



# **La Sagrada Familia**

## **Spanish A1**

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# **COMPASS**

**ENHANCING MOTIVATION OF  
OLDER LEARNERS TO LEARN  
THROUGH CULTURE**

## La Sagrada Familia

Type of activity	<b>Face-to-face or online.</b>
Language and level	Spanish A1
Estimated time	40 minutes
Skills covered	Reading, speaking, intercultural
Relation to cultural heritage	<p>✘ Architecture</p> <p>a Sagrada Familia is a cathedral which is still under construction. Believed to be one of the master pieces of Antoni Gaudí, it was first designed by Francisco de Paula del Villar, who started in 1882. After the cathedral was began, in 1883 Antoni Gaudí became in charge of the project, with the original design. He changed it to design the magnificent building that is being constructed.</p> <p>In 1914, Gaudí started working only on this building, after finishing other projects he had, such as La Pedrera or Casa Batlló, two famous examples of modernism in Barcelona. He worked exclusively on this project until his death in 1926, when his disciple took the project.</p> <p>During the Civil War in 1936, the original designs were burned to ashes, as well as the cathedral was vandalised. Some of the materials were saved, and that was the basis for the construction that we know now. After Gaudí, nine architects have overseen the project.</p> <p>Currently, the cathedral is a minor basilica -consecrated by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010-, and it is considered a UNESCO world heritage. It receives more than four thousand visitors per year, according to El Periódico.</p>



Development/Description of the activity

**Activity 1:** virtual visit.

All students can access, or the instructor can show them the page to do the virtual visit to the cathedral:

<https://sagradafamilia.org/en/virtual-tour>

Then the instructor could ask some questions such as "If you had the opportunity, would you visit it?", "Which façade did you like the most?" "Do you prefer the inside or the outside?", "Would you like to change something? If yes, what?".

**Face to face:** you can share the virtual tour on a screen for the participants.

**Online:** the instructor can share the screen or ask the participants to click on the link and watch it themselves.

**Activity 2:** Make them investigate about the Sagrada Família: how many visitors does this monument receive in a year? In how many languages can you do the visit? How many years ago it was started to build? Who designed it at first and whose plans are they following now?

**Activity 3:** Teach them some vocabulary of the cathedral, such as fachada, ábside, claustro, sacristia, cripta or pináculo. Make them describe the colours, what do they see in each place seen in the virtual visit, what does the façades and towers represent and who is buried in the tomb. Every detail has a symbology. Each façade, tower, number and decorative element is linked to Jesus Christ life and death. Can you explain which is the relation? Example: why are there 12 towers? They represent the 12 apostles. There is a square with numbers in the death façade, what does it mean?

**Face to face:** make the participants search for the details on the virtual visit and try to guess which are these details and what is their symbology. Start a debate on what they find and what they think.

**Online:** make the participants go back to the virtual visit or share the screen with it again. Start the debate on what they found. They can revisit on their own devices.

**Activity 4:** Does everybody like the Sagrada Família? Think about all the controversies that the Sagrada Família has been involved into. Which are they?

**Face-to-face:** make the participants bring out their mobile devices and investigate about the Sagrada Família.

**Online:** the participants can search for it in the devices they are already using.

**Activity 5:** Investigate about the life of its main architect, Antoni Gaudí. Which other buildings did he create?

Doing this activity face-to-face you must ask the participants to bring out their mobile devices or computers to search this. Doing this in online format, the participants can do on the same device they are using.

**Final activity:** Make them create a reproduction with materials easy to acquire such as clay of how they think the cathedral will look like in the end. It does not have to be accurate, but they can describe it with some vocabulary previously taught.

If you do this activity face-to-face, you must bring some clay to create the reproduction. If you do not want to make it with clay, you can have some papers and pencils. If you do it online, you can ask the participants to have some clay at their homes or some papers and pencils. As they will have webcam, they can show their creations through it.



Link to original source if any

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1810/181022-sagrada-familia.html>  
<https://kimballartcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/EVA-lesson-04.pdf>

Do you need to link any files?



Photo by [Sung Shin](#) in [unsplash](#)





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