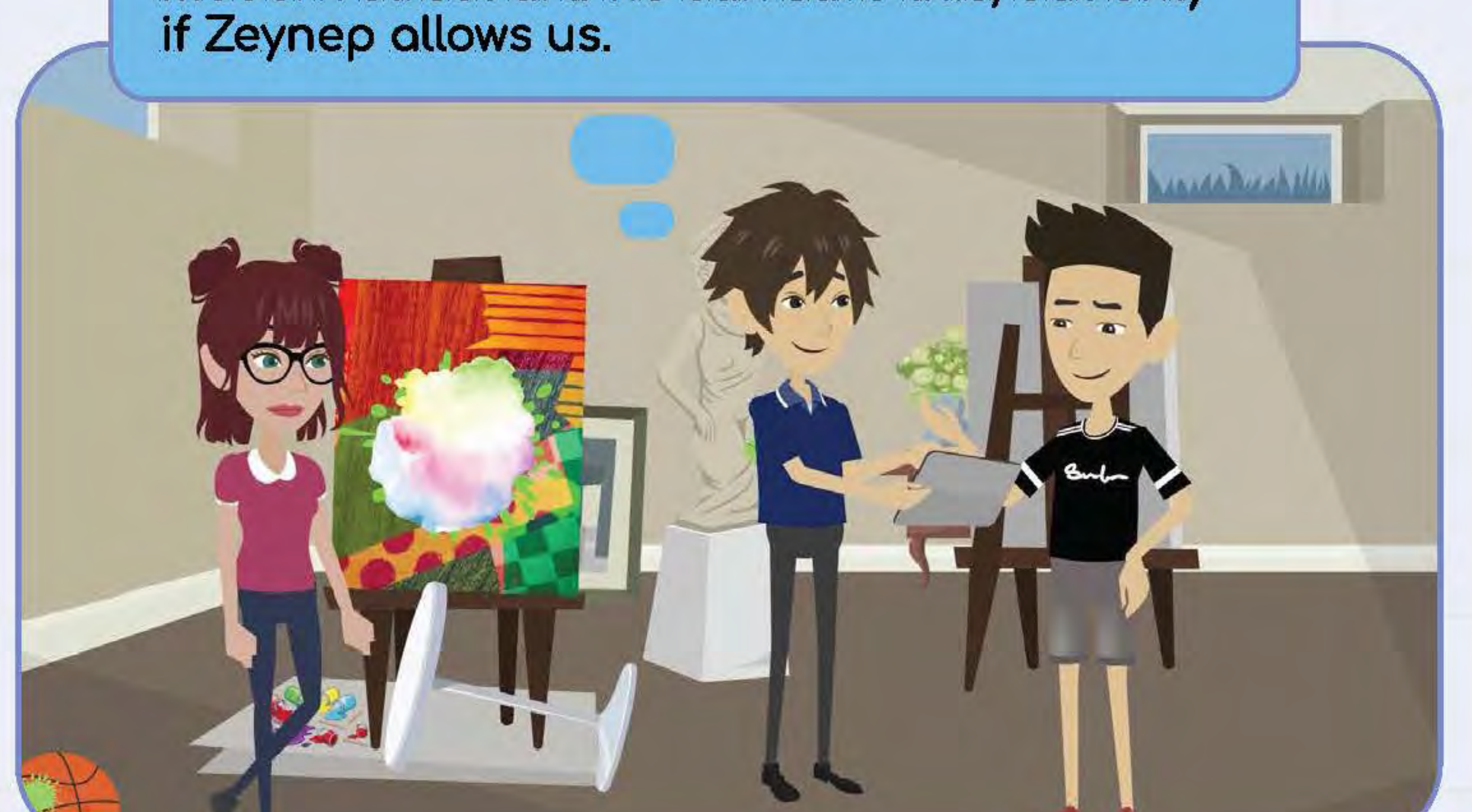


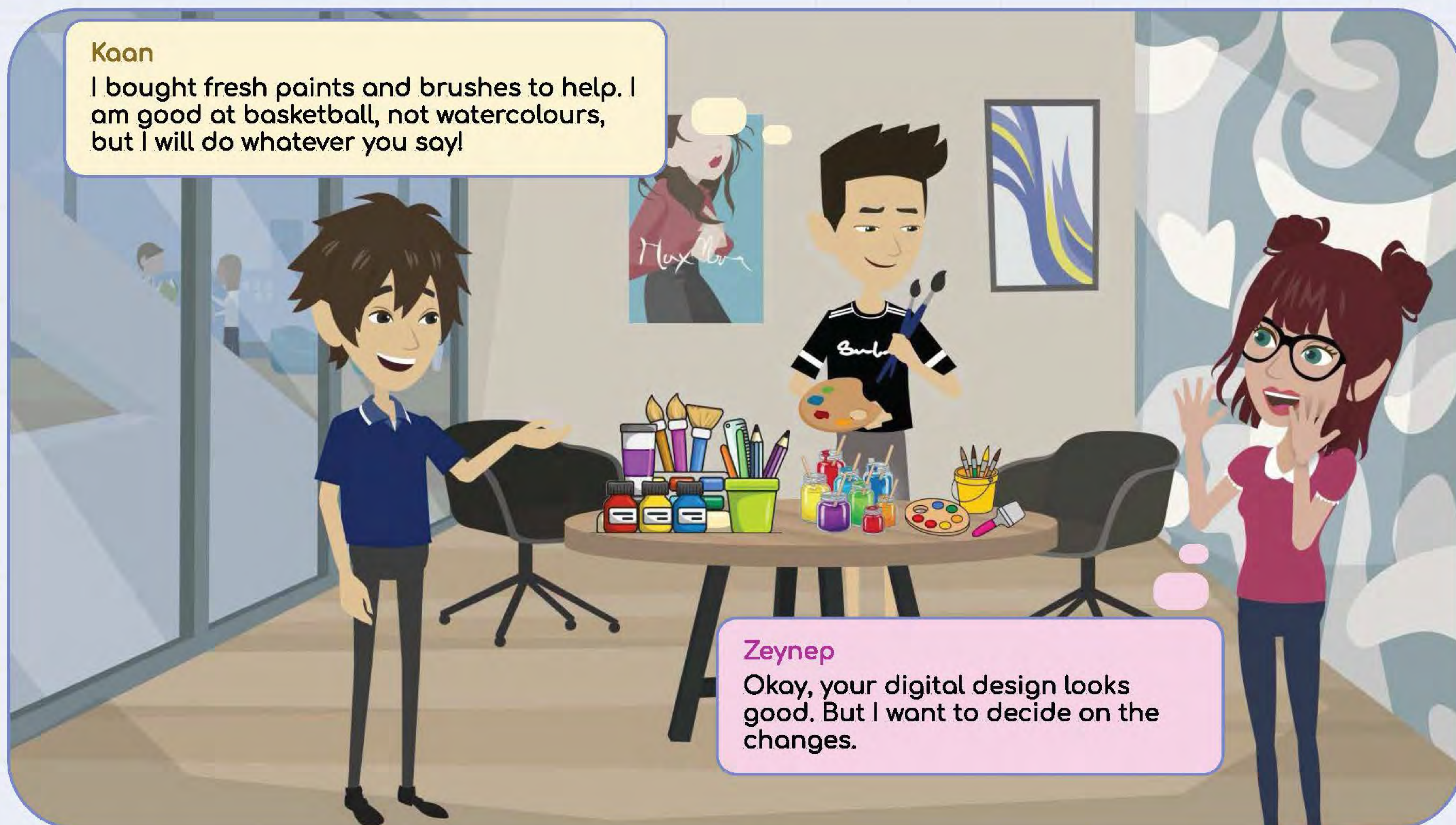
Kaan

What do you mean?

John

Look at this digital design. It looks like cool modern street art. We can save this, but only if Zeynep allows us.





Kaan

I bought fresh paints and brushes to help. I am good at basketball, not watercolours, but I will do whatever you say!

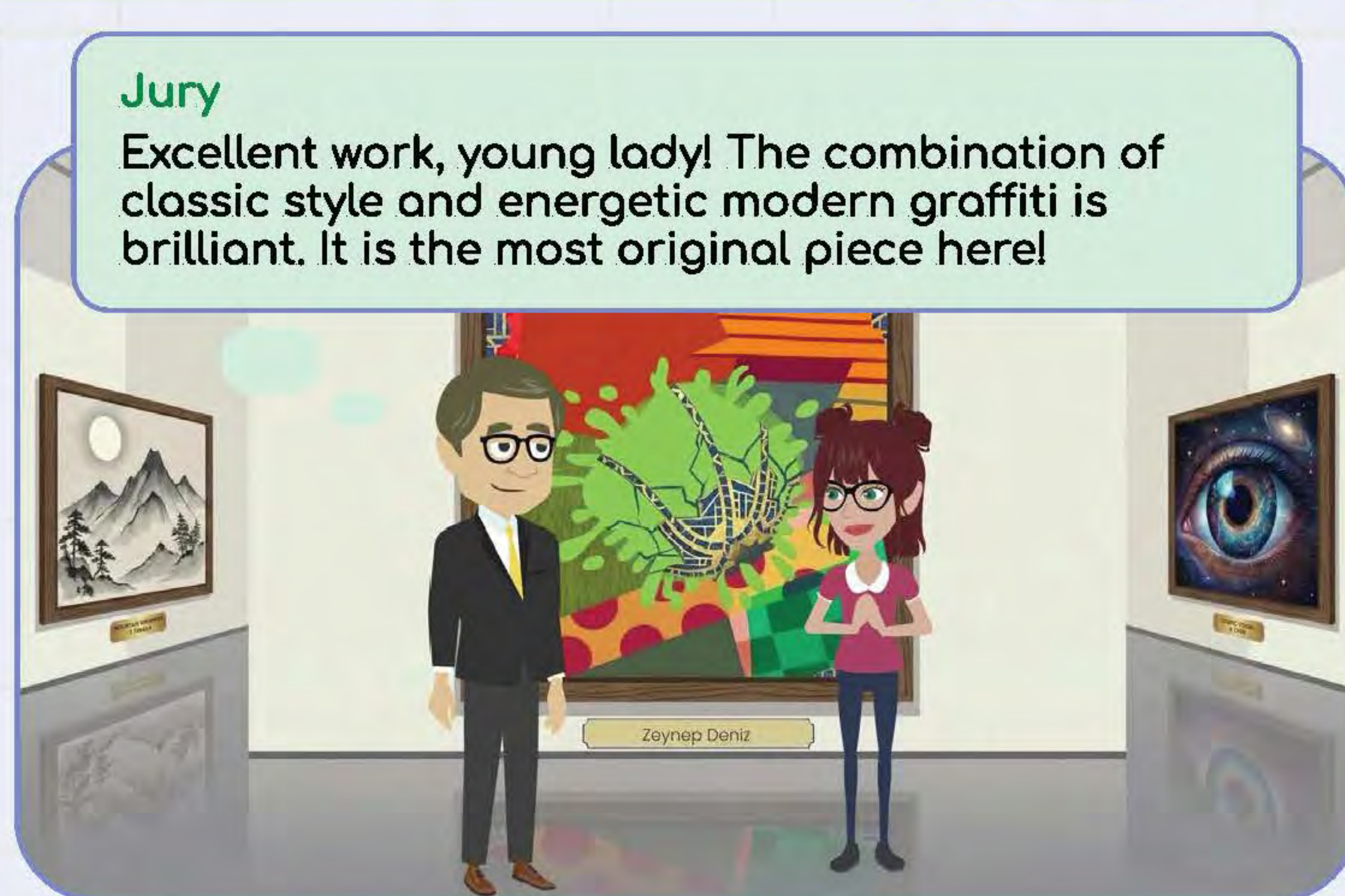
Zeynep

Okay, your digital design looks good. But I want to decide on the changes.



Kaan

Wait... did we just turn basketball into art?"



Jury

Excellent work, young lady! The combination of classic style and energetic modern graffiti is brilliant. It is the most original piece here!



Zeynep

Don't worry about it, Kaan! It actually looks better than before. Our teamwork saved it.

Kaan

I am still so sorry for ruining your painting, Zeynep.

John

So, what should our next summer project be?

WHAT SHOULD YOU TRY THIS SUMMER?



LET'S GET STARTED!

1.

How does your ideal summer morning start?

- a) With a quick run or some exercise to feel the energy
- b) With a sketchbook, a camera, or working on a new DIY project
- c) With a long sleep and a cold lemonade while reading a book
- d) With a big breakfast and planning the day with my friends

2.

If you could learn one new skill this month, what would it be?

- a) Mastering a new sport, like archery or table tennis.
- b) Learning how to edit videos or designing your own posters.
- c) Trying new recipes in the kitchen or learning to play an instrument.
- d) Learning a few phrases in a new language for a trip

3.

You are packing a bag for a weekend trip. What is the most important item?

- a) My sneakers or my sports gear
- b) A camera or my favourite music for inspiration
- c) A hammock or a cosy blanket for relaxing in nature
- d) A portable speaker and a board game to play with others

4.

How do you feel about trying something completely new?

- a) I love a challenge! I want to stay active and try a new hobby.
- b) I'm excited as long as I can express my original ideas.
- c) I prefer quiet activities that help me feel calm and peaceful.
- d) I'll try anything if I'm with a great bunch of friends.

5.

You see a beautiful sunset at the beach. What is the first thing you say?

- a) "Let's go for a swim or a walk while the air is cool!"
- b) "I need to take a cool photo or draw this view."
- c) "I just want to sit peacefully and enjoy the view."
- d) "This is the perfect time to chill on the beach with friends."

6.

Which 'Summer Goal' sounds most like you?

- a) I want to get stronger and stay fit.
- b) I want to finish a project that shows my talent.
- c) I want to clear my mind and just recharge my batteries.
- d) I want to visit new places and make great memories.

7.

It is too hot to go outside. What do you do at home?

- a) I do some simple stretching or basic exercises in my room.
- b) I organise my room or design new styles for my old clothes.
- c) I listen to music and take a peaceful nap.
- d) I join an online game or call my friends to chat.

8.

If you could go to a summer event, which one would you choose?

- a) A sports tournament or an outdoor adventure festival
- b) A modern art gallery or a digital design event
- c) A quiet camping trip or a nature walking event
- d) A street food festival with music and travellers



RESULTS



If you answered mostly 'a',

YOU ARE THE ACTION HERO!

Try: A Summer Sport (Move Your Body)

Your energy is high! You don't like sitting still. This summer, your superpower is 'movement'. Whether it's swimming, cycling, or tennis, you need to stay active.

CHALLENGE:

Try a sport you've never played before. Maybe volleyball or skating?

If you answered mostly 'b',

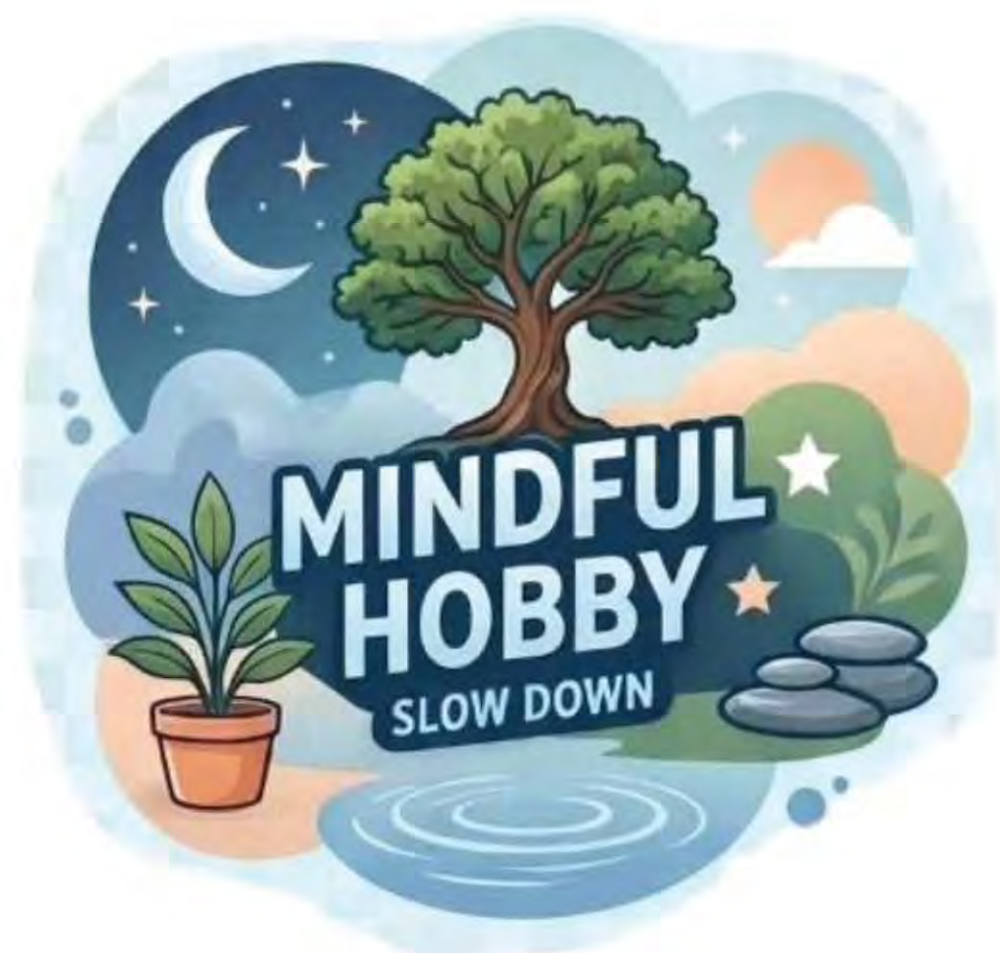
YOU ARE THE ARTISTIC SOUL!

Try: A New Project (Build Something)

You see the world differently. For you, summer is a time to express yourself. Your superpower is 'imagination'.

CHALLENGE:

Start a 'Summer Journal' or try a photography challenge. Show your style!



If you answered mostly 'c',

YOU ARE THE SERENE SOUL!

Try: A Mindful Hobby (Slow Down)

The school year was very busy. Now, it is time to find your 'inner peace'. Your superpower is 'balance'. You enjoy doing things slowly and enjoying the moment.

CHALLENGE:

Try gardening, stargazing, or birdwatching. Your mind will thank you!



If you answered mostly 'd',

YOU ARE THE SOCIAL EXPLORER!

Try: A New Challenge (Join Others & Travel)

For you, summer is about people and new places. You love sharing experiences and discovering new things. Your superpower is 'connection'.

CHALLENGE:

Organise a 'hidden spots' tour for your friends in your city.



If your answers are a mix of everything,

YOU ARE THE ALL-ROUNDER ADVENTURER!

Try: The Mixed Bag (A Little Bit of Everything)

You can't choose because everything sounds fun! You want the energy of sports, the peace of nature, and the fun of friends. You are open-minded.

CHALLENGE:

Plan a 'Weekly Variety'. One day for sports, one for art, and one for a short trip!

5 GOLDEN RULES FOR A GREAT SUMMER

Stay Offline:

Put your phone away and look at the real horizon.

Stay Hydrated:

Your body needs water as much as it needs fun!

Be Brave:

Don't be afraid to be a 'beginner' at something new.

Respect Nature: Wherever you go, a beach or a park, leave only footprints.

Rest is Good: You don't have to be 'busy' every second. Relaxing is okay too!

Inspiring Projects

Young Artists and Musicians Keeping Culture Alive

Students from Denizli Hakkı Dereköylü Fine Arts High School continue to achieve remarkable success through projects that protect and promote cultural heritage. Their inspiring work in art and music shows how young people can connect the past with the future through creativity.

1. International Success in the TÜRKSOY Painting Competition

One of the school's recent achievements has come from an international painting competition organised by TÜRKSOY (the International Cultural Organisation of Countries with Turkic Populations, Speaking Languages belonging to the Turkic Language Family). The competition focused on traditional children's games from the Turkic world.

One student from the school became the second-place winner in Türkiye, while four other students were selected as finalists with artworks that combined traditional cultural themes with modern artistic styles. The school's visual arts teachers, Bahar Bilici Öztürk and Cihan Damgacı, guided the students during the preparation process and supported them throughout the competition.

2. A Cultural Journey Through Music, Art, and Theatre

The same school also took part in the project called '*The Essence of Anatolia, The Voice of Fine Arts High Schools*', organised within the projects of the Turkish Ministry of National Education. Under the leadership of the school principal, Sinan Demircan, and the project coordinator Hüseyin Kabakçı, students and teachers travelled to villages and districts to collect forgotten folk songs from different regions of Anatolia. After months of field research, they recorded 15 traditional folk songs and added them to the school archive. The project became much more than a music study. Students met local artists, listened to real-life stories, and learnt about the traditions behind the songs. Students from the music, painting, and theatre departments worked together to bring these cultural stories to life. Some students performed the folk songs, while others painted scenes inspired by the lyrics or acted out the stories on stage.



These projects helped students understand that art is not only about creativity but also about protecting cultural memory. Through their work, the young artists and musicians of Denizli are carrying Anatolia's voice into the future.

GOLDEN VOICES:

A Turkish Melody Echoing Across Borders

Selçuklu Municipality Fine Arts High School Konya

Music has the power to connect cultures, bring people together, and carry the spirit of a nation beyond borders. In March 2026, Selçuklu Municipality Fine Arts High School from Konya proudly represented Türkiye at the International Choir Festival & Contest 'GOLDEN VOICES OF MONTSERRAT' in Spain. The event is recognised as one of the major international choir competitions and brings talented choirs together from different countries and cultures every year.

During the festival, the school choir presented authentic examples of Türkiye's intangible cultural heritage. They also performed polyphonic choral music, in which different vocal groups sing in harmony. Their performances received great appreciation from both jury members and audiences. As a result, the school gained remarkable international success through the performances of its teachers and students.

Under the direction of conductor Z. Bihter Cantürk, the school achieved two major awards:

- **1st Place** in the **Ethnic Music Category**
- **3rd Place** in the **Polyphonic Choir Category**



The success was made possible through the hard work of the whole team, including School Principal Muhammed Ali Kalay, flute teacher Mine Mustul, piano teachers F. Özge Aras and Selcan Mutaft, kanun teacher İbrahim Demirebilek, ud teacher M. Arif Tur, psychological counsellor Canan Kaptan, and the talented students who worked together with dedication and passion. The school is now preparing to represent Türkiye in new international competitions and festivals where the Turkish flag will proudly wave once again.

“This inspiring achievement highlights the importance of supporting young talents, encouraging international cultural initiatives, and promoting arts education. It also shows how music can bring cultures closer together and strengthen intercultural understanding.”

“Music becomes even more meaningful when it carries the voice of a culture to the world.”



IMPRESSIVE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

“ In Türkiye, high schools have achieved many successes in the fields of art and sports. We have compiled some of the most impressive achievements from the 2025–2026 academic year. ”

BEST PLAY AWARD AT INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL



Ankara Mimar Sinan Fine Arts High School's theatre students won the 'Best Breakthrough Play' award in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in April 2026. They performed a play called 'Outside the Doors' at the 11th International Student Theatre Festival.

Student Emre Gürkaynak also came second in the speech competition.

WORLD CHAMPION IN ELECTRONIC DARTS!



Nazlı Tutar is a 10th-grade student at Şehitkamil Anatolian High School in Gaziantep. In October 2025, she went to Samorin, Slovakia, for the IDF (International Dart Federation) World Electronic Dart Championship. She came second in the Open Women's category. Then she won the Junior Girls category and became the World Champion! She made her school, her city, and her country very proud.

15-YEAR-OLD WINS 9 AWARDS IN MUSIC COMPETITIONS



Zeynep Sueda Dal plays the bağlama. She is a 10th-grade student at the Fine Arts High School of Ankara Music and Fine Arts University. She participated in three international competitions and played *Haydar Haydar* in all of them. She won 5 gold awards, 1 platinum award, and 3 special jury prizes—9 awards in total!

WORLD CHAMPIONS IN VOLLEYBALL!



The Ankara TVF (Türkiye Volleyball Federation) Sports High School boys' volleyball team made history by winning the gold medal at the 2026 ISF World Schools Volleyball Championship. They defeated Greece 3–2 in a thrilling final at the tournament, organised by the International School Sport Federation (ISF) in Shangluo, China.

025 EUROPEAN CADET JUDO CHAMPION



Sema Nur Yüksel, a student at Atakent Şehit Selçuk Paker Anatolian High School in İstanbul, won the gold medal in the women's -40 kg category at the 2025 European Cadet Judo Championships, held in Skopje, North Macedonia. In the final, she defeated her teammate Yağmur Yılmaztürk to become the 2025 European Cadet Judo Champion in the women's -40 kg category. This all-Turkish final was a remarkable achievement for both athletes and their schools!

YOUNG CHAMPIONS IN RAFTING



Tunceli Sports High School has achieved various successes in rafting competitions in Türkiye and abroad with its girls' and boys' teams since 2022. In 2025, the girls' team became the Turkish champion at the ANALIG Rafting Competition in Giresun. In the 2026 Educational Sports Programme Championship, which included 24 teams, the young boy's team came second and the young girl's team came third in Türkiye. The school's U-19 boys' team and stars category girls' team also won second place in the Turkish Championship. The teams are now continuing their training for the national team selections. They also hope to take part in the World Cup in Italy.

“ We are proud of every student, team, and school that stepped onto the stage, field, or court. Winning is important, but taking part, trying your best, and never giving up are just as valuable. Thank you all for your hard work, courage, and passion. ”

Inspiring Teacher

Dr. Selçuk Yusuf Arslan

Dr. Selçuk Yusuf Arslan is a computer science teacher at Atatürk Vocational and Technical High School in Ankara, Türkiye. He completed his PhD in the Educational Leadership programme at Hacettepe University. His doctoral thesis focused on STEM policies in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2023, Dr. Arslan was selected as the global winner in the Environmental Protection and Moral Leadership category in the JCI TOYP (Junior Chamber International-Ten Outstanding Young Persons) programme—one of the most prestigious international recognition platforms—by presenting a teaching model that integrates coding instruction and climate education through an interdisciplinary approach.

He is a finalist for the Global Teacher Prize and the winner of the UNESCO and ETF Green Skills Awards. As an Intel SFI Gold Ambassador and Certified Trainer, Dr. Arslan specialises in developing girls' coding skills and contributing to global goals through STEM-based and technology-driven educational approaches.

Having received numerous international awards with his students, he continues to teach with great passion and dedication.



“Artificial Intelligence is becoming one of the most powerful tools in education, but I believe the key issue is using AI, and also using it responsibly and consciously.”

Can you tell us about the current projects in your teaching programme? How do these projects help your students learn better and become stronger?

I work in a vocational high school where my students develop technological products and innovative projects. Over the years, I realised that although many of our students create impressive solutions, they often struggle to commercialise their ideas after graduation. This inspired us to start a new journey focused not only on technology production but also on entrepreneurship. Our school signed a cooperation protocol with ANGIKAD (Ankara Businesswomen Entrepreneurs and Enhancement Association), and together we launched an exciting project called the 'Entrepreneurship School'. Through this project, my students receive entrepreneurship training directly from business professionals and entrepreneurs. They are currently preparing for an ideathon that will take place at the end of the training process.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is highly popular these days. How can students use AI as a helpful tool for their studies, without losing their own creativity and thinking skills?

Artificial Intelligence is becoming one of the most powerful tools in education, but I believe the key issue is using AI, and also using it responsibly and consciously. That is why AI literacy is very important for students today. Students should understand what AI can do, along with its limitations, ethical risks, and how to question the information it provides.

I always tell my students that AI should support thinking, not replace it. For example, students can use AI to brainstorm ideas, receive feedback, improve their coding skills, or explore different perspectives on a topic. However, they should still analyse, question, create, and make final decisions themselves. Creativity begins where students add their own experiences, emotions, and ideas beyond



what AI generates. Responsible use is another critical point. Students need to learn about data privacy, academic honesty, bias in AI systems, and the importance of verifying information. If we teach students how to use AI ethically and critically, it can become an incredible learning partner instead of something that weakens their thinking skills.

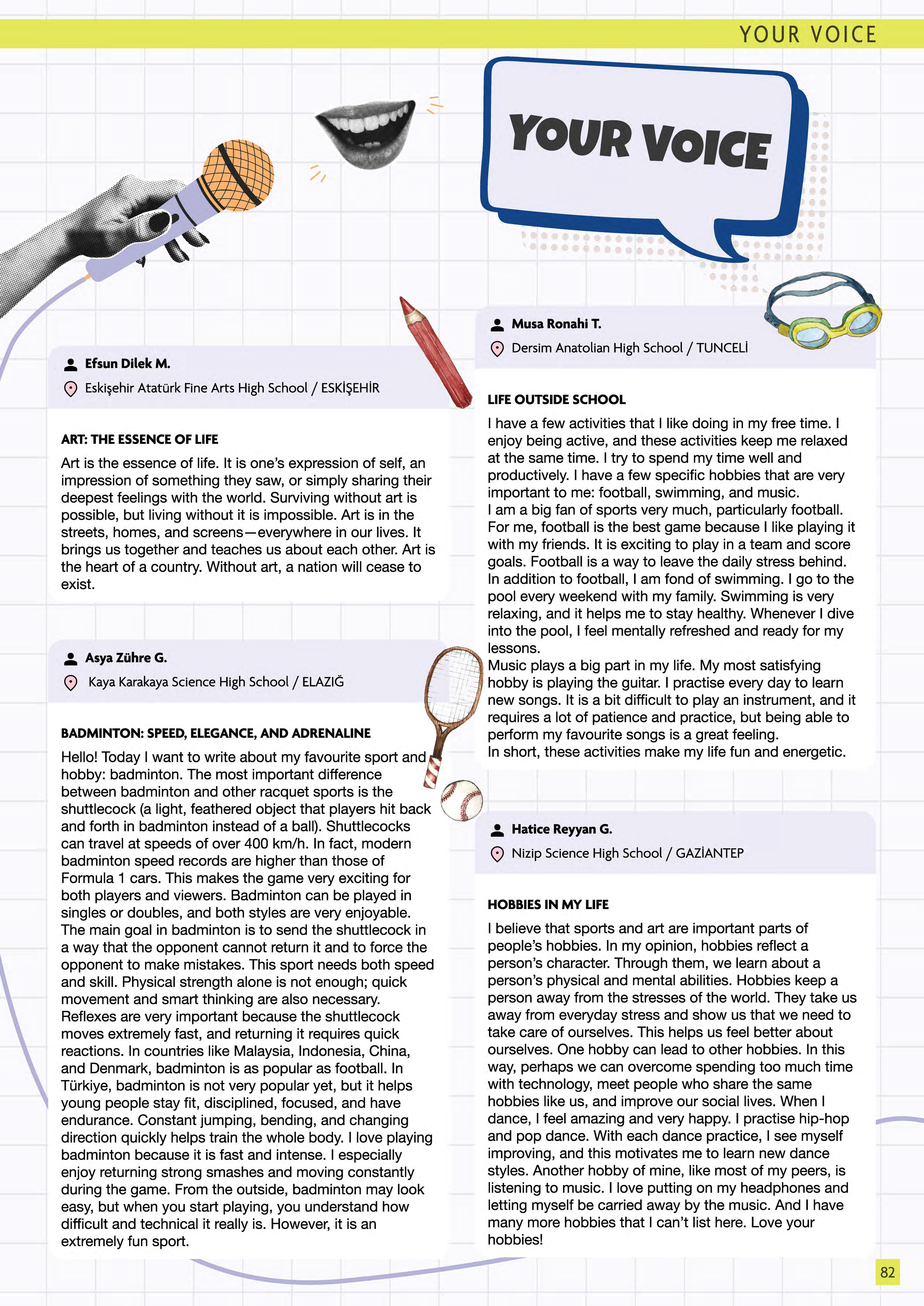
In my opinion, the future does not belong to people who simply use AI tools, but to those who can think creatively, ask meaningful questions, and combine human values with technology.

What is your advice for young people today to make the world a better place?

My most important advice to young people is this: my generation and the generations before me have consumed a significant part of the world's resources, and unfortunately, we are struggling to leave behind a truly sustainable world. That is why I believe every individual, no matter how small their contribution may seem, has a responsibility to take action and do their part. Throughout my teaching career, I have always tried to help my students develop awareness about sustainability, environmental responsibility, and the importance of creating a better future for the next generations. At the same time, I believe it is very important for young people to read the future correctly. Artificial intelligence and technological transformation will change many sectors, and many of today's professions may disappear or evolve significantly in the near future. Because of this, students should focus not only on technical

knowledge, but also on developing future-oriented skills such as learning how to learn, adaptability, agility, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. The world will continue to change rapidly, and the people who succeed will be those who can continuously improve themselves and adapt to new realities with confidence.

The world will continue to change rapidly, and the people who succeed will be those who can continuously improve themselves and adapt to new realities with confidence.



YOUR VOICE

 **Efsun Dilek M.**

 Eskişehir Atatürk Fine Arts High School / ESKİŞEHİR

ART: THE ESSENCE OF LIFE

Art is the essence of life. It is one's expression of self, an impression of something they saw, or simply sharing their deepest feelings with the world. Surviving without art is possible, but living without it is impossible. Art is in the streets, homes, and screens—everywhere in our lives. It brings us together and teaches us about each other. Art is the heart of a country. Without art, a nation will cease to exist.

 **Asya Zühre G.**

 Kaya Karakaya Science High School / ELAZIĞ

BADMINTON: SPEED, ELEGANCE, AND ADRENALINE

Hello! Today I want to write about my favourite sport and hobby: badminton. The most important difference between badminton and other racquet sports is the shuttlecock (a light, feathered object that players hit back and forth in badminton instead of a ball). Shuttlecocks can travel at speeds of over 400 km/h. In fact, modern badminton speed records are higher than those of Formula 1 cars. This makes the game very exciting for both players and viewers. Badminton can be played in singles or doubles, and both styles are very enjoyable. The main goal in badminton is to send the shuttlecock in a way that the opponent cannot return it and to force the opponent to make mistakes. This sport needs both speed and skill. Physical strength alone is not enough; quick movement and smart thinking are also necessary. Reflexes are very important because the shuttlecock moves extremely fast, and returning it requires quick reactions. In countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, China, and Denmark, badminton is as popular as football. In Türkiye, badminton is not very popular yet, but it helps young people stay fit, disciplined, focused, and have endurance. Constant jumping, bending, and changing direction quickly helps train the whole body. I love playing badminton because it is fast and intense. I especially enjoy returning strong smashes and moving constantly during the game. From the outside, badminton may look easy, but when you start playing, you understand how difficult and technical it really is. However, it is an extremely fun sport.

 **Musa Ronahi T.**

 Dersim Anatolian High School / TUNCELİ

LIFE OUTSIDE SCHOOL

I have a few activities that I like doing in my free time. I enjoy being active, and these activities keep me relaxed at the same time. I try to spend my time well and productively. I have a few specific hobbies that are very important to me: football, swimming, and music. I am a big fan of sports very much, particularly football. For me, football is the best game because I like playing it with my friends. It is exciting to play in a team and score goals. Football is a way to leave the daily stress behind. In addition to football, I am fond of swimming. I go to the pool every weekend with my family. Swimming is very relaxing, and it helps me to stay healthy. Whenever I dive into the pool, I feel mentally refreshed and ready for my lessons.

Music plays a big part in my life. My most satisfying hobby is playing the guitar. I practise every day to learn new songs. It is a bit difficult to play an instrument, and it requires a lot of patience and practice, but being able to perform my favourite songs is a great feeling. In short, these activities make my life fun and energetic.

 **Hatice Reyhan G.**

 Nizip Science High School / GAZİANTEP

HOBBIES IN MY LIFE

I believe that sports and art are important parts of people's hobbies. In my opinion, hobbies reflect a person's character. Through them, we learn about a person's physical and mental abilities. Hobbies keep a person away from the stresses of the world. They take us away from everyday stress and show us that we need to take care of ourselves. This helps us feel better about ourselves. One hobby can lead to other hobbies. In this way, perhaps we can overcome spending too much time with technology, meet people who share the same hobbies like us, and improve our social lives. When I dance, I feel amazing and very happy. I practise hip-hop and pop dance. With each dance practice, I see myself improving, and this motivates me to learn new dance styles. Another hobby of mine, like most of my peers, is listening to music. I love putting on my headphones and letting myself be carried away by the music. And I have many more hobbies that I can't list here. Love your hobbies!



Deniz B.

Şehit Batuhan Ergin Anatolian High School / İSTANBUL

BEYOND BORDERS, BEYOND WORDS

I am an 11th grade student in a language class, and I am passionate about discovering new countries. Travelling is very important to me because I enjoy visiting famous landmarks as well as unique places such as lesser-known islands or modern art museums. This is my greatest hobby.

Before visiting a new country, I try to learn some basic expressions in the local language. I believe this habit helps me improve my intercultural communication skills. For me, travelling is not just about visiting places; it is also an opportunity to communicate with locals, meet new people, and learn about cultural differences. Along the way, English plays a key role, as it helps me communicate more easily with people from different countries. Bringing together my passion for learning English and travelling not only improves my language skills but also opens doors to new cultures and a multilingual view of the world. It allows me to see life from different perspectives and understand people beyond my own culture. Each journey becomes a meaningful experience where I grow both personally and academically. In the future, I hope to travel to more countries and continue my learning journey.



Ali Mürşit N.

Bedi Sabuncu Anatolian High School / HATAY

MY HOBBIES

In my free time, I like to design games. I love creating simple but charming stuff that people can play and enjoy. I have also gained a small community that loves my games, which I also really like.

I enjoy drawing and making animatics. It's fun to draw cartoon characters and put them into weird adventures or scenarios. I ask people online to voice-act my characters because my voice doesn't fit some of them. I love my hobbies because they help me improve myself.

Eylül Ö.

Kilim Social Sciences High School / KAYSERİ

MY RELAXING HOBBIES

Hobbies are an important part of discovering who we are and finding meaning in life. For me, two hobbies have become especially meaningful: playing the piano and studying art history.

The piano has been much more than an instrument since my childhood. It is a place where I can relax, express myself, and find peace. Practising never feels like a task, and listening to piano music helps me clear my mind during stressful times. That is why I believe art is both food and medicine for the soul.

My second passion is art history. I love exploring how art and history come together to tell stories about humanity. Looking closely at paintings, learning about artists, and discovering the meanings hidden behind artworks always fascinates me. Every museum visit feels like a journey through time and creativity.

Watching, listening to, and learning about art brings me great happiness. I can easily imagine spending my life surrounded by music, museums, and artistic discoveries. In fact, I hope to turn this passion into a profession one day. Most importantly, I hope everyone finds a hobby that inspires them and allows art to bring beauty and meaning into their lives.



Eylül B.

İdil Anatolian High School / ŞIRNAK

THE EFFECTS OF HOBBIES ON LIFE

Everyone needs enjoyable activities besides school and daily responsibilities. Hobbies make life more fun and interesting.

There are many different hobbies. Some people enjoy sports like football, basketball, or swimming. Others like artistic activities such as painting, dancing, playing music, or photography. Reading books, cooking, and gardening are also popular hobbies.

Hobbies have many positive effects on people. First, they help people relax and feel happy. After a busy day, spending time on a hobby can improve people's mood. They can make people more patient, creative, and confident. Hobbies also help people develop new skills and discover their talents.

Today, many people share their hobbies on social media to inspire people with similar interests. Sometimes, hobbies can even help people find jobs in the future. In conclusion, hobbies are an important part of life because they help people enjoy their free time and feel better.

 **Batuhan K.**

 Hacı Fatma Erdemir Anatolian High School / KIRŞEHİR

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOBBIES IN OUR LIVES

Before exploring the role of hobbies in human life, we need to answer the question: What is a hobby? It is an activity you enjoy doing during your free time and can be used for self-care. We can provide some examples of hobbies such as collecting things, reading, and doing sports. There are many different activities that can be considered hobbies. We do these activities because they help us relieve stress and cope with it in our lives. In addition, engaging in hobbies helps people comfort themselves and enhance their quality of life, thus providing something fun and interesting.

Well, but why do people need something meaningful to do in their free time? The answer is that people need to make an effort to show their existence, not for others, but to feel satisfied and express themselves. Satisfying oneself is a basic human need, and hobbies are one of the ways to fulfil this need.



 **Ayten Beren K.**

 Kipa Anatolian High School / İZMİR

MY HOBBIES

I am currently an 11th-grade high school student, and I have had various hobbies. I have been playing volleyball since the first grade, which has helped me develop in numerous ways. Through volleyball, I learnt the importance of being a reliable teammate and a determined person.

When I first started playing, I was quite shy and introverted. However, as I continued, I realised that I actually enjoy socialising and meeting new people. Volleyball has contributed so much to my life; for instance, I began organising my schedule around my training sessions, and this taught me how to manage my time and complete my assignments on time. Furthermore, my academic performance improved as well. The self-confidence I gained through the sport allowed me to study more effectively and remain calm during exams. I also adopted a healthier lifestyle by improving my diet and getting into a regular sleep schedule.

My advice to anyone who feels shy or lacks self-confidence is this: do not be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. Try new things and start a hobby, because you never know what wonderful opportunities life might bring you.



 **Sude Büşra Y.**

 Tire Öğretmen Melahat Aksoy Social Sciences High School / İZMİR

MY DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES

Hobbies, sports, and art are important parts of life. They help people learn new things and become better. I have tried several activities, including taekwondo, folk dance, and basketball. Each one taught me something different and helped me grow as a person.

I started taekwondo to improve myself, and my coach's support made me love this sport even more. It taught me discipline, patience, and not giving up easily. I think choosing a sport that you enjoy is very important. Folk dance was also an important part of my life. Before the pandemic, our team practised regularly. It helped me make friends and feel less stressed. We were getting ready for a competition, but it was cancelled because of COVID-19. Even so, it was a special experience for me. I also played basketball before, but later I understood that it was not the right sport for me. During the pandemic, art became very important in my life. I think my hobbies helped me become a more social person. I believe everyone should have at least one hobby.



 **Sena N.**

 Ahmet Karakılınç Anatolian High School / KİLİS

ART IN EVERY DETAIL

Art is like a mirror that reflects the culture and way of life of people. It is closely connected to the heritage, traditions, and customs of every society. It includes many forms such as music, singing, drawing, and calligraphy, making it a vast world of different styles and expressions. In my opinion, art is not limited to artists only. I believe that anyone who wants to succeed in life should develop an artistic sense. Art helps people become calmer, more creative, and more expressive in their daily lives. Personally, I love painting. It is my favourite hobby because it allows me to relax and express my emotions freely.

When I paint, I feel like I release negative energy and transform it into a work of art. One of the most beautiful things about art is that each artist has their own unique feelings and ideas. Even if many artists paint the same picture, each painting will remain distinctive in its own way.



İlayda Gülhan K.

Mehmet Koloğlu Anatolian High School / ELAZIĞ

MY BESTIE: MUSIC!

Music is a universal art which transforms feelings beyond words into melody. And this melody is a safe zone for humans. The psychological effects of music are too significant to be ignored. For instance, music can be a person's best friend because when they are upset or delighted, they listen to music according to their mood. And this activity decreases the effects of stress and increases dopamine, also known as the happiness hormone. Additionally, music can hold memories. As an example, when someone listens to music, it brings back memories or feelings that were experienced before. Music is like a person: you listen to it, judge it or love it, and let it take your worries away. I'd like to finish my words by saying: Let the music lead your way and cheer you up!



Saliha Elif S.

Köyceğiz Science High School / MUĞLA

UPCYCLING

Upcycling is the process of transforming waste and end-of-life products into high-value or functional new products. Today, we'll examine a creative activity you can do under the name of upcycling: Upcycling from Denim Fabric.

Denim fabric first appeared in France in the 18th century. It is a strong and durable fabric made from cotton. This is because of a special weaving technique called 'twill.' Usually, denim is dyed a dark indigo blue.

Examples of items you can make include accessories, bags, skirts, face masks, and more. For adornments, you can use various materials, such as beads, buttons, zips, ribbons, coloured threads, different types of fabrics, different shades of denim, safety pins, and chains. The new product you create, the materials you use, and the techniques you employ are limited only by your creativity. Remember, there are no limitations in art; you can proceed using whichever techniques your aesthetic perspective thinks appropriate at that moment.

Mehmet Erdem Ö.

Vecihi Hürkuş Anatolian High School / ANKARA

THE CREATIVE WORLD OF 3D PRINTING

3D printing is a very fun and creative hobby. It helps people turn digital designs into real objects by using special printers and different plastic materials. Many people enjoy this hobby because they can print useful or decorative items such as toys, keychains, phone holders, and small tools.

This hobby also helps people improve their problem-solving skills. It teaches how to design models with printer software and adjust printer settings to get better results. 3D printing requires patience and attention to detail, but the final product can be rewarding. Another reason why 3D printing has become popular is the large online community where people share their designs and ideas on social media and design platforms. It is both educational and entertaining. Overall, 3D printing is an exciting hobby that combines creativity, technology, and practical skills.



Nurten D.

Mucur Şeyh Edebali Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School / KIRŞEHİR

THE FEELINGS OF ART

Some people use art to express their feelings; art affects people's inner world and generally influences people's feelings. When a person draws a picture, they don't just express their emotions; they also use their imagination and creativity, and it makes connections with people. Art is not just painting and drawing; art is everything. People can express art through music, traditional crafts, or many other forms.

Everyone has a sense of art within them; this feeling is simply a matter of our own aesthetic preferences. Some people draw instead of keeping a diary; it's called visual journaling. Sometimes I make drawings and express myself because I feel embarrassed about what I'm saying; I pick up my pencil and use my creativity.

Sometimes, art gives people a peaceful break from daily life. Many people turn to drawing to express their emotions during difficult times. In the end, using a pen to clear their minds often helps them feel happier and more relaxed.

In short, art is an important way for people to show and understand their feelings. I can happily spend hours making art; having quiet time alone often makes me feel very calm. Art is also a great comfort for anyone who is having a hard time. Without it, our world would lose its bright colours and happiness. This is why it is so important to keep art alive in our changing world.

 **Kadriye Betül K.**

 Şehit Abdulkadir Kılavuz Anatolian High School / UŞAK

THE PLACE OF ART IN OUR LIVES

Art is not just about famous paintings. It has been a part of our lives since early humans drew on cave walls and made simple music. We still enjoy art today. For example, drawing helps people relax and show their true feelings. Personally, I feel very relaxed when I draw and listen to music at the same time.

Music is also very powerful. Some studies suggest that sound vibrations may affect plant growth. If it is good for plants, it is definitely good for us, too. People say music feeds the soul and makes us feel calm. When we are tired or stressed, a beautiful song can change our mood in seconds. It helps us forget our daily problems and brings peace to our minds. In short, art and music make our lives much better.

 **İdil Ekin S.**

 Abidin Pak-Pakmaya Anatolian High School / BALIKESİR

ART CONNECTS US ALL

Even though people speak different languages and come from different cultures, art has the power to bring them together. Whether through music, films, or paintings, art helps us share the same emotions. It allows people to express themselves creatively and reminds them that they are never alone.

Because of this strong connection, people organise festivals and concerts to meet others from around the world who share similar feelings and ideas.

Furthermore, art teaches empathy. When you look at a painting, you can clearly feel what the artist is trying to express—such as sadness, happiness, or hope. Through art, people can understand each other without even speaking. This is why art is one of the strongest ways to show your feelings and build meaningful connections with others.

 **Batu G.**

 Ayrancı Anatolian High School / ANKARA

SPORTS: THE KEY TO A HEALTHY FUTURE

Physical activity is one of the most important parts of a long and happy life. When I think of a better world, I do not just imagine technology or cities; I imagine a healthy and active generation. Sports are not just games; they are important for our physical and mental health. Whether it is on the field or in the gym, being active is possible for everyone.

Sports teach us many things and help us learn discipline. For instance, I love the teamwork in football and the fast pace of basketball. Participating in school tournaments has shown me the importance of friendship and competition. Even the strength and tradition of wrestling remind us how strong our bodies can be. Today, many young people spend too much time inactive, but our bodies are made to move. It is our duty to protect our health and stay active for a brighter future.

 **Almira Cansın H.**

 Rize Social Sciences High School / RİZE

THE BENEFITS OF ART

Everyone says art is great for mental health. Did you know that colours can influence people's emotions? Warm colours, like red, orange, and yellow, may give you energy and joy. Cool colours, like blue and green, bring a sense of calm. For example, some studies suggest that blue may create a calming atmosphere for patients and support concentration, which is one reason it is often used in healthcare settings.

Art isn't just about creating; even looking at artworks has strong effects on your brain. Spending time on art reduces stress by helping you step away from daily problems. Beautiful art or music may activate the brain's reward system and help people feel happier. It improves concentration and keeps the mind active as we grow older. In our busy lives, art provides a peaceful break and teaches us empathy. Plus, finishing a drawing makes you feel more confident in your daily life.

In short, art has many wonderful benefits. It unites people because in art, colours and lines speak when words are not enough. Art is the best way to show our feelings. As Pablo Picasso said, "The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." So, what colour describes your emotions today?"

 **Sevina A.**

 Abidin Pak-Pakmaya Anatolian High School / BALIKESİR

HOBBIES

Hobbies have accompanied humanity for a very long time. When early humans learnt to survive more easily and build safer homes, they finally experienced free time. However, having too much spare time could sometimes lead to worry. To keep their minds healthy and active, people created meaningful activities: hobbies.

Early humans painted on cave walls, played simple instruments, and told stories. What began as a way to pass the time soon turned into a source of comfort and identity. Hobbies gave people a reason to wake up excited for something more than just survival.

In the past, finding time for a hobby was not always easy. Many people spent their lives focused on hard work, while only the wealthy had the free time for personal passions like art or music. Fortunately, as society and technology developed, living conditions improved. This slowly gave everyday people something that previous generations rarely had: time for themselves.

Today, it is completely normal to enjoy several hobbies at once, such as playing the guitar, painting, baking, or learning a new language. The main purpose remains the same: to find peace, focus, and joy in our daily lives. In conclusion, hobbies are beautiful proof that people do not just want to survive; they want to truly feel alive.



If you would like to have your articles published in the next issue on **EDUCATION**, you can send them to this email address: ogm.ogretimmateryalleri@meb.gov.tr

GLOSSARY

admirable (<i>adj</i>)	deserving respect or approval	construction (<i>n</i>)	the process of building something, such as a road, bridge, or building
adventure (<i>n</i>)	an exciting or unusual experience	consume (<i>v</i>)	to use, eat, drink, or take in something
age (<i>n</i>)	the period of time someone has been alive or something has existed	contemporary (<i>adj</i>)	belonging to the present day
algorithms (<i>n</i>)	rules a computer uses to create images	conversation (<i>n</i>)	a talk between people
ancient (<i>adj</i>)	very old; belonging to a time long ago	core (<i>adj</i>)	the most important, central, or basic part of something
angle (<i>n</i>)	the position from which a photo is taken	court (<i>n</i>)	the area marked with lines where sports like basketball are played
anthem (<i>n</i>)	the official song of a country	craftsman (<i>n</i>)	someone who uses special skills to make things
appear (<i>v</i>)	to become visible, to be seen, or to happen	creamy (<i>adj</i>)	smooth and soft like cream
appreciation (<i>n</i>)	admiration or praise for someone or something	crossroad (<i>n</i>)	a place where two roads meet and cross each other
archaeological (<i>adj</i>)	involving or relating to archaeology	crush (<i>v</i>)	to press something hard until it breaks into small pieces
archery (<i>n</i>)	the sport of shooting arrows with a bow	cultural heritage (<i>n</i>)	traditions and culture from the past
architectural (<i>adj</i>)	relating to the design of buildings	culture (<i>n</i>)	the traditions, beliefs, and way of life of a group of people
aroma (<i>n</i>)	a pleasant smell	dedication (<i>n</i>)	the quality of giving a lot of time and energy to something important
artefact (<i>n</i>)	an object that has been made by a person, such as a tool or a decoration, especially one that is of historical interest	defeat (<i>v</i>)	to win a victory over an opponent in a game, competition, or match
artistic skill (<i>n</i>)	the ability to make art well	demonstrate (<i>v</i>)	to show something clearly by giving proof or evidence
artistic tradition (<i>n</i>)	an art style from the past	determination (<i>n</i>)	the quality of trying to do something even when it is difficult
aspect (<i>n</i>)	a particular part or feature of a situation, an idea, a problem, etc.; a way in which it may be considered	dramatic (<i>adj</i>)	very strong, exciting, or impressive in appearance
assign (<i>v</i>)	to give someone a particular job, task, or responsibility	draw (<i>n</i>)	a game or competition that ends with no winner
balance (<i>n</i>)	the correct amount or position of things	dune (<i>n</i>)	hill of sand near the sea or in a desert
bitter (<i>adj</i>)	having a sharp or unpleasant taste	echoes (<i>n</i>)	repeated memories or voices from the past
blindfolded (<i>adj</i>)	having your eyes covered with a piece of cloth	endurance (<i>n</i>)	the ability to continue in a difficult situation
boil (<i>v</i>)	to heat a liquid until bubbles appear	episode (<i>n</i>)	a part of a radio or television serial that is broadcast at one time
break away (<i>phr v</i>)	to leave or separate from something, especially from a habit, routine, group, or situation	excavation (<i>n</i>)	the act of removing earth that is covering very old objects buried in the ground in order to discover things about the past
brightness (<i>n</i>)	the amount of light in a photo or image	exceptional (<i>adj</i>)	much better than usual; unusually good
brushstroke (<i>n</i>)	a mark made with a brush	exhibition (<i>n</i>)	an event where artworks or special objects are shown to the public
calligraffiti (<i>n</i>)	a modern mix of traditional calligraphy and contemporary painting	explorer (<i>n</i>)	a person who travels to unknown places to discover new things
calligraphy (<i>n</i>)	the art of 'beautiful writing' or 'painting with letters', old beautiful handwriting art	fabric (<i>n</i>)	cloth or material used for making clothes
cardamom (<i>n</i>)	a spice with a strong, sweet smell	finely ground (<i>adj</i>)	crushed into very small pieces
carnation (<i>n</i>)	a flower with many soft petals	flavour (<i>n</i>)	the taste of food or drink
century (<i>n</i>)	a period of one hundred years	floating colours (<i>n</i>)	colours moving on water
choir (<i>n</i>)	an organised group of singers who perform together	floral design (<i>n</i>)	a flower pattern
civilisation (<i>n</i>)	human society with its well-developed social organisations	flowing lines (<i>n</i>)	smooth moving lines
collaborator (<i>n</i>)	a partner that helps artists with ideas	foam (<i>n</i>)	a layer of small bubbles on a drink
complex (<i>n</i>)	a large building with various connected rooms or a related group of buildings	foamy (<i>adj</i>)	covered with foam
composition (<i>n</i>)	the arrangement of objects in a photo or picture	forced perspective (<i>n</i>)	a photography technique that changes the apparent size or distance of objects
concentration (<i>n</i>)	the ability to give all your effort and attention to one single thing	gap (<i>n</i>)	a short period of free or empty time between activities
conflict with (<i>phr v</i>)	to happen at the same time as another plan, making it impossible to do both	get a wriggle on (<i>idiom</i>)	to hurry up
consistent (<i>adj</i>)	happening in the same way and continuing for a period of time		
constantly (<i>adv</i>)	all the time or very often; without stopping		

get the hang of something (<i>idiom</i>)	to learn how to do something, especially when it is not simple or obvious	memorable (<i>adj</i>)	easy to remember because it is very special or unusual
green fingers (<i>n</i>)	the ability to make plants grow	merchant (<i>n</i>)	a person who buys and sells goods
grid (<i>n</i>)	a pattern of horizontal and vertical lines used to organise a photo	milestone (<i>n</i>)	a very important stage or event in the development of something
hand-crafted brush (<i>n</i>)	a brush made by hand	military (<i>adj</i>)	relating to soldiers or armed forces
hattat (<i>n</i>)	a professional calligraphy artist	mineral (<i>n</i>)	a natural material from the earth
hierarchy (<i>n</i>)	a system in which people or things are arranged according to their performance or rank	mood (<i>n</i>)	the feeling or atmosphere created by something
hold on to something (<i>phr v</i>)	to keep something and not lose it	mortar (<i>n</i>)	hard stone bowl used for crushing substances
horsehair (<i>n</i>)	hair of a horse	natural material (<i>n</i>)	material found in nature
hospitality (<i>n</i>)	friendly and generous treatment of guests	natural pigment (<i>n</i>)	colour made from natural materials
illusion (<i>n</i>)	something that tricks the eyes and seems different from reality	nomadic (<i>adj</i>)	moving from one place to another rather than living in one place all of the time
independent (<i>adj</i>)	free from outside control; not depending on another person or authority	object (<i>v</i>)	to express or feel opposition, disagreement, or dislike
initiative (<i>n</i>)	a new plan or action intended to solve a problem or improve a situation	observation (<i>n</i>)	carefully watching something
inner journey (<i>n</i>)	a personal process of emotional or mental change	opportunity (<i>n</i>)	a chance to do something or achieve something
innovative (<i>adj</i>)	introducing new and creative ideas, methods, or products	originality (<i>n</i>)	the state of being new or unique art
instrument (<i>n</i>)	an object that is used for playing music	overlook (<i>v</i>)	to have a view of something from above or from a higher place, ignore
intangible (<i>adj</i>)	existing as an idea, feeling, or cultural value rather than a physical object	ox gall (<i>n</i>)	a natural liquid that helps colours spread
intense (<i>adj</i>)	very strong	palaeolithic (<i>adj</i>)	relating to the period when humans used tools and weapons made of stone
inward (<i>adv/adj</i>)	towards the inside or the centre of something	paper marbling (<i>n</i>)	art made by floating colours on water
journey (<i>n</i>)	a trip from one place to another, especially a long one	passion (<i>n</i>)	a strong interest or enthusiasm for something
knackered (<i>adj</i>)	very tired	period (<i>n</i>)	a fixed time during the life of a person or in history
knot (<i>n</i>)	a fastening made by tying a piece of rope, string, or fabric together	perseverance (<i>n</i>)	the quality of continuing to try to achieve a particular aim despite difficulties
kufic (<i>n</i>)	the earliest style of calligraphy, known for being very geometric with hard lines	perspective (<i>n</i>)	the way objects appear depending on distance or position
landmark (<i>n</i>)	a building or place that is easily recognised	pigment (<i>n</i>)	coloured powder used in paint
landscape (<i>n</i>)	a view of natural scenery such as mountains, rivers, or fields	plausible (<i>adj</i>)	reasonable and likely to be true
legendary (<i>adj</i>)	very famous and talked about a lot in history	polished paper (<i>n</i>)	smooth, handmade paper that allows the artist to clean small mistakes
lens (<i>n</i>)	glass part of a camera that focuses light	polyphonic (<i>adj</i>)	involving several different musical parts or voices performed together
lighting (<i>n</i>)	the way light is used in a photo or a place	practise (<i>v</i>)	to do an activity regularly in order to improve a skill
literal (<i>adj</i>)	that follows the original words exactly	prepare (<i>v</i>)	to make something ready
manuscript (<i>n</i>)	handwritten book or text	protect (<i>v</i>)	to keep someone or something safe from harm
marbling comb (<i>n</i>)	a comb used to shape patterns on water	referee (<i>n</i>)	a person who controls a sports match and makes sure players follow the rules
marbling pattern (<i>n</i>)	a pattern made in Ebru art	refreshing (<i>adj</i>)	making you feel less tired and more energetic
marbling technique (<i>n</i>)	a method used in Ebru art	remarkable (<i>adj</i>)	unusual or surprising in a way that causes people to take notice
marbling tray (<i>n</i>)	a tray used for Ebru art	renovation (<i>n</i>)	the act or process of repairing and improving something, especially a building
master-apprentice (<i>adj</i>)	the traditional way of learning the art from a teacher	repetitive (<i>adj</i>)	tasks that are done many times
mastering (<i>n</i>)	the process of learning a skill or a subject completely	representative (<i>n</i>)	a person who has been chosen to act or speak on behalf of a community
masterpiece (<i>n</i>)	a work of art, music, literature, or design that is considered extremely good or impressive	requirement (<i>n</i>)	something that you must have or do in order to be accepted or to succeed
meaningful (<i>adj</i>)	important and valuable	restore (<i>v</i>)	to return something or someone to an earlier good condition or position
measurement (<i>n</i>)	the size, length, or amount of something		

rewarding (<i>adj</i>)	providing satisfaction or a feeling of happiness because something is worth doing	thickened water (<i>n</i>)	water made denser with a special material
rhythm (<i>n</i>)	a regular, repeating pattern of sound	thought-provoking (<i>adj</i>)	making people think deeply about something
ribbon (<i>n</i>)	a narrow strip of fabric used for tying, decorating, or wrapping things	throughout (<i>prep</i>)	during the entire period of time of an event or process
rose branch (<i>n</i>)	a thin part of a rose plant	throw away (<i>phr v</i>)	to get rid of something that you no longer want or need
route (<i>n</i>)	the path or direction followed to reach a place	trade route (<i>n</i>)	a road or path used for trade
schedule (<i>n</i>)	a list of planned activities or events showing the times when they will happen	tradition (<i>n</i>)	a custom or belief passed from generation to generation
scope (<i>n</i>)	the range of things that a subject, an organization, an activity, etc. deals with	traditional technique (<i>n</i>)	an old and common way of doing something
sculpture (<i>n</i>)	a work of art made by shaping materials such as stone, wood, or metal	transfer (<i>n</i>)	moving something from one place to another
self-awareness (<i>n</i>)	the ability to understand your own feelings, thoughts, and actions	treasure (<i>n</i>)	very valuable things like gold or jewels, or an object that is very special and important
self-defence (<i>n</i>)	actions taken to protect yourself from danger	unconventional (<i>adj</i>)	different from what is considered normal or traditional
sequence (<i>n</i>)	a set of events, actions, numbers, etc. which have a particular order and which lead to a particular result	unfair (<i>adj</i>)	not treating people equally or in a reasonable way; unjust
serve (<i>v</i>)	to give food or drinks to people	unify (<i>v</i>)	to join people, things, parts of a country, etc. together so that they form a single unit
silhouette (<i>n</i>)	a dark shape seen against a lighter background	unifying (<i>adj</i>)	bringing people together
sites (<i>n</i>)	place where something is, was, or will be built	unique (<i>adj</i>)	being the only one of its kind, or remarkably distinctive and unlike others
skim (<i>v</i>)	to read something quickly in order to find a particular point or the main points	upwards (<i>adv</i>)	towards a higher position
spirit (<i>n</i>)	the special feeling or nature of something	valuable (<i>adj</i>)	important, useful, or worth a lot
sprint (<i>n</i>)	a short and very fast run, especially in a race or competition	varnish (<i>n</i>)	a clear liquid that you paint onto wood to protect and make it shine
squad (<i>n</i>)	a sports team or a group of players	verify (<i>v</i>)	to check that something is true or accurate
straightforward (<i>adj</i>)	simple to do or easy to understand; not complicated	victory (<i>n</i>)	success in a competition, race, or war against an opponent
striking (<i>adj</i>)	very noticeable or impressive	violate (<i>v</i>)	to break a rule, a law, or a formal agreement
structure (<i>n</i>)	something that has been made or built from parts, especially a large building	visual design (<i>n</i>)	the way something looks
subject (<i>n</i>)	the main person or object in a photograph	visual learners (<i>n</i>)	people who learn by seeing
submerged (<i>adj</i>)	under the water	vital (<i>adj</i>)	necessary or essential in order for something to succeed or exist
surface tension (<i>n</i>)	the force on the top of a liquid	warehouse (<i>n</i>)	a large building used for storing goods
symbol (<i>n</i>)	something that represents an idea or quality	warmth (<i>n</i>)	kindness and friendliness
symmetrical (<i>adj</i>)	having the same shape or balance on both sides	wave-like pattern (<i>n</i>)	a design that looks like waves
take to something (<i>v</i>)	to start liking something and become interested in it, often quite quickly	wealth (<i>n</i>)	a large amount of money or valuable possessions that someone has
tape (<i>n</i>)	a sticky strip used to join or hold things together	weightlifting (<i>n</i>)	the sport of lifting heavy weights
texture (<i>n</i>)	how a surface looks or feels	wellbeing (<i>n</i>)	general health and happiness
		wrestling (<i>n</i>)	a sport where two people fight by holding each other

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