

LUMINOUS 2025

Nostalgia | Wildlife | Pop Culture

Emerging Fashion | Exploring Different Cultures



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The identities, passions and values of students are important and everlasting, and foster impactful discovery and growth. We at Podar International school believe that each student has within them a creative spark and passion that can fuel them to achieve greatness, and the will and desire to express themselves and reflect on the world and their place in it.

The culmination of these values lies in the Luminous magazine. Luminous lights the path, promoting the self-discovery and creativity needed to foster meaningful development of students. Luminous is a student-led initiative that spans various domains, including poems, essays, photography, art and so much more, and students are given a chance to express themselves and their views on these domains. The students create, reflect and design meticulously, perfecting every strand of their work, and provide their perspectives. Luminous is the magazine for the student's voice!

While the current magazine encompasses themes of nostalgia, wildlife, pop culture and more, we hope to expand our scope, and utilize the complete capabilities of the platform to allow greater engagement and expression. The magazine hopes to build every year, pushing the boundaries, and expanding into new territories and mediums. Luminous was a spark lit in 2016, and today, the flame still burns bright. It is more than a magazine, it is an initiative, showing the commitment and desire needed to foster creativity.

The current edition is only a start, and I hope that the future only holds more growth for luminous, may it's reach continue to spread into the hearts and minds of all the students working towards it, and to the numerous readers. The spark is lit, and it is now time for the light to shine the brightest, and for the luminous passion to last forevermore.

**-Director Principal
Dr Mrs Vandana Lulla**



CONTENT

1. Nostalgia
2. Wildlife
3. Pop Culture
4. Exploring Different Cultures
5. Emerging Fashion
6. Message from touch.edu
7. Memory Lane
8. Our P.O.V.
9. Credits

Nostalgia

Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat Sun

1



3

4

5

6

7

8

9



11

12

13

14



16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31



A Magic Carpet Ride through the Nostalgic World of Disney

By Naina Bhatia - 8D

ATL Skill - Research Skills

Have you ever come across a Disney title while trying to find a movie to watch and felt suddenly transported back to your young self, curled up on the couch, popcorn in hand lost in a world where anything was possible?

Ever heard an old Disney song and you're suddenly eight again, imagining you have magical hair like Rapunzel or ice powers like Elsa?

There is definitely something special about these movies we grew up watching. They made us believe in magic and hope and they made our imagination ten times greater. From the alluring castles, to the charming characters and of course the trustworthy sidekicks, they aren't just a part of our past, they are a part of who we are.

But what is it that makes these timeless tales so nostalgic?

Well, there are too many reasons to mention in just an article but today we are going to delve into a few of the important ones which make these fantasies the lovable and magical stories they are. So, are you ready?! Well, buckle your seatbelts and join the magic carpet as I take you through "A whole New world" of dreams and imagination.

Whoosh! Looks like we have reached our first destination! Welcome to the first island in the working of Disney magic-Storyville.

Magical Stories

As said by Robert McKee "Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world."

Using the art of storytelling each Disney movie takes you on an unforgettable journey filled with adventure, love and self-discovery combining romantic moments and plot twists with a touch of humour. For example, take the movie "Tangled." It takes us on an unimaginable journey through how Rapunzel, a lost princess, gets to escape her small world inside a tower and reach the dream she's always wanted to with the help of someone she never imagined would help her- Flynn Rider, a thief who inevitably leads her to her real family. Just rewatching that last scene where she finally reunites with her long-lost parents still sends shivers down our spines.

Well, I know you would love to stay longer in Storyville but don't worry our next destination will be just as exciting. So, hop back aboard and let's fly away!

Woah! Do you hear that, that beautiful song that's being sung? What island is this? Hop off and let's find out!

Musical Numbers

I understand it must be a little embarrassing to admit but I'm pretty sure every one of you has tried to dance or sing to "Under the Sea" or "Let it Go" when you were younger. I'll admit it, I have! But that's okay, because it's not your fault that these numbers are so catchy and uplifting! These songs have such deep enforcing meanings while being so melodic to listen to that they have somehow stuck with us all these ages and captured a special place in our hearts. Listening to these songs now still jolts us up with happiness and I bet if you listened to "Your Welcome" from Moana right now you'd probably be jumping up and down trying to imagine you are Maui. Time to leave and visit the last part that makes these tales the classical and timeless ones they are!

Renowned Characters and Life Learning Lessons.

Of course, there can't be a movie without characters! But Disney has not just created any normal variety of characters- It has made a whole league of timeless personalities that have stuck with us all these decades while still leaving a remarkable impact on our lives. How can we ever forget the famous, ever so loyal Woody from "Toy Story" who was brave, determined, smart and always cared for his friends like they were his family or the fierce and brave Mulan who would do anything to save her country and her family's reputation. Even the comical sidekicks like Mushu, Pascal, Pumba and my personal favourite Olaf just made the movie more impactful with their witty jokes and clever words.

These movies did not just provide us with entertainment, they taught us important lessons of love, bravery, and true self. For example, take the movie "Frozen". It teaches us the importance of love, self-confidence and the bond of sisterhood. It shows us that love is not just romantic but can be between family and friends. Or "The Lion King" which emphasises on the circle of life and finding our own unique path after overcoming severe loss. Or even Aladdin reminded us that our worth is not determined by our status but by who we are on the inside.

Sadly, we have reached the end of our journey on the magic carpet! But don't worry you'll be back soon enough. Disney continues to produce live action versions of each film and though these films do have same characters, great music and the same storyline there's something particular about the animated world of the original Disney that holds a special charm.

They show us how it's okay to believe in magic no matter how old we are and mostly all Disney movies show us how to follow our paths no matter how wild they are and never give up on them no matter how tough they might be to achieve

Like Walt Disney himself once said "Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, and dreams are forever."

Echoes of Nostalgia

Shimona Chopra IBDP2

ATL SKILL- THINKING

Humans are an amalgamation of the experiences they go through and the people they meet. Every interaction, every encounter holds some significance in your life. For example, I know I wouldn't be the same person without the round scar on my knee from when I fell down the slope or the faded brown color of my hair from when I dyed it flame red.

We all may evolve and change, but we carry parts of our past with us and flashes of memory tend to transport us back to those moments. Nostalgia is a complex feeling which can hit you like a knife to the chest. A sudden sharp longing to go back to simpler times when life was easier and brighter is an experience we can all relate to. I keep contemplating whether nostalgia brings a sense of happiness or deep despair to our lives. Nobody is ever fully content with the present and thinking about how the past days were better may bring solace to many.

In my new room, I'm surrounded by a mountain of my fancy things and everything is just how I envisioned it. But the half-empty closet of my sister's clothes always hits me with nostalgia. Just looking at her few odd clothes left behind because they weren't good enough made me think of how we went from laughing together in bed every night to whispering on video call. "I'll be back in an hour" turned into "see you next month" in the blink of an eye.

Oh what I would give to go back to 2014, when we were just little girls playing dress up in our hot pink room. Princesses danced on the wall behind us, games and toys were scattered on the floor and the sunny days seemed to stretch on forever.

Nothing saddened us or hung like a cloud over our shoulders. I remember how curly and long my hair once was, cascading down my tiny back, before I chopped it all off. I open photo albums and look at us sitting on shopping carts while sticking our tongues out, wishing to relive that moment just once. I know growing up is not easy but nostalgia makes it harder not to reminisce about all the times i will never get back. Life is full of nostalgia and it comes in waves when you least expect it; just driving by the beach reminds me of the parties I threw as a child and a random clip of an old song on the internet brings tears to my eyes because i'm reminded of a time my late grandfather found comfort in listening to the same songs.

I open my laptop to write this article and I'm greeted by a sticker of my foster kitten. He sadly passed away recently due to an accident. I touch that sticker everyday, because i cannot go back in time to touch his soft fur one last time. I look at the videos I have with him and smile at our time together while tears form a pool on my pajamas. I can still feel his tiny paws scratching me as he runs up to his perch on my shoulder, though I know it won't happen ever again, I'm glad that I am able to remember the happy times we had together.

Nostalgia doesn't always have to be a sad emotion, it can remind us of the precious gift of living in the present. Even in psychology, nostalgia is often considered a positive and adaptive emotion when experienced in moderation. It can enhance well-being, provide meaning, and strengthen social bonds. The things we do now, the memories we create now, will make our future selves nostalgic, longing to come back to this moment again. It also reminds us of how we've grown and what we value, and it can be a source of motivation and identity which grounds us in who we are while helping us cherish memories without needing to relive them.

It is truly a blessing to be able to remember and look back on the things that make life worth living. A new study reveals brain oscillations associated with memory retrieval alter in the moments before death suggest the brain may replay significant life events just before we die. Even in the last moments of our existence, our brain plays the most nostalgic memories we have made. If the last emotion we feel is nostalgia, how can it be all bad?

Discovering the Joy of Learning through IB

Vivaan Patel - Alumni

ATL Skills- Thinking and Research

IBDP Economics has become the first academic subject that I genuinely enjoy studying. It transformed my perception of academics, which used to feel like a series of tasks that had to be completed. Now, economics captivates me, especially with topics like macroeconomics and international trade. I find myself reading the textbook with the same enthusiasm as I would a favorite novel.

The process of analyzing economic scenarios and writing 10- or 15-mark essays feels rewarding and stimulating, not like a chore. I'm always eager to discuss case studies and plan answers with my friends, turning what used to be "studying" into a collaborative and enjoyable activity.

This course has not only deepened my interest in economics but also changed the way I view learning altogether. It has also made me excited for the future, where I can delve even deeper into economics at university.

Reflection of My Journey Through this School.

By Naayel Qaazi - Alumni

ATL Skill - Reflection Skills

Looking back on my 15 years at this school, I feel a wave of memories and emotions. I remember the excitement of my first few years, the nervousness each time I moved up a floor, and the challenges I faced with new subjects. Now, as I get ready to leave this place for the last time, it's hard to believe how much has changed. From those early, playful days in primary to the intense work of the IB Diploma, each year has shaped me in ways I could never have imagine

In primary school, learning was so much fun. We had the Primary Years Programme (PYP), where our teachers encouraged us to explore and try new things. I especially loved Units of Inquiry (UOI). In these classes, we got to do hands-on projects and dive into different topics—from ancient cultures to the environment. Learning didn't feel like "studying" back then; it felt like play. I remember our UN Goal Days, where we got to work on creative projects about global issues. We painted posters, made models, and presented our ideas to each other. Those days were exciting and showed me that learning could be both meaningful and enjoyable.

Looking back, I realize how important these years were. They helped me build curiosity, think creatively, and connect with my classmates. The friendships I made during these years, working together on projects and exploring new ideas, are still some of my most treasured memories.

As I grew older, moving up each floor of the school building was both exciting and intimidating. Each floor symbolized a new level of responsibility, tougher classes, and bigger expectations. When I started in IGCSE, I faced my first real academic challenges. Subjects like Economics and Business Studies felt difficult at first. The terms were unfamiliar, and the concepts were hard to grasp. I remember feeling overwhelmed and doubting myself at times.

But, bit by bit, I started to understand. I put in the extra time, asked for help when I needed it, and slowly, I got better. Economics and Business Studies, which once felt impossible, became two of my favorite subjects. Not only did I manage to get through the difficulties, but I grew to enjoy them. These years taught me that hard work really does pay off and that it's okay to struggle—sometimes that's just part of the process.

Moving to the top floor for the IB Diploma felt like a huge leap. The workload was intense, and everything felt more serious. It wasn't just about learning facts anymore; it was about thinking deeply, questioning what I learned, and making connections across subjects. The Extended Essay and Theory of Knowledge were challenging in ways I hadn't experienced before. I had to push myself to analyze, reflect, and really think for myself. It was hard, but it also taught me a lot about discipline and focus.

The IB Diploma brought a lot of stress, but it also gave me a huge sense of accomplishment. I learned that I'm capable of handling more than I thought possible, and I found ways to keep going, even when things got tough.

Now, as I get ready to leave this building, everything feels different. I remember when moving up each floor felt intimidating, yet now, leaving it all behind feels nostalgic. Each classroom, each hallway, and even the stairs I climbed every day carry memories of friends, teachers, and the ups and downs of growing up. I've spent most of my life here, and leaving it all feels surreal. This place isn't just a school; it's where I've grown up.

After 15 years at this school, I'm finally ready to say goodbye. I can't deny that there's a sense of relief in moving on—I'm eager to see what lies beyond these walls and to face new challenges.

The IB Diploma, with its endless deadlines and late nights, was intense. Leaving behind those pressures, the strict routines, and the endless tests is something I've been looking forward to.

Yet, as much as I'm ready to move on, there's a part of me that knows I'll always miss this place.

Road To Success

By Zidane Mahetar - Alumni

*ATL Skill - Self Management Skills &
Reflection Skills*

IB was a tough curriculum but with the help of amazing teachers, I have been overcoming obstacles one by one. Chemistry is my favourite subject because I love playing with chemicals that's why I have chosen chem as my EE subject. The workload of IB was immense but it can surely be done when you have the right friends around you to help you out along with laughter, it's like working hard and enjoying at the same time. CAS was the best way to showcase my love towards football. Along this crucial and rigorous journey, there were days when you felt like giving up but with the help of amazing support, you just kept on going and there were days of laughter knowing that we all would get through this together. What kept IB captivating is the opportunities you get through CAS and the individual will automatically change into a new person as he/she learns time management and a growth mindset.

The harder the journey, the greater the story.

My Experience Through Visual Arts

By Prisha Jain - Alumni

ATL Skill - Reflection Skills

My journey in IBDP Visual Arts has been one of growth and exploration, evolving from foundational skills in DP1 to deeper conceptual and technical work now in DP2.

In DP1, I began experimenting with different techniques to overcome challenges like perspective and detail, especially in architectural sketches of the Chand Baori and the Taj Mahal. This phase of trial and error laid the groundwork for the more ambitious projects I'm working on in DP2, where I've developed a unique artistic language.

Inspired by artists like Siddharth Kerkar, I started working with unconventional materials like pop, sawdust, and cement to create textured compositions. One highlight is my map-inspired works based on Mumbai's roads and islands, blending structure with abstraction to explore both personal and urban narratives. This phase has helped me focus on Criteria C, diving deeper into themes of identity, space, and construction in my process portfolio.

My latest pieces, like the wood grid with plaster of Paris, showcase my growing command over materials and my intentions as an artist. Moving from experimentation to an increasingly authentic expression of my voice, my journey has evolved to reflect both technical skill and thoughtful concepts, blending art and architecture in ways that feel distinctly mine.

Essay on my journey of Economics in IBDP

By Aarnav Sapani - Alumni

ATL Skill - Reflection Skills, Critical Thinking Skills

In my journey through IBDP Economics, I've gained insights into fundamental concepts that underpin global economies, with a particular fascination for trade and the intricacies of various economic policies. Exploring trade taught me how countries interact and depend on each other, each bringing unique resources and expertise to the global market. I've also studied different trade policies, learning how they impact nations and individuals on multiple levels—social, political, and economic. The process of analyzing policies has strengthened my understanding of how governments use tools like tariffs and subsidies to regulate markets and safeguard their economies.

Applying these concepts in my Internal Assessment (IA) was an enriching experience, as I could see the real-world impact of trade policies on specific markets. This practical application brought classroom theories to life and honed my analytical skills, allowing me to see beyond theoretical knowledge. I evaluated data, used models to assess the outcomes of policies, and gained a clearer perspective on how changes in trade policies directly affect economies, businesses, and consumers.

Economics is undoubtedly challenging, and I faced hurdles in understanding complex concepts like elasticity, market equilibrium, and the multiplier effect. To overcome these, I reached out to teachers, collaborated with classmates, and dedicated extra time to review. I also found that real-world case studies helped make abstract ideas more tangible and memorable.

This knowledge will be invaluable beyond IBDP, as economics equips me with a framework to understand the world, especially in architecture. By understanding the economic forces behind project financing, market demand, and resource allocation, I can make more informed decisions, helping me balance creativity with practical constraints. This subject has laid a strong foundation for applying economic insights in real-world scenarios, enabling me to navigate and contribute to the economic and architectural landscapes effectively.

Nostalgia as Reflection

By Tanay Mody - Alumni

ATL SKILLS- REFLECTION

Everyone told me IB was just ‘sleepless nights’ and ‘endless stress’ but one voice really stuck with me. My friend and senior, Farish Pradhan, once said, ‘Don’t listen to anyone; nothing is tough’. His advice was simple, stay consistent from day one and stick to deadlines.

I won’t say it was all easy (especially because I did slack off here and there). But one thing I learned is that if you fall behind, it’s completely manageable to catch up. Sometimes, it only takes a single focused day to get back on track. You’ll still have plenty of time for fun with friends, going out, and enjoying life beyond studying.

So, hold your head up and remember to work hard, but don’t forget to take breaks and enjoy the journey. This is your last chance to experience high school with the friends around you before everyone moves on to new paths.

Take it all in, the challenges, the memories, and the laughs. One day, you’ll look back and realize it was worth it.

The Start of Something New

Raghav Senthilvel- Alumni

ATL SKILLS- REFLECTION

Joining the computer science subject class when I undertook the IBDP curriculum was one of the best decisions to be made by me.

From spending 5 hours in front of the computer screen trying to debug one mistake in a 300 line code to sitting in front of papers and writing them down in a tense moment. It wasn't ever easy or natural, but hard work always takes control. I started off by getting a 4 in my first ever CS exam to now be one of the top scorers in the class, constantly getting either 6 or 7. This improvement in the subject made me see my love towards it and in turn this led me to choose it as my major for my future endeavors. The only thing I would change is how late I started coding, because once I start I will never feel the need to stop.

My Journey Towards Fulfilment

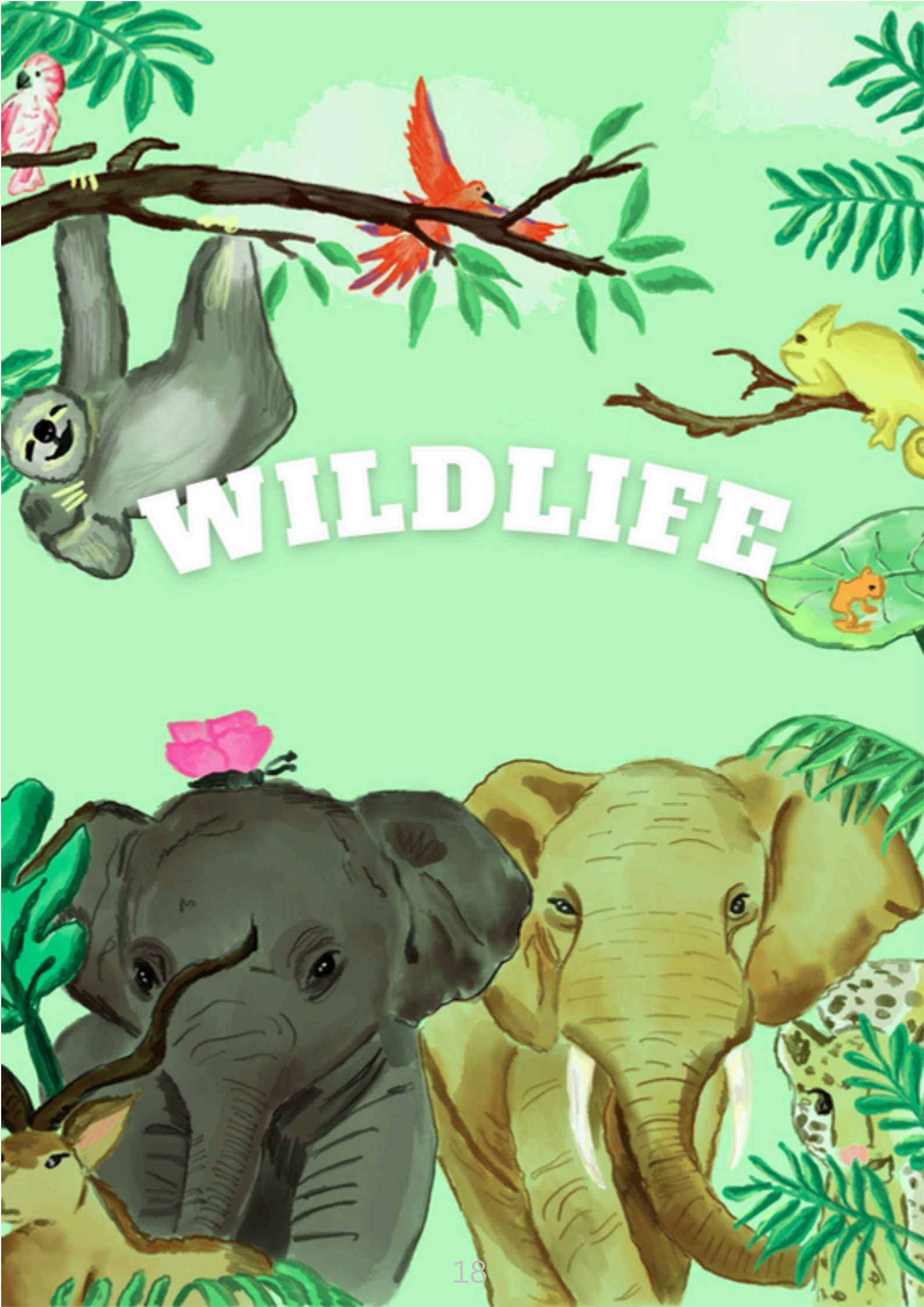
Ayaan Singh-Alumni

ATL SKILLS- THINKING AND SOCIAL

Switching schools from my original environment of comfort to a new environment of new possibilities was not easy(until i met Vivaan and Daksh) In the very start of my journey I always thought I was destined to be a loner and I would never make friends because I was considered to be a reclusive person. However, slowly with time in the strive and the need to prove myself to others and fulfill my dream of being the best in IB I started interacting with everyone else.

It was hard at first, I wanted to quit and during one time I wanted to quit IB and never look back and run back to my old school where I found comfort in. Slowly and steadily I found people who liked me around them and matched my perspective.

Moreover, IB taught me how to be more inclusive towards others allowed me to have an open mind when talking to other people. My willingness to follow this idea of inclusiveness and interacting I met so many amazing people and looking back it was a good decision to give inclusiveness a try and make new friends which made me a better person overall. A person who was open to everyone and not the awkward one last year who feared even the tiniest interaction or criticism and I hope to carry my attitude further on to become a better person.



WILDLIFE

Growl As A Tiger

By Agniv Roy 6C

ATL SKILL: Creative Thinking

Growl as a tiger,
scuttle like a spider.
Soar like flamingoes,
roar like lions.
Dive like seals,
slither like snails.
Swim like crocodiles,
sprint like cheetahs.
Creatures all around us that curl,
crawl and fly
which one is your favourite and
tell us why?

Artworks

Shivtej Patel 6C

ATL Skills: Creative Thinking

“Even if someone like me can’t draw properly,
can we at least save the stripes?”



Ishayu Mitra 6A

ATL Skills: Creative Thinking

This photograph captures the beauty of nature through the image of hibiscus flower which is highlighted through the muted background reflecting the observation, patience and appreciation for nature.



Saving Wildlife: A Collective Responsibility

By Aarav Bhardwaj 7C

ATL Skills: Creative Thinking/Research

The term "Wildlife" encompasses a broad spectrum of flora and fauna, their habitats, ecological systems and the web of interdependence that binds them. Wildlife conservation is the science of preserving living species including plants and animals as well as their respective habitats. Wildlife is integral to the world's ecosystem, as it provides balance and stability to Earth's nature. The goal of wildlife conservation is to ensure the survival of these species, and to educate people on living sustainably with other types of species.

Animals who live in a wild environment can be called wild animals, which are also referred to as "wildlife" in the modern world. Some examples include: Fox, Eagles, Bull, etc. Deserts, forests and rainforests, are ecosystems where wildlife exists.

In the past, human interference was minimum and the number of wild animals was quite high. Contrary to that, the human population currently has grown rapidly to eight billion.

This means natural resources are being consumed faster than ever by everyone with the result that several species have become extinct and several others are on the verge of being so. Other threats to wildlife include the introduction of invasive species from other parts of the world, climate change, and poaching. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimates that 42,100 species are at risk for extinction. Remember, wildlife is something which cannot be recreated or constructed. Once it is gone, it is gone forever.

Humans can rebuild a pyramid but they cannot rebuild ecology.

So, how we can conserve species? Conserving wildlife requires collective efforts from individuals, communities, organizations, and governments. Here are some practical and impactful ways to contribute to wildlife conservation:

1. *Protect Natural Habitats* - Support reforestation and afforestation projects to restore ecosystems. Avoid activities that lead to habitat destruction.
2. *Reduce Pollution* - Minimize the use of plastic and dispose of waste responsibly. Support clean energy and sustainable agricultural practices.
3. *Support Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks* - Visit these areas responsibly and support conservation programs. Respect rules and avoid disturbing species.
4. *Prevent Poaching and Trading* - Raise awareness about the dangers of poaching. Report suspicious activity related to wildlife trafficking.

By taking the above actions, one can positively promote wildlife conservation which is the need of the hour and the call for the survival of the future. Albert Einstein once said "The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it".

A Trip To Gir

By Zuri Savla 9B

ATL Skills: Reflection



Gir, a sanctuary in the cultural state of Gujarat brimming with a wide array of Asiatic lions and several species that beguiles umpteen tourists every year. This narrative talks about my experience of spotting lions in the forest. My school took us on a trip to Gir in march this year; hence I was extremely zealous to visit the forest and encounter magnificent animals.

As we entered the vast forest at 4 in the morning, nippy air engulfed us and chills went down through my spine as we drove in an open jeep in the tenebrosity.

Our first glance was a deer swiftly crossing our path which was a jump scare. Everyone was hoping to spot a lion as soon as possible before the sun hit its peak as it is rare to find one in the daylight. Minutes passed by we caught a glimpse of several other species such as wild boars, peacocks, monkeys, etc. but we could not spot a single lion, we all were despondent.

Later that morning, the sun baked the barren land and wrapped us in its warm rosy glow. The color of trees and the land camouflaged with all the animals.

At that exact moment, in the middle of tranquillity and the serenity, we caught the sight of a ginormous lioness walking towards us. I froze like a deer caught in headlights, everyone was intimidated and were trembling looking at such a huge beast coming towards us.

Abruptly, she roared stridently as though calling her cubs, everyone was astounded and could not believe our eyes as she started walking right next to us.

Ahead of this, we spotted two humongous lions walking right past us and giving us a look. Everyone gasped and shook in terror, but it was a phenomenal experience. Later that day we saw a family of lions in distance which was a mesmerizing sight.

Moreover, we also spotted a lion quenching his thirst by the small lake, everyone was engaged in clicking pictures which later scared the lion away.

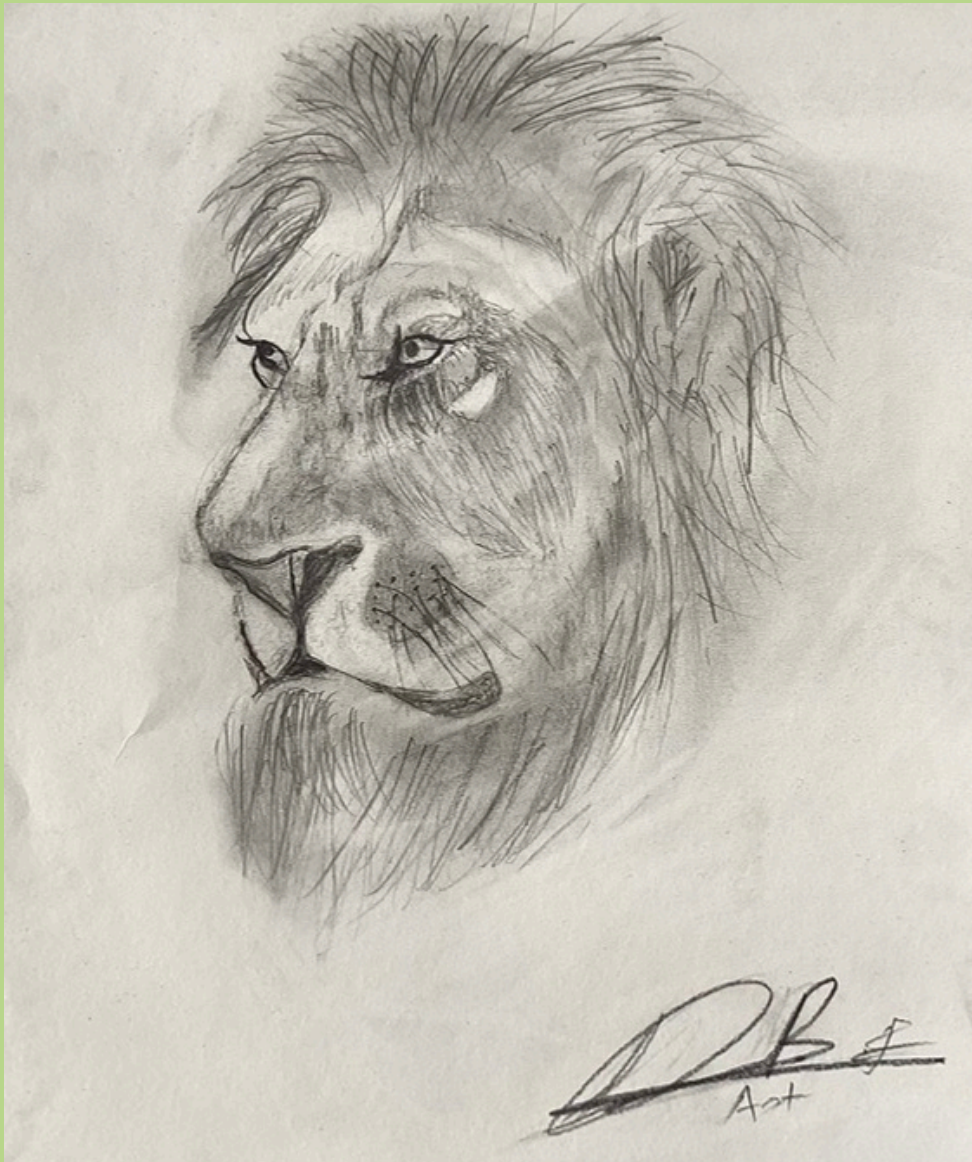
We saw 9 lions in total with umpteen other unique animals and birds. The entire journey through the forest was marvelous. I was on cloud nine spotting different animals and mainly lions that too this close. These memories will be etched in my mind for eternity.

Artworks

Daksh Bandal 10E

ATL SKILL- Creative Thinking

“Strength in every stroke, Creativity in every line.”



Article on Wildlife

By Vivek Chunduru IBDP 2

ATL Skill - Critical Thinking / Reflection

The blazing sun towers above the vast savannah. while a canvas-like sky with clouds shaped like wisps of smoke. Craggy and majestic mountains decorate the picturesque national reserve while the dry yet still fertile land sustains the 90 species of mammals and birds. The 8th Wonder of the World Masai Mara National Park, boasts this and much more.

As a wildlife enthusiast since my early days, my trip to the Masai Mara was long-awaited. Located in Kenya, around six hours from the capital Nairobi, the national park is home to the Big 5: lions, Elephants, Leopards, Rhinos, and Cape Buffalos. Mara means spotted in the local language; ironically, that is what people flock here to do.

A game drive starts at around 7:30 am and ends at 5:30. The consensus would be that driving around and seeing animals for so long could cause ennui but it is quite the contrary. A Land Cruiser is the preferred means of travel through the semi-rural roads of the park while its pop-up roof is ideal for game watching and ventilation throughout the weather.

We started our journey by spotting a flock of zebras and wildebeest sprawling across the plains just enjoying the pleasant weather. Young zebras were playing around while the older ones were reprimanding them. An idyllic scene almost one of a large joint family meeting for a reunion. On the distant horizon, we could see the branching necks of Masai Giraffes enjoying their staple acacia tree leaves. The world's tallest mammals are often running across the plains with their herbivore brethren creating a symbiotic relationship.

Masai Mara also boasts a variety of deer, including gazelles, antelopes, and their unique deer The Topi. These small beasts often stick together in herds, foraging for food along with protecting each other from larger animals.

An unspoken rule of the Mara is that if one does not see an herbivore for 100m, it is likely to be the territory of a big cat. Unlike, India where tigers rule this domain, lions, cheetahs and leopards are the top of the food chain. These beasts boast rippling muscles along with years of experience of hunting as they scout the distance for their next meal.

The best sight I saw was a pride of teenage lions just interacting with our group of cars. They were pawing at our cars and playing around with them. Their nonchalant attitude proves that they are the king of the jungle. Lions live for upto 25 years and are lovingly called Simba in the local language.

Another sight of the Mara is the Mara River. It spans across countries eventually branching into Tanzania. This river might look calm with an absence of rapids but on its banks bask hundreds of hippos and crocodiles. These gentle beasts are known to be extremely aggressive towards any oblivious prey. Speaking of prey, one herbivore stands out in the often predator-dominated field of the Mara. I am referring to the Cape Buffalo. They boast 1500 kg of muscle along with deadly horns that span up to 3.3 feet in length. These stay together in herds and can destroy a lion if it comes too close for comfort.

A trip to Africa would be incomplete without seeing the African Elephant. The term gentle giant comes to mind while seeing these majestic beasts. They bask around swamps as they eat 12 hours a day and rely on vegetation to fuel their sedentary lifestyle. They love bathing their kids and often do so in order to remain cool.

An evening on the savannah often means cool air and a return to your camp as entry closes at 7 pm to prevent poaching. My integration into the world of wildlife was one of pure euphoria and I can not wait to visit another reserve again.

Photography

Vihaan Deb IBDP 2

ATL Skills: Critical Thinking / Reflection / Creative Thinking



The best sight I saw was a pride of teenage lions just interacting with our group of cars. They were pawing at our cars and playing around with them. Their nonchalant attitude proves that they are the king of the jungle. Lions live for upto 25 years and are lovingly called Simba in the local language.

Another sight of the Mara is the Mara River. It spans across countries eventually branching into Tanzania. This river might look calm with an absence of rapids but on its banks bask hundreds of hippos and crocodiles. These gentle beasts are known to be extremely aggressive towards any oblivious prey. Speaking of prey, one herbivore stands out in the often predator-dominated field of the Mara. I am referring to Cape Buffalo. They boast 1500 kg of muscle along with deadly horns that span up to 3.3 feet in length. These stay together in herds and can destroy a lion if it comes too close for comfort. A trip to Africa would be incomplete without seeing the African Elephant. The term gentle giant comes to mind while seeing these majestic beasts. They bask around swamps as they eat 12 hours a day and rely on vegetation to fuel their sedentary lifestyle. They love bathing their kids and often do so in order to remain cool. An evening on the savannah often means cool air and a return to your camp as entry closes at 7 pm to prevent poaching. My integration into the world of wildlife was one of pure euphoria and I can not wait to visit another reserve again.

I took these 2 photos of lions during my trip to the Serengeti. I have always revered wildlife since my childhood and as lions are inherently awesome, thus taking photos to capture such a memory was a no brainer.

Photography

Aditya Tewari IBDP 2
ATL Skills: Creative Thinking



These are some of the pictures of tigers i captured during my visit to Ranthambore (Rajasthan). Photography be it nature, wildlife or of people has always been one of my interests and hobbies. Tigers are one of favourite animals due to fearless and savage nature. Tigers are a symbol of power, beauty, and bravery in Indian culture and mythology and are also featured in cave paintings and seals from the ancient Indus civilization.

Photography

Mayukha Mangipudi IBDP2

ATL Skills: Creative Thinking

These are pictures I took at flamingo sanctuary at bhandup. I went there with my family, gazing at the birds and being fascinated with every flap of their wings. These photos capture the feeling of motion and represent an important family bonding experience.



Shreya Prasad IBDP2

ATL Skills: Creative Thinking



A rustle in the leaves of a tree nearby as it wobbles back and forth. A hop from one branch down to another, peckering away at soft brown buds, arching over its food, and protecting it cautiously, is a parakeet. A sight that often remains invisible in even broad daylight due to its variances of green blending in with the leaves—as if they are one. A pop of blue soothing the eyes and a crimson red drawing attention to its face. Nature's beauty could never be admired enough by the eye of the beholder. Even so, one tries to capture the moment through a picture.

Photography

Shreya Prasad IBDP2
ATL Skills: Creative Thinking



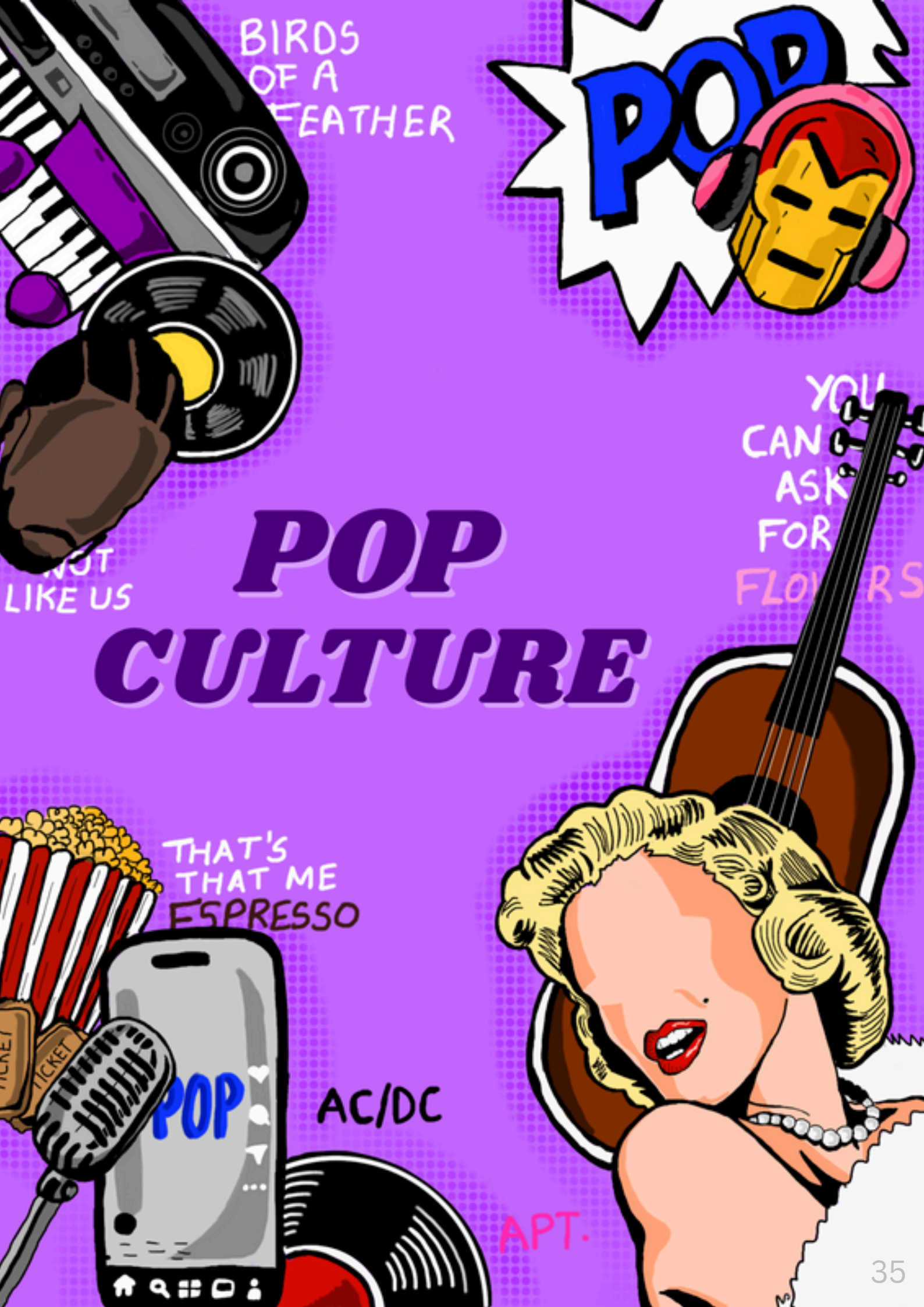
I took this photo to capture a moment that many may overlook: the beauty in everyday life. Pigeons may blend into the backdrop of city life, but they have a quiet grace of their own—perched alone, existing peacefully in the unnoticed corners of our world. The rough texture of the wall, contrasting with the softness of its feathers, adds to the peaceful simplicity of the scene. It is a reminder that even the most common birds hold a beauty of their own, if only we take a moment to notice.

Artworks

Anagha Nair IBDP2
ATL Skills: Creative Thinking



I decided to paint a duck, merely for representative beauty of wildlife, attesting nature's intricacy. Ducks are incredible examples of resilience and adaptability-things that remind us of just how delicate the balance is in ecosystems.



BIRDS
OF A
FEATHER

POP

YOU
CAN
ASK
FOR
FLOWERS

NOT
LIKE US

POP CULTURE

THAT'S
THAT ME
ESPRESSO

AC/DC

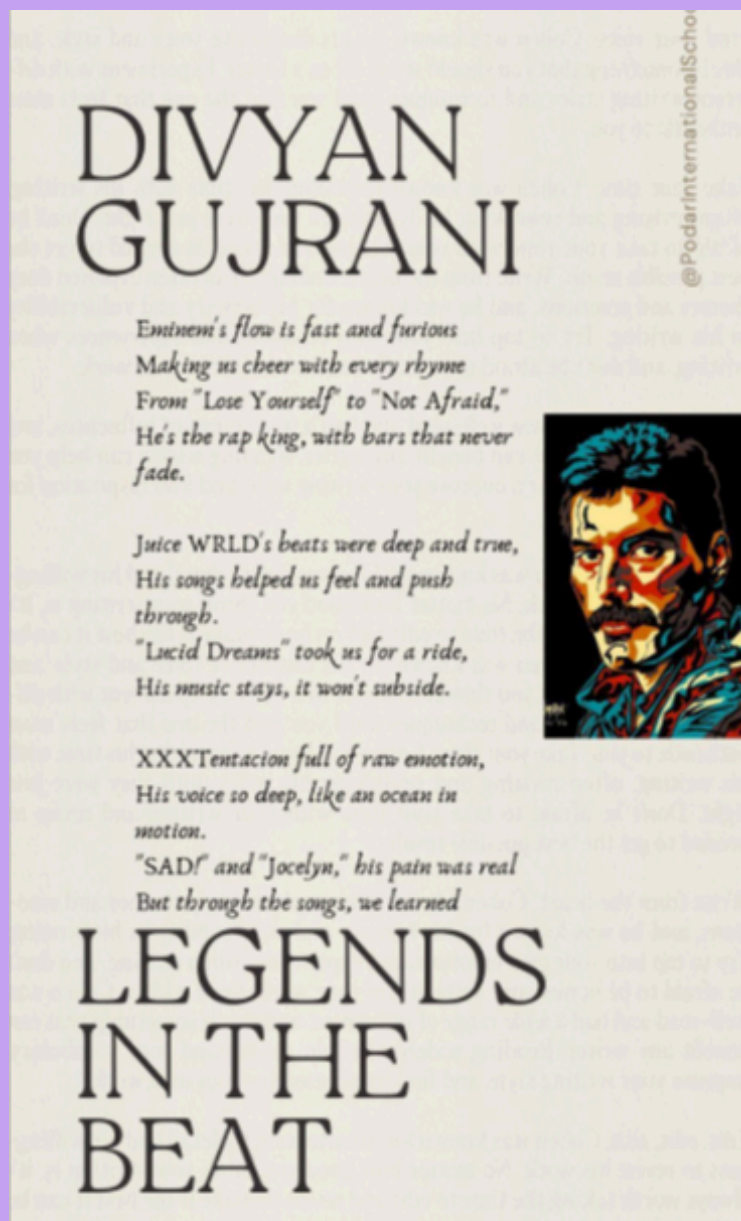
APT.

Legends in the Beat

ATL Skills - Creative Thinking

Divyan Gujrani 6B

This poem connects to the approaches to learning skills of creative thinking. The student uses symbolic elements and vivid imagery to communicate ideas in a thoughtful way.



ARTWORK

Krishika Rohilla 8D
ATL SKILL- creative thinking

“Art speaks without words”



Fandom Fever

Dhyan Rajan, 10A
ATL skill - Research

In recent years, fan culture has evolved beyond simple admiration, having the most influence in shaping identities, and even social movements. Fan groups that roam around icons like Taylor Swift, K-pop idols, and the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) have shown that fandoms are more than just communities—they are catalysts for expression in the pop world.

Swifties

Taylor Swift has built an empire by doing more than making music—she is created a world in which her fans feel seen, valued, and understood. Swift encourages her followers to decode hidden messages in her lyrics, posts, and videos. This intentional connection allows fans to feel as if they are part of an inner circle, elevating their relationship with Taylor to a personal connection. Swifties have proven themselves not only loyal but also active, rallying around her during public battles for her music rights and supporting causes she champions, such as LGBTQ+ rights. Swift's latest Eras Tour solidified her influence further, with cities across the globe turning her concert stops into events that boosted local economies and inspired charity drives.

The Bands of K-Pop

The rise of K-pop has turned global fandom into a cultural tank, blending music with social consciousness in a way that resonates deeply with Gen Z's values. Groups like BTS and BLACKPINK attract diverse audiences, breaking language barriers. K-pop fans, known as "stans," often find a sense of unity and identity within their own. K-pop fans have also made collective activism a core aspect of their fandom. During the Black Lives Matter protests, K-pop fans organised mass donations and took to social media to counter negative hashtags. They have also led environmental campaigns and fundraisers, their advocacy makes it more than music—it makes it a lifestyle and a movement.

MCU

The Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has grown from the imagination of Stan Lee's mind into a sprawling universe that uniquely identifies their fans. Gen Z resonates with the MCU because of its comedic characters that embody modern-day struggles and complexities. Films like Black Panther, Captain Marvel, and Shang-Chi have introduced heroes who represent distinct cultural backgrounds, helping in conversations around representation and empowerment. Marvel fans go beyond simply enjoying the films—they build communities where they analyse story arcs, share theories, and host charity events. Marvel cosplayers, fan artists, and writers turn their admiration into creative contributions, while social media groups allow fans to see the superheroes as reflections of their own values and aspirations.

The Pop Culture Effect

Shambhavi Lambe IBDP-2
ATL Skills- Research

Ever noticed how half the cafeteria was suddenly sporting the same style of chunky sneakers last month? Or how that one catchy TikTok phrase somehow made its way into every classroom conversation? Welcome to the fascinating world of pop culture – the invisible force that's quietly orchestrating our daily lives. Think about your morning routine. You probably woke up to music streaming from your phone, scrolled through social media to check what your favorite celebrity wore to last night's premiere, and maybe even tried to recreate that viral makeup trend before heading to class. Pop culture isn't just entertainment; it's the air we breathe.

This influence was hilariously evident during our recent Children's Day celebration. The student organizers transformed what could have been a traditional event into a pop culture festival. The stage echoed with trending catchphrases, and presentations were peppered with references from viral social media content. Who could forget the moment when the entire auditorium erupted in laughter as the students seamlessly wove popular expressions into their performances? It showed how pop culture has become our shared language, transcending traditional communication barriers.

But pop culture isn't all fun and games. Through music, movies, and social media, it's become a powerful platform for raising awareness about issues that matter to our generation. When popular artists speak about mental health or climate change, they're not just sharing stories – they're starting conversations that echo through our hallways and into our class discussions.

The influence extends to our sartorial choices too, walk down any school corridor, and you'll see how social media trends shape our fashion choices. Like how last year, everyone suddenly embraced the aesthetic of baggy jeans after they gained prominence online. It's like one day you wake up and the entire school has collectively decided on a new dress code.

Social media influencers have also emerged as the new tastemakers of our generation, wielding unprecedented power in shaping opinions and trends. From book recommendations that create instant bestsellers to workout routines that flood school gymnasiums, these digital creators have become the compass by which many navigate their lifestyle choices. Their impact extends beyond mere product endorsements – they're actively shaping our aspirations, values, and even our career choices, with many students now dreaming of careers in content creation and digital media.

Moreover, pop culture serves as a lens through which we interpret and understand contemporary society. It reflects our values, challenges our perspectives, and often pushes us to question established norms. The memes we share, the shows we binge-watch, and the music we stream all contribute to shaping our worldview and social interactions.

As we navigate this pop culture landscape, it's worth asking: Are we mindless followers, or can we be selective participants? The answer lies somewhere in between. While it's natural to enjoy and engage with popular trends, being aware of their influence helps us make more conscious choices about which aspects of pop culture we want to embrace.

Perhaps that's the real power of pop culture – not in dictating our choices, but in offering a menu of possibilities from which we can choose, creating our own unique blend of identity and expression.

What Football is Not!

Hyginous D'sousza - Teacher

ATL SKILLS - Reflection

A goal is built up in a matter of seconds; it's scored in a fraction of one.

Yet, football is not about that fraction of a second. It's about the endless hours, days and years spent worshipping the game.

All those tiring laps on hot days; the repetitive drills that pay no immediate dividends; staying home when your best friends are living it up on late night outs; even looking away from that comforting donut that's crying for your attention.

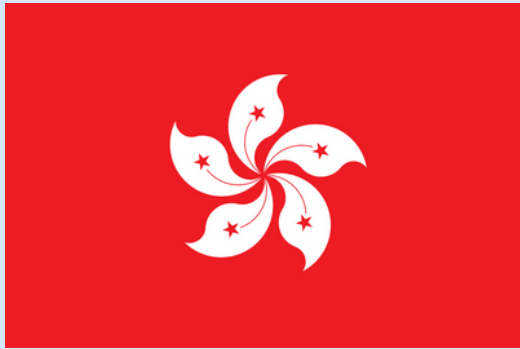
Football is not about a spark of brilliance, it's about the fire that burns inside you, driving you to be the best person you can be.

Exploring
different
cultures

From Hong Kong to India- a journey of joy!

Harji Khushi 7A

ATL SKILL - CREATIVE THINKING



Oh, Hong Kong, Oh Hong Kong, was so bright and so fair,
How quickly you faded, how lost was your flair.
We had to move on, find a place with some cheer,
So, we searched the world wide, both far and near.
To China we went, where respect meets the eye and where
everyone was shy.
Then Japan, with its bows and its polite, quiet grace,
Every corner and step, a most curious place.
From lands full of dishes that give us fright,
Where they munch on bugs and strange bites every night.
Yet at last, we found magic, a wondrous place. It was dear
India, with temples and laughter, so free. In villages small
and cities so grand,
Everywhere we looked, there was humor at hand.
A place full of joy, of color, of song,
In India, we found that's where our hearts belong.

JAPAN

ZIDANE CRUZ 7A ATL SKILL - CREATIVE THINKING

These are beautiful pictures that I took during my trip to Japan. It captures the serene landscapes and cultural heritage through my perspective.



EMBRACING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

AARAV BHARDWAJ 7C

ATL SKILL - THINKING AND RESEARCH

Culture is known as ways of life, including arts, beliefs, and institutions of a population which are passed down from one generation to another. It is also sometimes called as “the way of life for an entire society.” Culture is often so impactful and inalienable that it defines a set of patterns of human activity within a society or social group including codes of manners, dress, language, religion, rituals, and art, to name a few. Every part of the world has their very own culture, something which makes all of us special and gives us pride.

It is important for mankind to explore other cultures. Learning about other cultures promotes respect and tolerance and when you learn about another culture, you learn about their beliefs and different perspectives. This will transform you into an empathetic open-minded person. Interacting with different cultural backgrounds allows you to understand and appreciate other people’s ethnicity. What’s more, you will also learn stories from one another and master the art of enjoying your own culture from different perspectives.

Engaging in multicultural experiences allows you to experience a vast range of things away from your comfort zone.

The road to exploration of different cultures can begin with reading books and articles, travelling to different countries, attending and participating in multi-cultural events, connecting with people from diverse backgrounds, taking language or cooking classes, utilizing online resources and virtual experiences, and engaging with cultural media. Travelling is probably the best way to explore other cultures, as evidenced through my own personal experiences. Travellers have the unique opportunity to immerse themselves in distinct backgrounds, deeply comprehend their practices and customs, as well as truly appreciate how culture shapes and influences daily lives of individuals.

Always remember that before respecting other cultures, respect your own culture without being judgemental or egocentric. This is the key to making meaningful connections and embracing other cultural differences while travelling and becoming a responsible GLOBAL CITIZEN.

SCENERY

BY LARA AGARWAL - 7C

ATL SKILL - CREATIVE THINKING

This artwork shows a small rural community living simply and peacefully in nature. The people are sharing the space and working together, which shows kindness and respect for others. The scene also reflects caring for the environment, as they live in harmony with the trees and natural surroundings without harming them. It reminds us to be responsible citizens by using resources carefully and helping one another. The people in the picture seem understanding of each other's needs, creating a sense of togetherness. Overall, it teaches us to live kindly, respect nature, and support others in our community.



विश्व की अलग-अलग संस्कृतियों के बारे में जानना

संगीता गुप्ता

ए.टी.एल. कौशल - आलोचनात्मक सोच और अनुसंधान

आज के युग में वैश्वीकरण और इंटरनेट के माध्यम से दुनिया भर की संस्कृतियों के बारे में जानना बहुत आसान हो गया है। यह ज्ञान व्यक्ति को न केवल जागरूक बनाता है, बल्कि व्यक्तिगत और सामाजिक स्तर पर कई लाभ प्रदान करता है।

विभिन्न संस्कृतियों के बारे में जानने से हमारी जानकारी का दायरा बढ़ता है। हमें अन्य देशों के रीति-रिवाज, परंपराएँ, कला, भाषा और इतिहास के बारे में गहराई से समझने का अवसर मिलता है।

अन्य संस्कृतियों के संपर्क में आने से हम विविधता की सराहना करना सीखते हैं। इससे जाति, धर्म, और नस्ल के आधार पर होने वाले भेदभाव को कम करने में मदद मिलती है।

विभिन्न संस्कृतियों से प्रेरणा लेकर नई कलाएं, विचार और नवाचार उत्पन्न हो सकते हैं। कई लेखक, कलाकार और वैज्ञानिक अन्य संस्कृतियों से प्रेरित होकर महान कार्य कर चुके हैं।

वैश्विक संस्कृति को समझने से अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार, पर्यटन, और अन्य व्यवसायिक क्षेत्रों में सफलता की संभावना बढ़ती है। यह किसी भी पेशेवर के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कौशल है।

अलग-अलग संस्कृतियों को जानने से नए दोस्त और नेटवर्क बनाने में मदद मिलती है। इससे अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अच्छे संबंध स्थापित किए जा सकते हैं।

जैसे हर सिक्के के दो पहलू होते हैं, वह यहाँ भी सच है जैसे -

वैश्विक संस्कृति को अपनाने की होड़ में लोग कभी-कभी अपनी स्थानीय परंपराओं और मूल्यों को भूलने लगते हैं। इससे सांस्कृतिक पहचान पर संकट उत्पन्न हो सकता है। यदि संस्कृतियों को पूरी तरह से न समझा जाए, तो यह गलतफहमियां और पूर्वाग्रह पैदा कर सकता है। कभी-कभी अर्ध-ज्ञान व्यक्ति को भ्रमित कर सकता है। विभिन्न संस्कृतियों के संपर्क में आने से सांस्कृतिक विलय होता है, जिससे सांस्कृतिक विविधता खत्म होने का खतरा हो सकता है। बड़ी संस्कृतियों का प्रभाव छोटी संस्कृतियों पर पड़ सकता है, जिससे असमानता बढ़ सकती है। यह सांस्कृतिक और आर्थिक शोषण का कारण बन सकता है। किसी संस्कृति के रीति-रिवाजों और प्रतीकों का गलत तरीके से उपयोग या व्यावसायिक लाभ के लिए अनुकरण उस संस्कृति का अनादर कर सकता है।

अंततः यह कहा जा सकता है कि विश्व की अलग-अलग संस्कृतियों के बारे में जानना हमारे विकास और वैश्विक समझ के लिए बेहद फायदेमंद है। यह ज्ञान हमें सहिष्णु और सृजनात्मक बनाता है। हालांकि, इस प्रक्रिया में हमें अपनी संस्कृति को संरक्षित रखने और दूसरों की संस्कृति का सम्मान करने की आवश्यकता है। किसी भी ज्ञान को संतुलन और विवेक के साथ अपनाना ही उसे लाभदायक बनाता है।



YVES SAINT LAURENT



CHANEL



MICHAEL KORS

VOGUE

LOUIS VUITTON



GIVENCHY

GIORGIO ARMANI

emerging FASHION



ARMANI JEANS



Christian Dior



FENDI

VERDE



PRADA

PALEON

PARIS



LOUIS VUITTON



Calvin Klein

DRESS DESIGNS

Renaya Batra IBDP1
ATL SKILL- CREATIVE THINKING



FASHION THROUGH AGES

SAISHA MERCHANT IBDP2

ATL SKILL - CRITICAL THINKING AND MEDIA LITERACY

Through economic crashes and wars, fashion has remained a constant. During the 2008 economic crash we embraced minimalism; through World War two we introduced shorter hems. How has fashion evolved to through constantly changing times?

The Renaissance era occurred from 1300-1600. These years encouraged creativity in fields such as art, science and technology. These years are often referred to as the beginning of modernisation. Fashion in this period was a complete contrast to minimalism we see in society today. Layering many articles of clothing and accessorising with bold jewellery was a common practice. Colours such as red, green and blue were also fairly popular. Corsets were promoted to encourage an hourglass body type that is often even glamourised today. Various elements like mutton sleeves, embellishments and velvet are seen in today's runways, particularly haute couture.

The renaissance has had a lasting impact in today's modern world and fashion is a clear example of that.

The French revolution in 1789 was a political and social movement that changed France completely. This movement led to the abolishment of the monarchy and the rise of modern ideologies.

Prior to the revolution, fashion statements included corsets, powdered wigs, extravagant jewellery — maximalism was all the rage. Fashion was more about social standing rather than individuality.

As the revolution progressed, like the monarchy, such grandeur was also abolished. The people of France shunned luxurious clothing as a symbol of oppression for more practical clothing. Empire-waisted dresses replaced corseted gowns. Lighter fabrics such as silk grew in popularity.

Although, post the revolution extravagance resurrected from the ashes in wealthier circles. Regency fashion came to existence at this time. Embroidery and more sultry looks grew in popularity, while still implementing fabrics such as silk and muslin.

The Roaring Twenties was the result of an economic boom post World War one. Women were given more rights than they ever had before.

To rebel against the centuries of oppression, for the first time in history, women wore dresses that only reached till their knees, rejecting the patriarchal society. Clothing such as corsets were exiled as boyish body types were considered the ideal body in this era. Pearls and feathers were often used to elevate clothing, a trend still used by a couple fashion houses.

Hollywood stars such as Clara Bow influenced dramatic makeup looks, further promoting mass consumerism.

Fashion from this age is more than just a look; it was a movement against the patriarchy.

The 90s was an era dominated by supermodels. Models such as Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss were looked up to by women of all ages. This period rebelled against social norms and was one of the most diverse periods of fashion the world had ever witnessed.

Naomi Campbell paved the way for black women globally by achieving worldwide recognition for being the first black Victoria's Secret angel, opening Prada shows and working with top brands such as Chanel and Louis Vuitton. She redefined the beauty standard with her bold features and long legs.

On the other hand, Kate Moss coined the term ‘Heroin Chic’. Heroin Chic is a waif look with dark circles, pale eyes and skinny body structure. Although she was considered ‘too short’ for the industry, she took the world by storm with her scandals and effortless looks. She rebelled against the delicate image women were forced to portray for a rebellious, uncontrollable persona. She influenced the implementation of fur jackets, leather skirts and messy makeup; a complete contrast to the feminine handbook women were expected to follow. Her signature So Kate Louboutins were a staple. Both of these women inspired a new route of feminism, straying from traditional ideologies.

Pandemic fashion is the term used for trends that emerged during the 2020 Covid-19 epidemic. Although fairly recent, this global event led through a breakthrough in fashion history. In an area where comfort comes last, the flip was switched where comfort became the main focus. Clothing such as sweatpants and hoodies were globalised like a wildfire. Fashion has developed through history. Fashion has not just been about the way one looks but also one’s beliefs. Fashion is about rebellion and individuality, a voice when voices weren’t heard.

Y2K CULTURE

Anushka Sriram IBDP2

ATL SKILL- RESEARCH

At the dawn of the millennium, the future was shiny and digital. Two and a half decades later, everyone's living the dream all over again. From animal print to ballet flats, frosted lip gloss to digital cameras, the early 2000's are back in culture relevance. Gen Z has dubbed this style as Y2K – after the y2k millennium bug that put the public into panic in 1999. So why is everybody suddenly obsessed with the culture and aesthetics of a time period that was once considered a relic?

It's no phenomenon that fashion circles back. There's documented consistent evidence of trends, fashion and aesthetics recycling every 20 years – which is why many predicted the rise of the early 2000s when we hit 2020. Many attribute the resurgence of y2k to nostalgia, the death of originality, microtrends and even tiktok. I believe it's a meld of all those reasons, precisely why I also believe its death in pop culture is imminent.

Fashion and pop culture thrive on originality and creation, so why do they get recycled so often? For Gen Z, who were either babies or not yet born in the early 2000s, Y2K represents a past they never experienced firsthand. It's oddly nostalgic for a time that they were never a part of (also known as anemoia). The rise of Instagram and TikTok have made it easier than ever for the youth to explore the aesthetics and culture of past decades. Trends went viral these past few years featuring y2k-esque styling, makeup and music videos that allowed users to feel as though they were part of that culture themselves.

A large part of this obsession of categorization and aesthetics comes from the 2020 lockdown, which greatly shaped how we interact with culture. It provided something that felt familiar and comfortable, to belong in a certain group. Psychologists suggest the revival of y2k post 2020 came from a place of nostalgia being used as a coping mechanism via revisiting the past. For many, Y2K embodied a period before the complexities of the world became overwhelming. The entertainment and media industry, sensing this revival, started bringing back music and shows that further fuelled the y2k craze. Artists like Charli XCX, PinkPantheress and Doja Cat channel the glitzy R&B style of the 2000s into their music (2024's most popular album BRAT by Charli XCX is heavily y2k inspired) and brand image (PinkPantheress is often seen wearing animal print and baby tees, a staple of y2k fashion). Even large fashion houses haven't missed the memo; Blumarine, Diesel, and Miu Miu have leaned heavily into Y2K motifs, incorporating metallic fabrics, baby tees, and ultra-low-rise pants into their collections. These looks trickle down into fast fashion, making them accessible to a wider audience. Shows like Euphoria and reboots of Gossip Girl reintroduced the public to the glamour of the early 2000s. But is this all really a harmless culture embraced by Gen Z? Beyond the glitter lies a fraught history of exclusionary beauty standards, unchecked consumerism, and early internet chaos that cannot be ignored.

Y2K fashion was dominated by low rise jeans and crop tops paired with a hyper-focus on ultra-thin bodies, further encouraged by celebrities and the media industry. The much coveted and admired "heroin chic" look of the time alienated anyone who didn't fit in the narrow beauty standards.

This fostered a culture of body shaming and disordered eating, with many Millennials and the oldest Gen Z'ers admitting surviving the early 2000s body culture was a horrifying experience, and left thousands struggling with body image and food to this day.

The culture also coincided with the peak of fast fashion and celebrity-endorsed brand obsession. The emphasis on disposable trends encourages wastefulness, even more dangerous in today's world that's far more affected by climate change. Early 2000s media lacked any kind of diversity and inclusivity we get today. Racist/homophobic jokes and caricatures ran wild, and the only thing that communities of colour and the LGBTQ community got in the name of representation was a grossly stereotypical side character, of course only serving as an elevating point for the white main character. Thin, conventionally attractive and white figures dominated the aesthetic, leaving zero room for marginalized communities.

However, many argue that the Y2K new age movement isn't a thoughtless replica of the past, but rather a more inclusive homage that embraces body inclusivity, accurate and meaningful representation of marginalized communities and encourages sustainability through thrift culture. Despite these improvements, there is a lot of criticism and discussion that the Y2K revival risks glamorizing an era filled with its own issues. By focusing on the glitter and gloss, it can erase the harmful practices and social issues that defined the time.

While this trend is dominating pop culture as of now, it's likely to fade out soon due to the cyclical nature of trends and the oversaturation of the aesthetic. It's in the nature of trends to come and go, with the 'clean girl look' and 'that girl' already gaining speeding momentum – putting an emphasis on minimalism and simplicity. Once a niche revival, now mainstream with its hallmark styles mass produced by fast fashion and overused by media, Y2K is bound to go soon.

Its ubiquity has made it less attractive to trendsetters, and younger generations like Gen Alpha might tire of an era they never experienced.

The return of Y2K culture reveals more about today's cultural climate than it does about the past. Our world today is full of global crises, new developing technology (like AI), economic instability and political wars. This generation's access to the internet raises a lot more problems with cyber culture too. To this Y2K offers a comforting escape, a reclamation of a moment in time where – according to its followers – life was simpler, even it really wasn't.

Message from Touch.Edu



Touch.Edu is a student based NGO run by students of PIS and few others who are trying to make a difference in the work by helping spread the word and eradicating stigma around the discussion of SA.

On the 16th of December, 2012, a dark and gruesome act against humanity shook our country to its core.

“Awindra and I just finished watching The Life of Pi! It was such an incredible story narrated on screen! I feel the subtle drowsiness settling in now that we’ve got to go back home. As we settled in the bus and started moving, I had this eerie feeling that made my skin crawl, something bad was going to happen. I felt it and so did Awindra...”

“Stop the bus! Stop it right here immedia-“

Awindra tried to get us off safely, but before he could do anything the men started hitting him with an iron rod. My brain could only think of whether I would be next and what these sick animals would do to me... and as the fear took over my body and mind, my consciousness was also beginning to shatter into minuscule fragments...”

“We’ve received a report this morning about the brutal gang rape in a moving bus that took place last evening. “Nirbhaya” and her friend, Awindra Pandey boarded an off-duty bus at around 8 PM on the 16th of December. As they boarded the bus, something felt amiss, when they tried to stop the bus, they were attacked by the suspects.

Awindra Pandey suffered severe injuries due to repetitive trauma to the body from an iron rod and is recovering in the hospital at the moment. Whereas, Nirbhaya was brutally gang-raped and beaten repeatedly by the 5 of 6 men, when she resisted the juvenile perpetrator shoved a rusted rod in her, severely perforating and damaging her internal organs. Around 11 PM the two victims were thrown out of the bus, half-naked and bloodied until a passerby found them and got them medical attention.”Doctors tirelessly worked to catalyse Nirbhaya’s battle for life but with the inebriated abuse her body and mind faced, she succumbed to her injuries 11 days after the trauma.

“The fearless one”, Nirbhaya had only been one case for which there was such public uproar that wreaked havoc on the nation. However, the anger and pain quickly fizzled, following the short-lived lifespan of a bubble. Our country still ostracizes the victims and hushes the stories of hundreds of battles fought each day, whereas the perpetrators go through not even a miniscule ounce of shame for their horrid crimes. Despite all Nirbhaya and the ones around her suffered through, justice had only been partially served, as the juvenile rapist has yet to be punished, he has been roaming free with a new name and identity ever since.

We’re Touch.Edu, an organisation working towards eradicating the stigma that hangs over the issue, a stigma that we as a community very much created and now must erase. Individuals that had to suffer as children, or male survivors that have often been blatantly shut down for trying to share their story. Trying to shut down their stories does not cause the issue to cease to exist any longer, it inflicts further pain to the victim. We want to ensure the idea that crime truly knows no bounds is thoroughly understood and, in the future, no one has to suffer any longer due to ridiculous stigmas looming around the issue... #AllYouHaveToDoIsTalk.

As of now we’ve conducted workshops and streetplays, along with fortnightly article releases to raise awareness on the issue, but with the voices of all those reading, we could do so much more and catalyze the impact we make on this issue. Reach out to us at: @touch.edu.sa

MEMORY LANE



"Friends made in school are the ones who never leave your heart, even if you leave each other's lives."



"Every classroom is a place to study and a stage to discover myself."

MEMORY LANE



“Group projects taught us that every idea, no matter how small, had value.”



“From building charts to building friendships, teamwork was the real lesson.”

MEMORY LANE



“Working in pairs taught us patience and compromise.”



“Projects reminded us that effort doubled when responsibility was shared.”

MEMORY LANE



"School days taught us that the toughest exams were not always written on paper."



"Every essay we wrote was less about marks and more about discovering our voice."

MEMORY LANE



"Every story we read in class stayed with us as a mirror of our own journey."



"The exams we feared most are forgotten, but the lessons they left behind remain."



OUR P.O.V.

OUR POV

PRAJEKTA SARKAR

"Luminous is the reflection of Podarites . It is our magazine. It is who we are."

Hi, I am Prajekta and I'm the head of luminous 2025.

Moving to this new city was hard, but how it welcomed me with both its hands was unexpected. I started my IBDP journey in 2024 when I first came to Bombay. It was also unexpected that, being a new student who knew almost no one, to get selected as one of the heads, and I hope that I'm enough to fulfil the duty as the head to lead others in my team, including the writers, the design team, the formatting department, the photographers the editors, as well as my fellow other 2 heads.

Prashant was an IB DP student of the 2016 batch at Podar International School. He was the pillar of Luminous magazine. Inspired by the effort that he put into creating a magazine so close to every podarite's heart, we wish to pass it on generation after generation.

This year, we chose 5 themes for luminous: which are wildlife, pop culture, exploring different cultures, emerging fashion, and nostalgia. I always see people talking about Luminous as if it is kind of like Vogue magazine, even though it is a school-based magazine, because of how we resonate with the real world.

Receiving submissions from grades 6 to 12 is not easy, but seeing everyone being so involved in this magazine makes me happy. With our teacher's guidance and Alba, Piaa and my leadership, we wish to create a platform to not just showcase works of art and literature but also to make people aware of who "Podar International School students" are.

I feel like a school magazine cannot have that much impact if it is not personally attached to you but with all the stories that I have heard from my seniors as well as Ankana ma'am, it makes me realise what it takes to be a part of luminous as well as a part of this school. Lastly, I want to appreciate the eagerness in the eyes of the future generation of editorial, which makes me very proud to understand that luminous will go into the right hands.

OUR POV

PIAA SANTANI

Hi! I'm Piaa Santani and I'm the Head of Luminous 2025.

When we first chose the five themes, I wasn't sure how people would respond, but what we recieved from students across the school was so much better than we expected.

What I loved most about the process was seeing how different people approached the same topics which looked different in each one of the submissions we recieved.

The platform is also meaningful for students themselves. Not only because of the experiences we had as the creators but also because sharing your work in any capacity takes confidence and this magazine gives people a chance to show their ideas to the public.

As you read through it, I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed putting it together!

OUR POV

ALBA KARANDIKAR

"I would say it's an
imagination of childhood".

Hi, I'm Alba Karandikar of IBDP 2A and I'm one of the heads of Luminous. I think Luminous a great space for a collaborative experience from all students of Podar. And for them to come and show their real selves and what they are as creative people, not just as students. I think it's unique because it fosters an environment for people of all ages. We have taken students from grade 6 to IBDP, which is grade 12. So I think it provides several different perspectives from several different age groups. And I think that's quite unique. And you can't find that in magazines because children are seen as childish. So their thoughts are not taken seriously and I think that they should be. So any sort of creativity is an expression of yourself. And I think that is how your own personal uniqueness comes out in your artwork or your poems or your literature. Or anything that you are putting forth. And hence I think it gives all the students an area to project who they are.

OUR POV

Our Staff



SCAN TO REVEAL

OUR POV

Our Staff



SCAN TO REVEAL

OUR POV

Our Staff



SCAN TO REVEAL

OUR POV

Our Students



SCAN TO REVEAL

OUR POV

Our Students



SCAN TO REVEAL

OUR POV

Our Students



SCAN TO REVEAL

C R E D I T S

Heads

Prajekta Sarkar
Piaa Santani
Alba Karandikar

Editors

Aayush Shanbag
Mayukha Mangipudi
Zubair F. Madan

Writers

Vivek Chunduru
Shimona Chopra
Saisha Merchant
Anushka Sriram
Shambhavi Lambe
Ajita Mistry
Diya Gandhi
Anoshka Kulkarni

Art team

Angel Sawant
Ishitta Yadav

Photography

Divyam Doshi
Nishna Khandelwal

Formatting

Medhanya Karthikeyan
Jia Sajnani
Aarna Vats
Keisha Poojari
Renelle Patel
Araina Sandu
Kirti Singh
Paraj Patel

and of course, fellow students and teachers for their support

THANK YOU

