



Chemistry: All About You

Module 4. Equality: Awareness-raising activities
on chemistry

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MODULE 4. EQUALITY: AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES ON CHEMISTRY

This section provides information on activities that have been developed in the context of Xperimania, a project organised by the Association of Petrochemicals Producers in Europe (Appe) and coordinated by European Schoolnet on their behalf. All schools in the European Union, candidate countries and EFTA countries are invited to join in this project. Participating students must be aged 10-20. Participation is free. All the background information and resources needed to get started are available on www.xperimania.net. The initiative is part of the International Year of Chemistry.

The activities proposed are linked to the theme of the International Year of Chemistry: “Chemistry – our life, our future” and aims to increase students’ interest in chemistry studies and careers and the role of women in chemistry research and industry.

In this section we present a number of hands-on activities in chemistry to increase students’ knowledge of chemistry concepts and scientific processes. The experiments proposed are:

1. MAKING A PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN CHEMIST

Activity purpose	To interview a woman chemist and produce a short video or a PowerPoint presentation displaying pictures of both their investigation and the interview.
Time needed	6 hours (2 hours for the interview and 4 hours editing the video or making the PowerPoint presentation)
Link	www.xperimania.net
Pedagogical objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help students realise the importance of chemistry in our daily lives • To learn working with inquiry-based methods and conduct an interview • To use ICT tools to edit a video/PP presentation.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • video or photo camera • computer with MS programs and appropriate software



<p>Procedure</p>	<p>Teachers may conduct the activity and assist the pupils to prepare for the activity in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging pupils in preparatory discussions about the importance of chemistry in our daily lives. • Referring to relevant organisations (universities, companies), finding contacts and arranging local activities/meetings with scientists or arranging presentations at the school. • Overseeing the research activity. • Preparing the film/PP presentation with the appropriate software.
<p>Outcomes for students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the interest of both female and male students in the subject • Raising awareness of the role of women in chemistry. • Increasing the fun component of chemistry lessons. • Training in the use of digital tools for chemistry documentation purposes. • Promoting pedagogical practices based on inquiry-based methods. • Encouraging students to think about a scientific career. • Using ICT tools (computer and MS programs, video and photo camera)

2. DESIGNING A CAMPAIGN ON WOMEN AND CHEMISTRY

Activity purpose	To design an awareness-raising campaign to increase the interest of female students in chemistry, by creating various dissemination tools (posters, videos, postcards, a blog).
Time needed	6 hours (2 hours to search and debate the ideas and 4 hours for editing the dissemination tool)
Link	www.xperimania.net
Pedagogical objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To change the attitudes of students towards studying science, especially chemistry. To search for ideas and actions that can increase pupils' interest in chemistry, both at school and later on in their choice of studies and careers.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> papers, crayons, pencils video or photo camera computer with MS programs and appropriate software
Procedure	<p>Teachers may conduct the activity and assist the pupils to prepare for the activity in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging pupils in preparatory discussions about the campaign proposed. Engaging pupils in preparatory discussions about the importance of chemistry in our daily lives. Identifying a topic for the campaign to work on. Overseeing the activity. Preparing the contribution (posters, videos, postcards, a blog...) with the appropriate software.



Outcomes for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raising awareness of the role of women in chemistry.• Increasing the interest of both female and male students in the subject.• Increasing the fun component of chemistry lessons.• Training in the use of digital tools for chemistry documentation purposes.• Promoting pedagogical practices based on inquiry-based methods.• Encouraging students to consider a scientific career.
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3. MAKING A POSTER ON WOMEN AND CHEMISTRY

Activity purpose	To make a poster (digital or handmade) on the topic “women and chemistry”.
Time needed	2 hours
Link	www.xperimania.net
Pedagogical objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To illustrate original thoughts on chemistry and its benefits as career choice, especially for women. • To develop artistic abilities.
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • papers, crayons, pencils • video or photo camera • computer with MS programs and appropriate software
Procedure	<p>Teachers may conduct the activity and assist the pupils to prepare for the activity in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging pupils in preparatory discussions about the poster they are about to create. • Referring to relevant organisations (universities or companies), finding contacts and arranging local activities, such as meetings with scientists or arranging presentations at the school. • Overseeing the research and the artistic activity. • Preparing the digital poster with the appropriate software.

Outcomes for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raising awareness of the role of women in chemistry.• Increasing the interest of both female and male students in the subject.• Increasing the fun component of chemistry lessons.• Training in the use of digital tools for chemistry documentation purposes.• Promoting pedagogical practices based on inquiry-based methods.• Encouraging students to think about a scientific career.
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