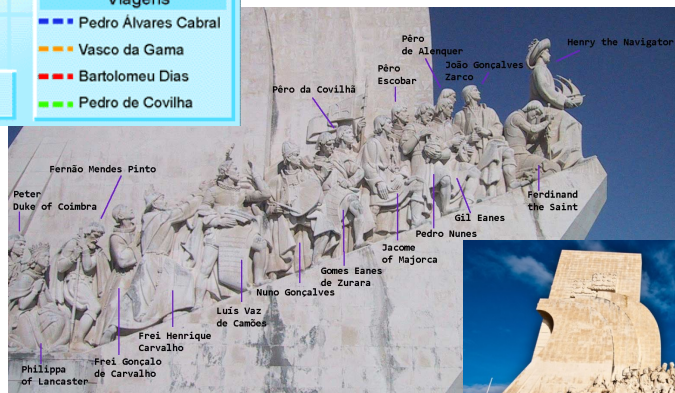


**Poetry translation, transplantation and trans-inspiration demonstrated using
'Mar Português' by Fernando Pessoa**

Activity created by Sam Holmes

Activity	Description	Resources
1) Image board	Provide an image board which links to the context and main themes of the poem – students discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is each image? • What does each image tell us? 	Image board (1 per pair/group)
2) Title brainstorm	Students read the title of the poem and from this make predictions about what it may include in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words (nouns, verbs, adjectives) • images (objects, scenes, emotions) • themes (ideas, meanings) • tone 	Flipchart paper
3) Literal translation	Students use a glossary to do a literal translation of the poem. Each group can work on a different stanza/section.	Poem Glossaries (1 each)
4) Discussion and analysis	The groups feed back their translations to the whole class then discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer back to brainstorm – how accurate were predictions? • In groups identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ what is the poem about/main message ○ rhyme structure and other translation difficulties • Report back to class 	
5) Rewriting	Each group does a different type of translation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> traditional translation (make original sound good in English) transplantation (transfer the setting to the UK/another context in terms of time and place) trans-inspiration (write a new poem using the same theme/meaning and keeping as many of the original structural features – ie rhyme, rhythm etc – as possible) 	
6) Performance	Each group performs their translation to the rest of the class and explains their choices.	



Mar Português

Ó mar salgado, quanto do teu sal
São lágrimas de Portugal!
Por te cruzarmos, quantas mães choraram,
Quantos filhos em vão rezaram!

Quantas noivas ficaram por casar
Para que fosses nosso, ó mar!
Valeu a pena? Tudo vale a pena
Se a alma não é pequena.

Quem quer passar além do Bojador
Tem que passar além da dor.
Deus ao mar o perigo e o abismo deu,
Mas nele é que espelhou o céu.

Fernando Pessoa (1888–1935)

Mar Português – Glossary

abismo	abyss
além	beyond
alma	soul
ao	to the
Bojador	(see map on image board)
casar	to wed/marry
céu	sky
chorar (choraram)	to cry (3 rd person plural, preterite tense)
cruzar (cruzarmos)	to cross (1 st person plural personal infinitive)
de/do/da	of
dar (deu)	to give (3 rd person singular, preterite tense)
Deus	God
dor	pain
e	and
em vão	in vain
espehar (espelhou)	to mirror (3 rd person singular, preterite tense)
ficar (ficaram)	to stay/remain (3 rd person plural, preterite tense)

filhos	sons/children
lágrima	tear
mãe	mother
mar	sea
mas	but
não	no/not
nele	in it/in him
noiva	fiancée
nosso/a	our
ó	oh
o/a	the
para que	so that/for
passar	to pass
pequeno/a	small
perigo	danger
por	for/by/through
quanto(s)/quanta(s)	how much/how many
que	that
quem	who
querer (quer)	to want (3 rd person singular, present tense)

rezar (rezaram)	to pray (3 rd person plural, preterite tense)
sal	salt
salgado	salty
se	if
ser -é	to be -3 rd person singular, present tense
-são	-3 rd person plural, present tense
-fosses	-2 nd person singular, preterite subjunctive tense
te	you
ter que (tem que)	to have to (3 rd person singular, present tense)
teu/tua	your
tudo	all/everything
valer a pena -valeu a pena	to be worth it -3 rd person singular, preterite tense
-vale a pena	-3 rd person singular, present tense