

# The Walls Project

## Teacher Information Sheet

### I. Context

---

The Walls Project has its origin, context and inspiration in the « **Murs** » photographic exhibition. Organised by the Imaginaid association, with the patronage of the City of Geneva, the exhibition will take place on the Pont de la Machine, Geneva from 9th November 2009 to 31st January 2010 and will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

20 years ago, on the 9th November 1989 the Berlin Wall fell. “Never again” we said. Yet the temptation to give into walls and hyper security to protect against an “otherness” which is threatening, disturbing or simply different has never been greater than today; omnipresent and on many minds. With the support of the City of Geneva, the exhibition brings together works of great photographers, past and present, who have documented frontier walls around the world, from Berlin to Arizona to Jerusalem to Ceuta and others.

The exhibition reflects social and human realities, raises the disturbing finding of an increased tendency to build walls, while emphasising the symbolic and metaphoric representation of frontier walls and their roots in their landscape. The exhibition does not seek to be a comprehensive review of our world’s dividing walls and it is neither partisan nor proselytising.

### II. The proposed educational project

---

Inspired by the photographic exhibition « Murs » this project seeks to inspire students aged 12 to 15 years (cycle d’orientation) and 16 to 19 years (post-obligatoire) attending Geneva public and private schools to reflect on the theme of frontiers and dividing walls and their implications. The aim is also to show that divisions can also come from psychological, cultural and linguistic barriers or life style choices. Having introduced students to the images in the context of a guided visit, teachers are invited to participate in the project; choosing the pedagogical approach they wish to take based on their own choice of subject/discipline and their interests.

This information sheet presents five possible work streams for interested teachers. Each stream is independent and flexible, allowing for wide participation.

For each work stream, teachers and students are encouraged to share their thoughts and work so that they can be shared with participants and the public.

A special edition of the Earth Focus Foundation magazine Objectif Terre will be published, with a print run of over 3,000. It will showcase works completed in the context of the **Walls Project which has been developed in collaboration with** the Département de l’instruction publique, the International School of Geneva, Mandat International and Imaginaid.

## III. Work Streams

Five work streams are proposed as possible reference points for teachers and students to plan their participation in the Walls Project. Each stream can be followed independently of the other four. They are:

- 1) Guided visits to the photographic exhibition
  - 2) A caption competition
  - 3) Symposiums and round tables
  - 4) Independent works
- All these works are conducted in the context of the classroom.

5) Students may also participate individually in the Mandat International's competition.

In addition to the suggested work stream a detailed **thematic file** written by Mandat International has been made available for teachers. It presents some key findings in relation to the issue of walls and themes which can be developed in reference to the photographic exhibition.

The thematic file can be downloaded from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. Go to [www.genevedecouverte.ch](http://www.genevedecouverte.ch).

**Contact** : Didier Dutoit, 022 919 05 20, [info@mandint.org](mailto:info@mandint.org)

### 1. Guided Visits to the photographic exhibition « Murs »

The exhibition will be present on the Pont de la Machine, Geneva from the **10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 to the 31<sup>th</sup> January 2010**. It will be open to the public 24 hours a day seven days per week.

Teachers may arrange for their class to have a guided visit. The visits are possible for primary through to secondary students (l'enseignement primaire, du cycle d'orientation et du post-obligatoire) from public and private schools. Reservation for guided visits is mandatory.

Visits will be guided by member of the Grey Cells Association ([www.greycells.ch](http://www.greycells.ch)) or the Association Graines de Paix ([www.graines-de-paix.org](http://www.graines-de-paix.org)).

Visits can be led in French, English or bilingually at the following times:

**Dates** : from the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010

**Length of visit** : 1 hour

More information and sign up form are available at: [www.earthfocus.org](http://www.earthfocus.org)

### 2. Caption competition

Within the project the caption competition encourages each class having visited the exhibition – independently or with a guide – to write captions for the photographs found and numbered on the Pont de la Machine.

**Target groups** The competition is open to classes with students from the age of 12 both within public and private schools. (Secondaire I and Secondaire II).

**Objective** Each class will submit 3 captions written by students – with a maximum length of 400 words – and referenced to the corresponding numbered photo.

**Deadline** by the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

All captions submitted will be published in the special edition of **Objectif Terre** and on the **website of the Earth Focus Foundation**. For more information (how to register and rules) please go to [www.earthfocus.org](http://www.earthfocus.org)

### 3. Symposiums and round tables

Two full day symposiums are proposed for classes with students from ages 12 to 19. (Secondaire I and II) from public and private schools and interested in engaging in debate on the subject of walls. The key theme for the two days will be the same:

**« Men build too many walls and not enough bridges. » Isaac Newton**

Each participant (students and teachers) will be asked to think about walls from a philosophical, ethical or, indeed, social perspective.

<b>Students aged 12 to 15 Secondaire I</b>		<b>Students aged 16 to 19 Secondaire II</b>	
<b>Date</b>	24 March 2010	<b>Date</b>	3 May 2010
<b>Timing</b>	9 h à 12 h (preparatory sessions)* 13h à 16h (student led debate)**	<b>Timing</b>	9 h à 12 h (preparatory sessions)* 13h à 16h (student led debate)**
<b>Location</b>	CICG (International Conference Centre Geneva)	<b>Location</b>	CICG (International Conference Centre Geneva)

\* The preparatory sessions will be led by specialists and will enable students to develop their thinking and their roles for the afternoon debate (maximum of 15 students per class)

\*\* The student led debate will take place in the afternoon and will be led by brief introduction from two participating experts. Those classes having participated in the morning session will be the key players in the debate. However, other classes may join the afternoon sessions and put questions to the key players.

Guided visits to the « Murs » exhibition and participation in the caption competition will be very beneficial for classes seeking to participate in the symposiums.

For more information (registration and participation details) please go to: [www.earthfocus.org](http://www.earthfocus.org)

### 4. Independent works

For those teachers and classes who wish to we also encourage works on the theme of walls and not related to one of the work streams mentioned above.

Theatre pieces, circus or street performances, musical performances, literature or any other artistic pursuits (drawing, photography, sculpture) or academic presentation can be submitted to the organisers with a view to including them either in the context of the photographic exhibition or at one of the symposiums to be held on the 24th March and the 3rd May at the CICG.

With the agreement of the authors or performers these compositions may also be displayed on the web.

## 5. Competition organised by Mandat International

In the context of commemorating the fall of the Berlin wall, Mandat International has initiated a competition on the theme of international cooperation to involve students from the age of 12 years and above. This competition will encourage students to creatively engage with the theme of international cooperation under the banner of: Breaking down walls to create a better world. Categories include: documentaries, visual arts, music, literature and research pieces.

Rules and registration details can be found at: <http://www.genevedecouverte.ch/fr/concours.html>

## 6. Yet more ...

### Teachers notes on the subject of walls

In the context of their exhibition « Des murs entre des hommes », the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent commissioned in collaboration with teachers from the Canton of Geneva a range of support materials. You will find these at: [http://www.micr.org/f/exhib/explore\\_archives\\_young\\_murs\\_f.html](http://www.micr.org/f/exhib/explore_archives_young_murs_f.html)

### L'Ecole Allemande and le Collège de Saussure

In the context of commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Ecole Allemande and the Collège de Saussure have come together to create a shared exhibition. The exhibition is open from the **5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of October** at the Ecole Allemande (chemin de Champ-Claude 6, 1214 Vernier).

On the **9<sup>th</sup> November 2009**, the Collège de Saussure and the Fondation Culture et Rencontre will be organising conferences and exhibitions (for more information please go to: [www.culture-rencontre.org](http://www.culture-rencontre.org)).

### « Murs »

In the context of the Walls Project we are undertaking to produce a final review of the work undertaken, documenting the creative work and the final productions born of the project. This review will be made available to schools and libraries.

## IV. Contacts

Area	Organisation	Contact
Independent works	<b>Imaginaid</b> , Mr Serge Macia	022 734 19 64 <a href="mailto:sergemacia@imaginaid.org">sergemacia@imaginaid.org</a>
Guided visits, caption competition, symposiums	<b>Fondation Earth Focus</b> , Ms Nicola Spafford Furey Ms Sandra Brazzini-Mourier	022 704 35 14 <a href="mailto:nicola@earthfocus.org">nicola@earthfocus.org</a> , 079 202 17 65 <a href="mailto:sandra@earthfocus.org">sandra@earthfocus.org</a> , 078 834 58 03
General information	<b>Direction générale de l'enseignement secondaire postobligatoire</b> Service Enseignement et Formation <b>Direction générale du cycle d'orientation</b> Service de l'enseignement <b>Direction générale de l'enseignement primaire</b> Service de l'enseignement	Ms Chantal Andenmatten 022 327 34 48  Ms Isabelle Nicolazzi 022 388 53 00  Ms Thérèse Guerrier 022 546 75 30
General information	<b>International School of Geneva</b> Ms Michaelene Stack	022 787 26 63 <a href="mailto:communication@ecolint.ch">communication@ecolint.ch</a>