Adult Guide for the Petitcodiac Module

What is the Petitcodiac Module?

The Petitcodiac module is a collection of two interactive activities available on the Troubadour platform. Once you activate the module, two challenges will automatically appear in each student's or child's account:

1. **The Great Green vs. Less-Green Neighborhood Showdown** - Children create two virtual neighborhoods to compare environmental impacts
2. **Build Your Own Rain Garden!** - Children design a garden that naturally filters rainwater

Children work independently using the Student Guide, which contains all the necessary instructions and information.

What Students Will Learn

Environmental Concepts:

- The difference between permeable and impermeable surfaces
- The impact of development choices on the environment
- The role of green infrastructure (rain gardens, green spaces, etc.)
- Native plants and their importance for pollinators

Skills Developed:

- Written communication in English (explanation and justification of their choices)
- Critical thinking (comparison and impact analysis)
- Creativity and autonomy

Prerequisites

Before starting, make sure you have:

1. An active Troubadour account
2. Students added to your class (or individual accounts for family use)
3. The Petitcodiac module activated in Troubadour
4. The Student Guide (provided in paper or digital format)
5. Access to devices with internet connection (in class or at home)
6. Login credentials for each student

Note: The activity can be completed entirely in class, entirely at home as homework, or in combination (start in class, finish at home).

Time Required: 1h30 to 2h per activity

How It Works - Simple Steps

Step 1: Activate the Module in Troubadour

Once the Petitcodiac module is activated in your Troubadour account, both challenges will automatically appear in all your students' accounts. They will see:

- "The Great Green vs. Less-Green Neighborhood Showdown"
- "Build Your Own Rain Garden!"

Step 2: Introduce the Activity to Students (15 minutes)

Briefly explain:

- They will create virtual scenes on Troubadour
- They will see two new challenges in their account
- They will have a Student Guide to help them
- They must explain their choices by adding text to each placed element

Show them how to log in to Troubadour and access the challenges if necessary.

Step 3: Distribute the Student Guide

Give each student a copy of the Student Guide (paper or digital). This guide contains:

- All instructions for completing the activities
- Information about eco-friendly and non-eco-friendly elements
- Plant tables for the rain garden
- Examples of explanatory texts

Important: The Student Guide is designed so children can work independently. They don't need you constantly.

Step 4: Let Students Create (60-90 minutes)

Students:

1. Log in to Troubadour
2. Choose a challenge
3. Consult their Student Guide
4. Create their neighborhood or garden
5. Add texts to explain their choices

Options for completing the activity:

- **In class:** Circulate to answer questions, but let them work independently
- **At home as homework:** Give them a deadline and ask them to complete the activity at their own pace
- **Combination:** Start in class (30 minutes for introduction and beginning of creation), then ask them to finish at home

All three approaches work very well!

Step 5: Review Students' Creations

Log in to your Troubadour account to see your students' creations. You can:

- Read their explanatory texts
- See their choices of elements and plants
- Assess their understanding of environmental concepts

Step 6: Share and Celebrate (optional)

- Create a Troubadour bulletin board to display the best creations
- Generate sharing links to send to parents
- Organize a class discussion about different choices
- Vote for the greenest neighborhood or most beautiful garden

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Activity 1: The Great Green Neighborhood Showdown

Activity Description

Students create two virtual neighborhoods in Troubadour:

- **Page 1:** A LESS GREEN neighborhood with elements harmful to the environment (parking lots, trash, construction zones, gas-powered cars, etc.)
- **Page 2:** A GREEN neighborhood with eco-friendly elements (rain gardens, parks, bicycles, solar panels, etc.)

For each placed element, they add text explaining why it's good or bad for the environment.

What They Will Learn

- Identify elements that protect or harm the environment
- Understand the concepts of permeable and impermeable surfaces
- Understand that our development choices have an impact
- Explain and justify their choices in writing

Expected Text Examples

Ages 7-9: "I put a park because it helps animals and cools the air."

Ages 10-12: "I added a rain garden because it filters rainwater before it reaches rivers, which protects fish and reduces flooding."

Activity 2: Build Your Own Rain Garden

Activity Description

Students create a virtual rain garden in Troubadour by placing different plants in the right locations according to their water and light needs:

- **At the front:** Plants that like drier soil
- **In the middle:** Plants that like moisture
- **On the sides:** Plants with average needs
- **At the back:** Taller plants

For each placed plant, they add text explaining their choice.

What They Will Learn

- Recognize different native plants
- Understand that plants have different needs
- Understand the role of a rain garden in water management
- Identify benefits for pollinators
- Make decisions based on specific criteria

Expected Text Examples

Ages 7-9: "I put Swamp Milkweed in the middle because it likes water and attracts monarch butterflies."

Ages 10-12: "I placed Blue Flag Iris in the middle of my garden because it tolerates moisture well and its deep roots help filter water. It also attracts bees."

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take? 1h30 to 2h per activity. You can do them in different periods or ask students to finish at home.

Can I assign the activity as homework? Absolutely! The activity works very well as homework. Students have everything they need in their Student Guide to work independently. You can even do the introduction in class (15 minutes) then assign the rest for homework.

Do students need to do both activities? No. You can choose to do only one or the other depending on your time and objectives.

What if a student has difficulty writing? Adapt your expectations according to age. Short sentences are perfect. For younger students, you can accept dictation.

Can students work in teams? Yes, but each student should have their own account to create their own version.

How do I evaluate the work? Focus on understanding environmental concepts and the ability to justify their choices, not on writing perfection.

Key Concepts (to help you answer questions)

Permeable surface: Lets water pass through (soil, grass, gravel)

Impermeable surface: Doesn't let water pass through (concrete, asphalt)

Runoff: Water that flows quickly over impermeable surfaces, can carry pollutants

Green infrastructure: Solution that uses nature (plants, soil) to manage water and improve the environment

Rain garden: Bowl-shaped garden that collects and filters rainwater naturally

Native plants: Plants that grow naturally in our region, well adapted to the local climate