

Watersnood Impact

The Flood Escape Room is actually an extracurricular event organized by 'Saveamsterdam' and focuses on the impact of climate change. It takes place in the Netherlands where frequent weather extremes and the rising water level require measures. Players form their groups and join the escape room experience free of charge. Organizers want participants to be aware that more than a quarter of the Netherlands is below sea level, and that the rising water level and frequent weather extremes due to climate change have an enormous impact on the country. Therefore, protecting people and the planet requires a balance between acute flood protection and structural investment in long-term measures. With a series of challenging puzzles that relate to currents and watercourses, players have to work out ways to lower the water level.

Under considerable time pressure, participants need to work in teams and make careful judgements between possible short- and long-term measures: an emergency plan with sandbags, water drainage and space for the river, sustainable energy, and circular construction, taking on complex policy, planning and implementation challenges.

Why is it relevant to teach languages

What makes the particular escape room so appealing is that it is closely related to real-life challenges and both the context and the physical room could not possibly be more realistic. This is an important element to consider when it comes to classroom teaching and activities. The use of a timer to create could create an even more real setting, as students would feel that they have to urgently react and take measures to save the Earth. The more realistic and authentic situations and means are used in the classroom, in escape rooms as well, the more motivated the students become. In this context, soft skills, such as cooperation, problem-solving and creativity are of utmost importance for the task completion.

Another point to remember is that this activity will be particularly enjoyable for students who are preoccupied with or even take active role in climate change, so this escape game will allow them to discover relevant vocabulary on this field and work in a cross-curricular manner.

Reference

- 'Every escape room' Available at: <https://www.everyescaperoom.nl/amsterdam/saveamsterdam-watersnood> (accessed 10 March 2021)
- 'Social Impact factory' Available at: <https://www.socialimpactfactory.com/event/watersnood-impact-escape-room/> (accessed 9 March 2021)

