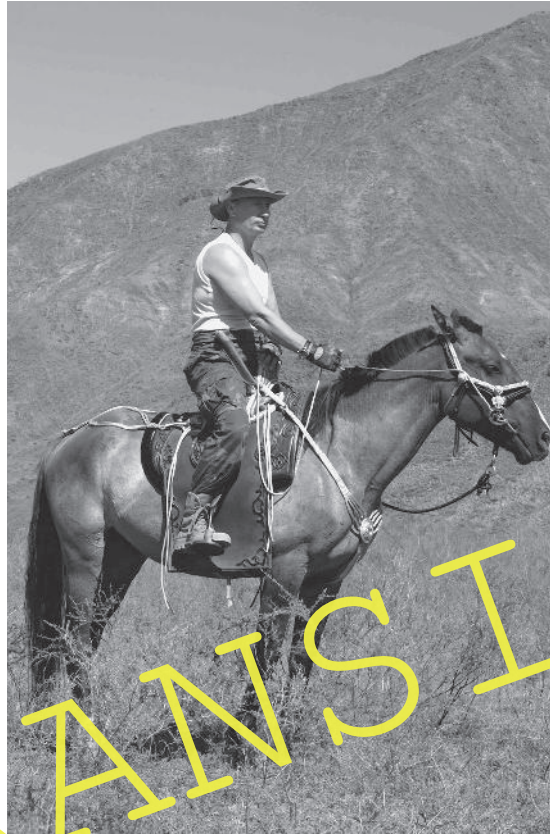


The Power of Pictures: From Charlemagne to Angela Merkel. Die Darstellung von Macht in Bildern erfassen und analysieren (Klasse 8–10)

Nach einer Idee von Andreas Hammer, Hennef



© picture-alliance/dpa

Is this the private side of Vladimir Putin?

Wieso nennt man Kaiser Karl „den Großen“? Weshalb ist Napoleon auf einem Gemälde als Gott dargestellt? Und warum lässt sich Wladimir Putin regelmäßig im Urlaub fotografieren?

In allen Jahrhunderten ließen Herrscher ihre Macht in Bildern festhalten, wobei sie sich selbst als Mittelpunkt der Herrschaftsordnung zelebrierten. Anhand von Münzen, Gemälden und Fotos erarbeiten Ihre Schülerinnen und Schüler Beispiele von Herrschaftsikonografie. Dabei lernen sie das grundlegende Vokabular, um Bilder zu beschreiben, und setzen sich mit den Fragen auseinander, die man an ein Herrscherbild stellen muss.

Klassenstufe: 8–10

Dauer: 5 Stunden und LEK

Bereich: Herrscherdarstellungen als historische Quellen, aneignen von *history skills*

Kompetenzen:

- Bilder und Gemälde mit ihren jeweiligen Bildelementen beschreiben
- die Symbolik von Herrschaftsbildern entschlüsseln
- die Aussagen von Herrschaftsikonografie deuten
- eigene Fragen zu Herrschaftsbildern entwickeln

5. Stunde: Method training – Questions about a leader portrait

Material	Verlauf
M 6	How to “read” the portrait of a leader / Entwicklung eines Untersuchungs-rasters für Herrscherdarstellungen anhand einer selbst gewählten Darstellung

Materialübersicht**Stunde 1: In Roman tradition – Charlemagne**

M 1 (Tx) Ruler of Europe – Charlemagne

Stunde 2: Louis XIV – Pillar of the kingdom

M 2 (Bi/Ab) Louis XIV of France –The Sun King

M 3 (Tx) How to turn a picture into a text

Stunde 3: The emperor as a god? – Napoleon Bonaparte

M 4 (Bi/Ab) Napoleon, the highest god?

Stunde 4: Always at work - Angela Merkel

M 5 (Bi/Ab) The Chancellor: Angela Merkel

Stunde 5: Method training – Questions about a leader portrait

M 6 (Ab) Let the picture speak for itself

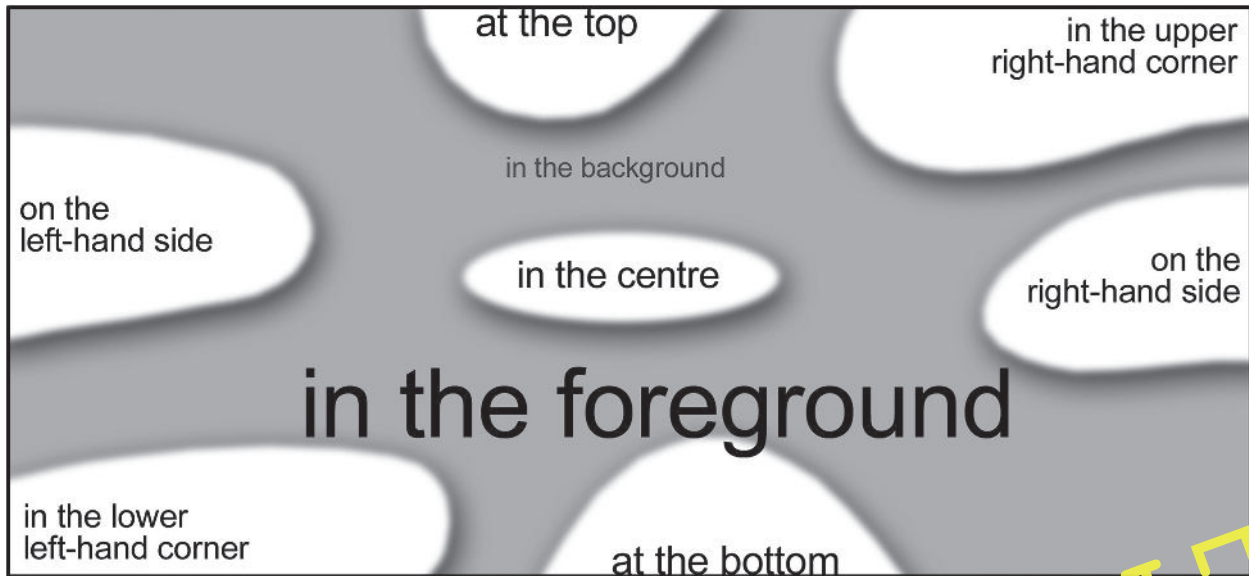
Lernerfolgskontrolle

Test: Can you decode the message of the pictures?

Ab: Arbeitsblatt – Bi: Bild – Tx: Text

M 3 How to turn a picture into a text

To interpret a picture, you have to first describe it exactly. The following phrases can help you:



To the right of: rechts von ↔ to the left of: links von

in front of: vor ↔ behind: hinter

next to: neben

between: zwischen

above, there is/are ...: darüber ist/sind ... ↔ below, there is/are ...: darunter ist/sind ...



Remember to use the progressive form!

Example: A man is sitting on a throne.

In the next step, the interpretation, you should pay attention to the following aspects:

- the possible meaning of colours and shades
- symbols
- facial expression
- body language and posture
- relationships
- setting

Helpful words and phrases for describing and interpreting the painting of Louis XIV:

Perücke: wig	hohe Absätze: high heels
Stoff: fabric	Säule: pillar
Umhang: cloak	Hermelinpelz: ermine fur
Lilie: lily	jmdm. etw. vermitteln: to convey sth. to so.
die dargestellte Person: the depicted person	Die Person sieht den Betrachter direkt an.: The person is looking directly at the viewer.
Die Person wirkt selbstsicher/mächtig/ einschüchternd.: The person seems confident/ powerful/intimidating.	Die Person steht aufrecht.: The person is standing upright.

M 4 Napoleon, the highest god?

Unfortunately, this picture is damaged. Please put it back together!



© atq-images/Erich Lessing

Tasks

1. Cut out the pieces of the puzzle and put the painting together.
2. Fill in the gaps in the text with the words in the box.

halo¹ – “Hand of Justice” – Jupiter² – laurel³ crown – symbols of power – eagle – Emperor

In the painting from 1806, Napoleon is depicted as _____. He is sitting upright on his throne. The back of the throne reminds one of a _____ around his head. On the arm rests there are two ivory spheres⁴ which represent the globe. In the tradition of Charlemagne, various _____ are shown: the _____ and cloak, which remind one of the Roman generals and emperors, and also the _____ of the Roman legions (shown on the carpet). For his coronation, Napoleon restored or replicated⁵ Charlemagne’s sword, sceptre (in Napoleon’s right hand) and the _____ (in his left hand). It is the symbol of the emperor’s judicial⁶ power. On the carpet, one sees the astrological signs, which were traditionally connected with _____.

3. Work with a partner: Compare the depiction of Napoleon with Louis XIV in a table. What similarities and differences can you find?

The depiction of a ruler	
Louis XIV	Napoleon
Conclusion:	

4. Which picture impresses you the most? Give reasons for your answer.

Annotations

1 **halo**: Heiligenschein – 2 **Jupiter**: the highest god of the Romans, patron god of the Roman state. As an all-seeing god of the heavens, he was the defender of justice and faith. – 3 **laurel**: Lorbeer – 4 **sphere**: Kugel – 5 **to replicate**: to copy – 6 **judicial**: richterlich

M 5 The Chancellor: Angela Merkel

Portraits of leaders exist in our time as well. Every portrait makes a statement about the person shown. We see this here, in the case of the German Chancellor Angela Merkel.



© Laurence Chaperon

In front of the Chancellor's office



© picture-alliance/dpa

In front of the Oslo Opera House (2008)

Vocabulary for describing the picture

Halskette: necklace – Strähnen: highlights – a low cut dress: ein weit ausgeschnittenes Kleid – Mittelscheitel: centre parting – Seitenschertel: side parting – Schultertuch, Schal: shawl

Tasks

1. Compare the photos by filling in the following chart. You may use a dictionary.

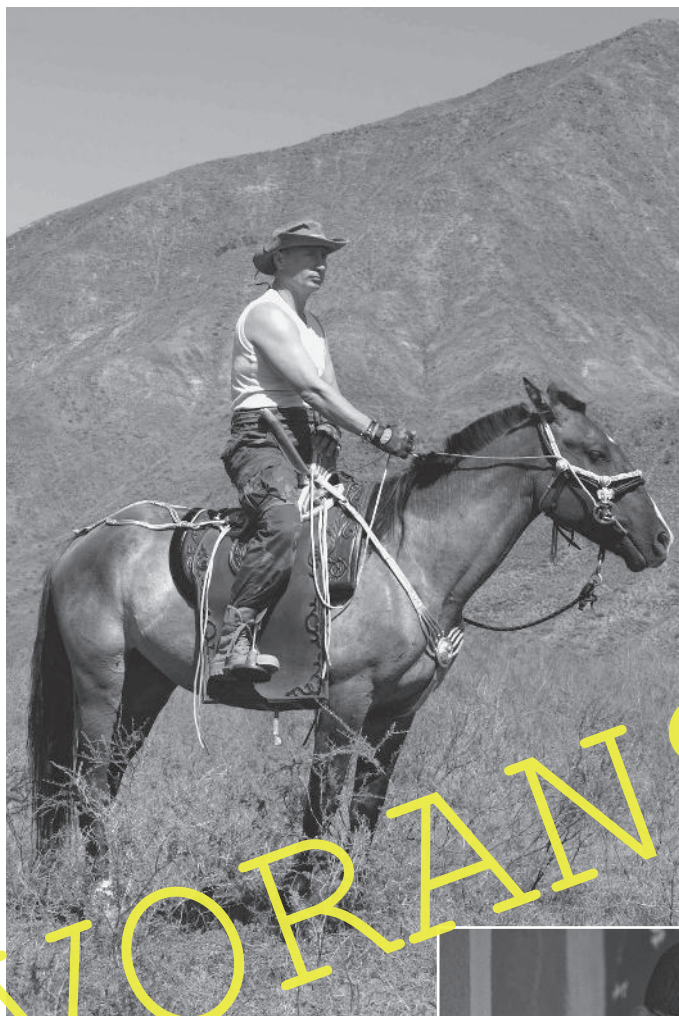
Photos of Chancellor Angela Merkel

	In front of the Chancellor's office	In front of the Oslo Opera House
Place		
Hair style		
Clothing		
Jewellery		
Other accessories		
Facial expression		
Occasion		

2. What message about Angela Merkel do the two pictures give? Give detailed reasons.
3. Explain why it has become more difficult for politicians in recent years to create a certain public image of themselves.

Test: Can you decode the message of the pictures?

The following photographs show the Russian President Vladimir Putin and the US President Barack Obama on holiday. Both were taken by press photographers and are authorised photos.



© picture-alliance/dp

Vocabulary for describing the pictures

Camouflage-Hose:
camouflage trousers

Zügel: reins

Sattel: saddle

Steigbügel: stirrup

Putin in 2007 during
his holiday in Siberia



© picture-alliance/AP Photo

Obama with his daughter during their holiday in Hawaii in January 2015

Tasks

1. Carefully look at the photographs and describe the scenes in detail.
2. Explain why Putin and Obama wanted someone to take photos of them on holiday.
3. Explain the impression that the photos should convey.