





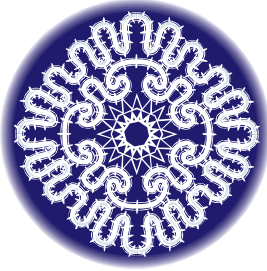





Voices in Pictures

Activity

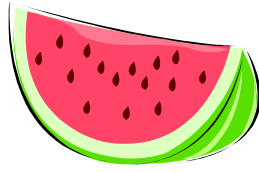
Activity	Describing the Russian painting: "The merchant's wife" from Boris Michailowitsch Kustodiev
Language(s)	English
Level	A2/B1
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To learn the vocabulary • To improve the understanding for literature • To learn analyzing painting's details, subject matters, formal quality, etc.
Procedure	<p>Previous to reading the text give the students the <i>domino</i> sheet</p> <p>Tell the learners that they are going to read a text about a famous painting</p> <p>Learners will now read the <i>text</i>, underline the unknown words</p> <p>In pairs discussion for global understanding</p> <p>Trainer should collect the text and hand out the <i>Cloze</i> activity about adjectives</p> <p>After filling the blanks, pair comparison</p> <p>Give the learners the <i>crossword</i> about substantives</p> <p>Hand out the <i>painting puzzle</i> – Learners will look for the details they've seen in the domino</p> <p>Learners should now choose 5 of the new words and use them to write single sentences.</p>
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to learners's level, trainer could offer the second text part for an activity, a new Cloze test, crossword, interpretation, etc. In this part students will go beyond the surface. • A next painting related to the same theme could be distributed for discussion and comparison, in order to develop a better understanding for paintings and art related text.

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church		woman	
Tea service		table	
goodies		dome	
dress		lace	
face		sign	

Voices in Pictures

beauty



watermelon



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Text describing the painting “*The Merchant’s Wife*” from Boris Michailowiitsch Kustodiev

The young woman, dressed in a black dress with the magnificent lace and despair, sits at a table, covered with tea, face to the audience.

In the background is a Russian city scene with domes, church and trees.

Signs of abundance abound - the shiny samovar, the tea service, sliced watermelon, plates of lush fruit and baked goodies.

The woman apparently belongs to a rich merchant family. Her ample white physique, once a sign of feminine beauty, illuminates the table and the surrounding area. She is as round and as succulent as the fruit on the table. A cat nuzzles her indulgently.

Going beyond the surface

Recommendation for developing a further activity according to learner's level:

She is not quite looking at the viewer, her mind appears to wander absently and she seems reflective and pensive. sipping tea from a saucer with a customary gesture; She is drinking hot tea from the saucer to cool it, pinkie pointing away from the steaming flavorful liquid Yet, as she sips her tea, the picture is one of peace and tranquility; apparently, she is enjoying her tea.

Puzzle to the painting „The Merchant’s Wife“ from Boris Michailowitsch Kostodiev

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Cloze for the text to the painting „The merchant’s Wife“
from Boris Michailowitsch Kustodiev

Put the following words (or word parts) in the gaps:

abundance audience black city domes dressed feminine fruit goodies magnificent nuzzles physique rich round samovar service succulent surrounding table trees watermelon young

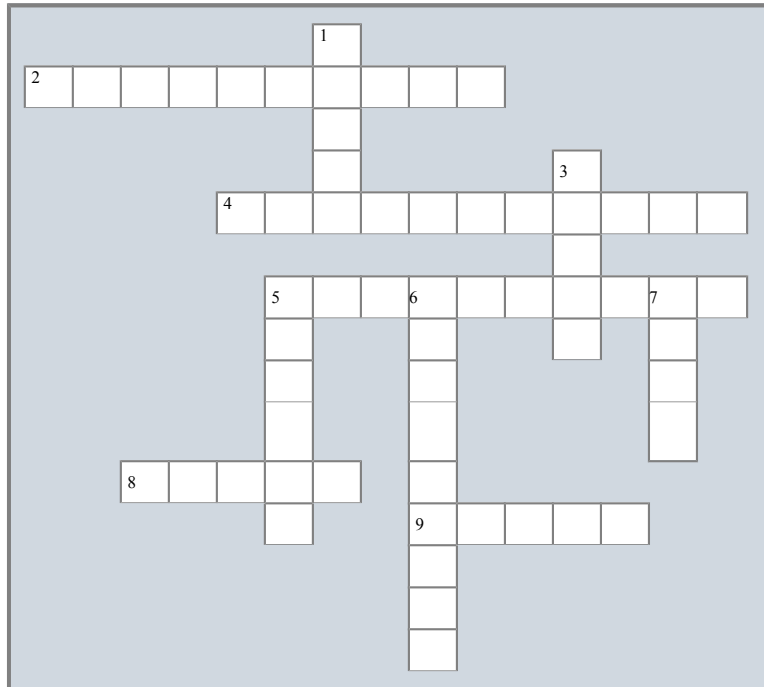
The Merchant's Wife at Tea

The _____ woman, _____ in a _____ dress with the _____ lace and despair, sits at a _____, covered with tea, face to the _____. In the background is a Russian _____ scene with _____, church and _____. Signs of _____ abound - the shiny _____, the tea _____, sliced _____, plates of lush _____ and baked _____. The woman apparently belongs to a _____ merchant family. Her ample white _____, once a sign of _____ beauty, illuminates the table and the _____ area. She is as _____ and as _____ as the fruit on the table. A cat _____ her indulgently.

Voices in Pictures

Crossword based on the painting
from Boris Michailowitsch Kustodiev

„The merchant’s wife“



„The merchant’s wife“

Across

2. something that is behind an object or person
4. something wonderful
5. plain or clear, obvious
8. bright or glossy in appearance
9. large in size

Down

1. someone being in the first or early stage of life
3. any view or picture
5. plentifully supplied
6. an extremely plentiful quantity
7. succulent

This crossword puzzle was created by Celia Dierl with [EclipseCrossword](https://www.eclipsecrossword.com/).

Voices in Pictures

Key - Crossword

Across	Down
2. Background	1. Young
4. Magnificent	3. Scene
5. Apparently	5. Abound
8. Shiny	6. Abundance
9. Ample	7. Lush

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As exercise for concentration you could find here an interactive puzzle:

<http://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=11ae560e716d>

Created by Celia Dierl on <http://www.jigsawplanet.com>