



Engaging children in geosciences through storytelling and creative dance

Ana Matias¹, A. Rita Carrasco¹, Ana A. Ramos², Rita Borges²

5 ¹ CIMA – Universidade do Algarve, 8000 Faro, Portugal

² Centro Ciência Viva de Tavira, 8800 Tavira, Portugal

Correspondence to: Ana Matias (ammatias@ualg.pt)

Abstract. Natural sciences have traditionally been disseminated in outreach activities as formal one-way
10 presentations. Nevertheless, innovative strategies are being increasingly developed using arts, gaming,
sketching, amongst others. This work aimed at testing an alternative and innovative way to engage non-
expert audiences in ocean and coastal geology, through creative dancing. An informal education activity
focusing on ocean dynamics was designed for 10-year-old students. It combines coastal science concepts
15 (wind, waves, currents, and sand), storytelling techniques (narrative arc), and creative dance techniques
(movement, imaginative play, and sensory engagement). A sequence of six exercises was proposed
starting in the generation of offshore ocean waves and ending with sediment transport on the beach,
during storm/fair-weather conditions. Scientific concepts were then translated into structured creative
movements, within imaginary scenarios, and accompanied by sounds or music. The activity was
20 performed six times summing 112 students. It was an inclusive activity given that all students in the class
participated, including children with several mild types of cognitive and neurological impairment. The
Science & Art activity aroused emotions of enjoyment and pleasure, and allowed an effective
communication between scientists and school public. Moreover, the results provide evidence of the
activity effectiveness to engage children and to develop their willingness to further participate in similar
activities.

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Keywords: coastal science; ocean literacy; storytelling; science engagement; geoscience communication;
creative dance.

1. Introduction

30 The act of dissemination (and communication) is part and parcel of doing research. The main
vehicle of scientific information relies within the scientific community, through peer-reviewed
periodicals, generally focused on specific research areas and directed at well-circumscribed,
specialized audiences (e.g., Gravina et al., 2017). Nevertheless, there is still a gap in the



effectiveness of such communication to the general public, with scientists often seen as being
35 trapped in the ivory tower (e.g. Baron, 2010) and commonly using scientific jargon hard to
understand by the common citizen. There are a vast range of approaches to engaging public
audiences with scientific concepts (Bultitude, 2011); Mesure (2007) identified over 1500 active
initiatives within the UK alone. There are three main forms of media used in science
40 communication to the general public: traditional journalism; live or face-to-face events, and
online interactions. According to Bultitude (2011), live events have the advantages of being
more personal, scientists are able to better control the content, engenders two-way
communication, and can involve partnering with other external organizations with
complementary expertise. The disadvantages are limited audience reach, resource intensive,
leading to low sustainability of activities, and can be criticised for only attracting audiences with
45 a pre-existing interest.

According to Kim (2012), effective communication of science lies in the processes of public
engagement with a problem or an issue relative to science; the processes of engagement develop
from the acts of exposing and focusing attention to the act of cognizing. Science journalism and
classroom instruction seem to hold strongly to the traditional learning-theory paradigm that
50 mere exposure to scientific knowledge would lead to scientific literacy and public understanding
(Kim, 2012). In this work, engagement will not be used in the same sense as Public Engagement
with Science, which has a specific meaning that refers to activities, events, or interactions
characterized by mutual learning among people of varied backgrounds, scientific expertise, and
life experiences who articulate and discuss their perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and values in
55 response to scientific questions or science-related controversies (McCallie et al., 2009). Here, in
terms of informal science education, engagement is a loosely defined term referring to
behaviours that demonstrate interest in, or interaction with science-related activity or
experience.

Recent work indicates that storytelling and narrative can help communicate science to non-
60 experts, within the wider context of “framing” as an important feature of public outreach
(Martinez-Conde and Macknik, 2017). Furthermore, strategies fusing arts and science (e.g.
using games, poetry, music, painting, sketching) are becoming a favoured medium for
conveying science to the public (e.g., Cachapuz (2014), Von Roten and Moeschler (2007),
Gabrys and Yusoff (2012)). Collaborative projects between artists and Science, Technology,
65 Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields are not new, with renewed interest over the last
decades (Heras and Tàbara, 2014), hence Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and
Mathematics - STEAM is increasingly replacing the traditional STEM designation. A maturing
body of work indicates that the arts can deeply engage people by focusing on the affective
domain of learning (i.e., engagement, attitude, or emotion) rather than on the cognitive domain
70 (i.e., understanding, comprehension, or application), which is often emphasized in science



education (Friedman, 2013). Therefore, science communication through art brings science to the public in ways that are engaging, instructive, artistic and, always, content-driven (Schwartz, 2014). Examples of “Science and Art” projects include theatre as a way of communicating coastal risk (Brown et al., 2017), hip-hop dance as a way of learning ecology (Wigfall, 2015), or art installations inspired in neuroscience laboratories (Lopes, 2015). Varelas et al. (2010) observed that while participating in a play representing STEM concepts, students engaged in understanding science from multiple perspectives. Embodied exercises situate abstract concepts in a concrete context, thus relating intangible ideas with corporeal information, and so rich multimodal distributed neural representations are forged (Hayes and Kraemer, 2017). Chang (2015) compiled an environmental science artwork database that consisted of 252 artworks, but only 4% included artistic mediums like poetry, dance and performances; the majority was from the visual arts domain. Good examples of STEM education through creative dance can be found in Landalf (1997) approaching earth sciences and in Abbott (2013) approaching mathematics. Creative dance is thus one mode for learning that involves using the body and the senses to gather information, communicate, and demonstrate conceptual understanding (Cone and Cone, 2012).

In Portugal, Afonso et al. (2013) reported that science teaching appeals to memorization of data and lacks abstract conceptual understanding. Geology education in particular is mostly associated to memorization (e.g. minerals and rocks), which drives students away from the geosciences. Moreover, science communication to the general public only occasionally cover geosciences, in comparison to other sciences such as astronomy, health, or biology, as can be deduced from an analysis of most newspapers records (consultation to the science section records of the Portuguese newspaper “Público”), although good examples can be found in science communication literature (e.g., Pedrozo-Acuña et al., 2019).

Coastal and marine geology have traditionally been disseminated in science outreach activities in the form of formal one-way presentations or, at best, field trips or lab experiences. The success of outreach actions and education programs requires knowing and understanding different audiences and strategizing how to reach them. So, efforts are kept now in the improvement of marine science literacy with accurate and appealing techniques that strengthen the learner’s emotional connection to the ocean. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO stands that only through Ocean Literacy it will be possible to create an educated society capable of making informed decisions and caring for the preservation of Ocean’s health (Francesca et al., 2017). In this context, effective geoscience communication activities addressing Principle 2 of Ocean literacy defined by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission: “The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of the Earth” are in great need and aligned with UNESCO Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: “Conserve and



sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, are in great need.

110 Aligned with SDG 14 and IOC Principle 2 of Ocean literacy, the objective of this work was to develop an alternative and innovative activity to engage children in geosciences, borrowing from creative dance teaching. Moreover, this work intended to provide additional arguments about the importance of arts (dance) and communication techniques (storytelling) in engagement and effectiveness of geoscience programmes and develop their willingness to participate in similar activities.

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2. Development of the activity “The Sea Rolls the Sand”

120 An interdisciplinary activity was developed by merging techniques and tools from arts, science, science communication and storytelling (Figure 1). The three main components were the scientific content (the message to be communicated); the storytelling and metaphors (the verbal way of communicating the message); and creative dance structure (the sensorial way of communicating the message).

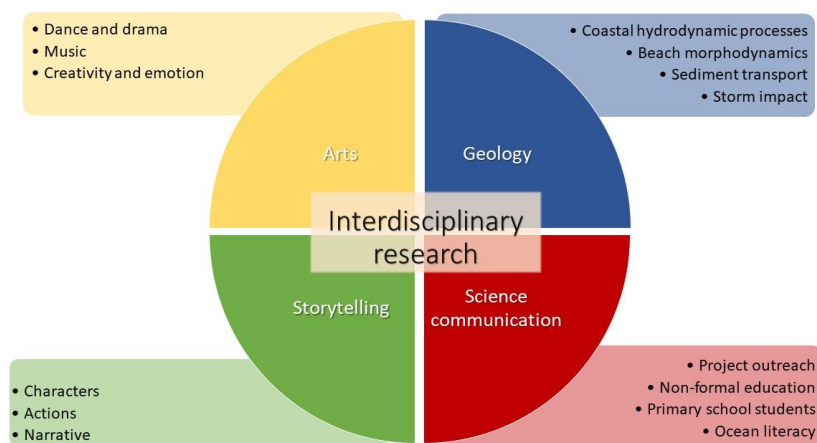


Figure 1 - Scheme summarising the elements from each component to develop the interdisciplinary research.

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2.1. Scientific contents

The activity was developed to communicate concepts and processes related to marine and coastal morphodynamics to 10 years old students, attending the 4th grade. In Portugal, the



geosciences are an academic discipline of the official primary school curricula. Nevertheless,
130 geoscience contents are included in the generic discipline of “environmental studies”, which
includes basic knowledge of science such as the human body, solar system, monarchy history,
earth surface morphology, water cycle, and protection of the environment. Within this
discipline, there is a unit devoted to the sea – land interface.

The activity was composed by a series of six exercises (Figure 2) that were preceded by a
135 simplified but accurate scientific explanation, adapted to the average expected pedagogical
level, starting with an introduction, followed by basic geoscience concepts explanation, and
enforcing the message with a resume at the end. The key geosciences concepts were wave, wave
size, breaking waves, sand grain, sediment transport, beach dynamics, and seasonality.

Important associations from this activity are the connection between atmosphere, ocean and the
140 coast, and the insight between casual observations that the students make, i.e., their empirical
knowledge of the coast, for example, breaking waves, beach width, sand grains, and the science
behind it.

The scientific content was divided into three major hydrodynamic and morphodynamics
situations: wave generation and propagation, sediment transport and storm/fair-weather
145 conditions. Wind blowing on ocean surface and wave generation were explained not only to
elucidate how waves are generated but also to demonstrate the connection between separate
environments (atmosphere and the oceans). Wave propagation was used to illustrate energy
transference across the ocean surface, opposite to mass transference and to make the transition
from the ocean to the coastal environment, until waves break at the shore (Figure 3). The
150 generation of onshore currents under the presence of waves from the submerged to the sub-
aerial part of the beach was then introduced. Sediment transport by onshore currents was
explained as a straightforward effect, in the presence of grains in the bottom (lower block-
diagram and pink arrow on Figure 4). Here sediment variability, including shape, size and
composition, were introduced in relation to possible sources, such as volcanic rocks or coral
155 reefs.












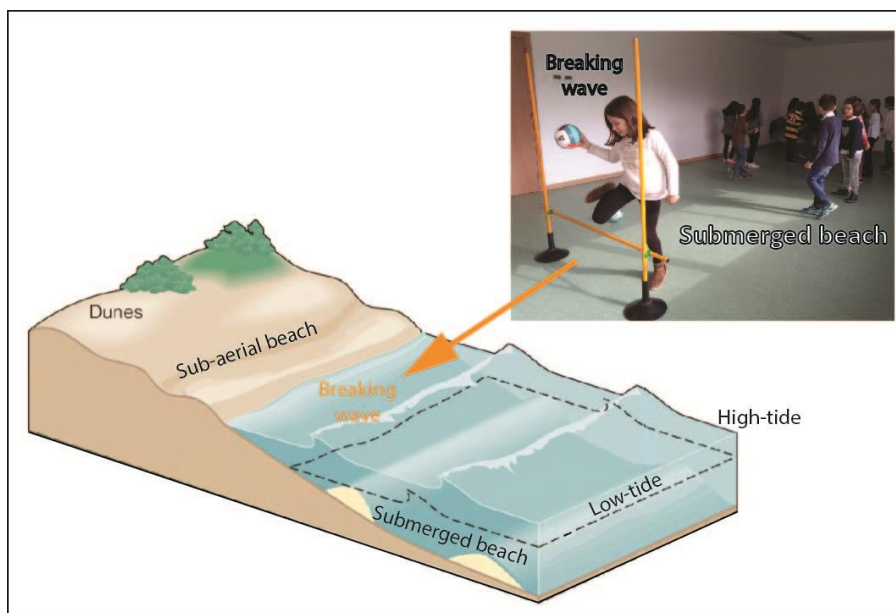
	Geology 	Storytelling 	Dance/movement 	Example
1	Introduction to coastal geology	Exposition Action: preparing for the beach trip/applying sunscreen	Warmup	
2	Coastal & oceanic environments	Exposition Action: trip to the coast and dive into the ocean	Jumping Swimming movements	
3	Wind & wave generation Wave propagation	Rising action Action: making waves	Cadence Improvisation	
4	Wave induced currents Sediment transport	Rising action Action: currents moving grains, and breaking waves	Direction Improvisation Ball passage	
5	Storm waves Off/onshore currents Erosion/accretion	Climax Action: currents moving grains	Direction change Improvisation Ball passage	
6	Resume	Falling action Action: sunbathing	Relaxation	

Figure 2 - Activity outline: list of scenes (from 1 to 6), related scientific contents, associated storytelling moment and type of dance movements.



165 **Figure 3 - Coastal environments: dunes, sub-aerial beach and submerged beach. The photograph shows a “breaking wave” with a jump over the yellow horizontal bar, representing the position that separates the sub-aerial from the submerged beach (towards the right hand-side, where children are in two rows “propagating waves”).**

Wave height variations throughout the year was explained, introducing the concept of storm waves and induced sediment transport pattern (upper block-diagram and pink arrow on Figure 4). Because onshore currents generated by fair-weather were explained, offshore currents during and consequently beach erosion did not need an elaborated explanation. The alternation between erosion and accretion, i.e., seasonality of waves and beach morphology depending on wave height was reinforced, both as natural occurrences on a natural beach.

175 2.2. Storytelling and metaphors

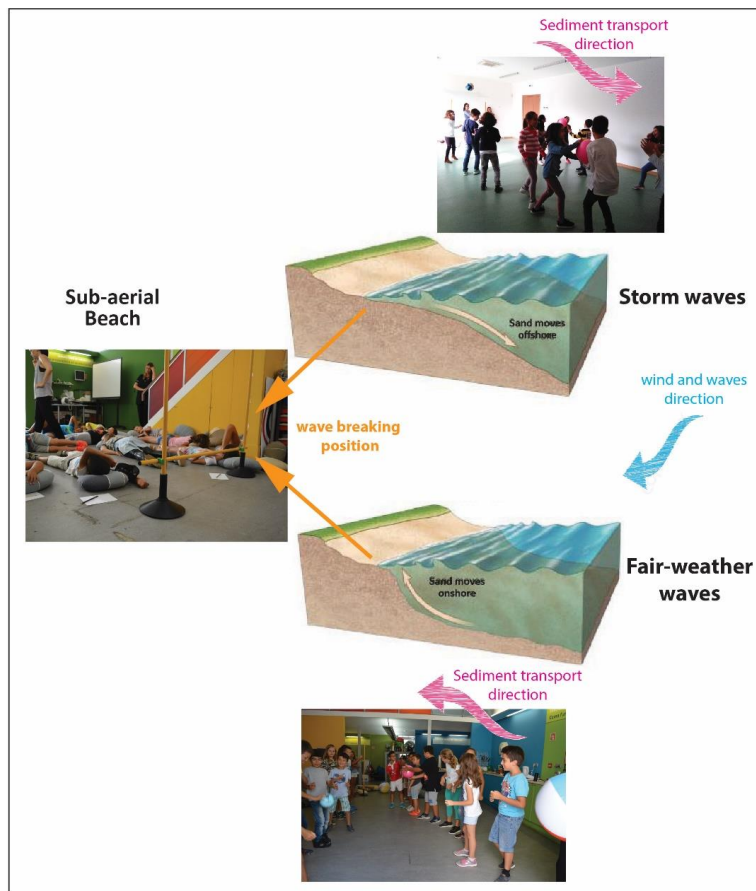
As in any story, the activity had a theme, settings, scenes, characters, actions, and a narrative arc. In broad terms, the narrative arc is the sequence of action shaped by the exposition, rising action, crisis, climax and falling action (e.g. Hart, 2011). The theme of coastal dynamics is immediately set in the introduction, when the scientific topic is addressed. The settings, i.e., the natural environments were built with psychomotricity equipment, but mostly appealing to imagination.

180 There were three main settings: the deep ocean, the beach under water and the sub-aerial beach (Figure 3). The limit of the sub-aerial and submerged beach, i.e., the wave breaking position was marked with two poles and a horizontal bar, while sediment balls of different sizes, colours,



185 shapes and textures represented sediments (Figure 3). The settings/scenario of the action
(marine and coastal environments) were also suggested by specific actions such as dive into the
ocean (jump over the horizontal bar), imaginary application of sunscreen, and sunbathing
(relaxation, Figure 4). Characters performed by students were beach users (scenes 1, 2 and 6)
and water particles (scenes 3 to 5, Figure 2).

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195 **Figure 4 - Coastal environments, coastal processes and metaphors.** The image illustrates waves approaching the coast, coming from the right side (blue arrow). The direction of sediment transport (pink arrows on top of photographs) was embodied by the direction of the hand-to-hand balls (representing sediment grains) passage during storms (top right) and fair-weather (bottom right). The wave breaking position is represented in the room by two yellow vertical poles + horizontal bar, with the sub-aerial beach towards the left hand-side (where children are resting on the middle photograph).

200 The narrative consisted of a set of six practical actions (exercises) that were plotted in a predefined sequence of increasing complexity and excitement (at the beginning of the activity), with a sharp decline to relaxation (at the end of the activity), following the narrative arc (Figure 2). During scenes 1 and 2, an exposition to the theme and settings was conducted, obtained by



the verbal explanation of the beach topic and by suggesting a sequence of actions that mimic a trip to the beach, finishing with the dive into the ocean; students (actors) embodied beach users. From scenes 3 to 4 settings were kept, but characters were changed, and actors embodied water particles, instead of beach users. The actions involved exercises of increasing complexity, reflecting a rise in action, as they impersonated water particles of the sea surface and then water particles as a current that transported grains to the shore. In scene 5, the climax was attained when storm waves reached the coast in several moments, and sediments could move in opposite directions. During scene 6, characters returned to beach users again; actors came out of the ocean and sunbathe, in a falling action (Figure 2 and 4).

2.3 Creative dance structure

According to Gilbert (2015), creative dance is a dance form that combines the mastery of movement with the artistry of expression. The basic movement concepts used here derive from Laban's theory of movement, with adaptations from Anne Green Gilbert. The creative dance unit focused the effort concepts of time (fast/slow), space (direction), and flow (bond/free). A typical session of creative dance is composed of: 1) warming up, 2) Exploring the concept, 3) Developing skills; 4) Creating; and 5) Cooling down (Gilbert, 2015). During the first exercise (scene 1), applying sunscreen, there was a warm up of muscles and mobilization of articulations through light aerobic movements, such as bending, twisting and curling (see dance/movement on Figure 2). During the second exercise (scene 2), students jumped over the obstacle (dive into the sea, Figure 3), in turns, and made swimming free movements across the space. In the third exercise (scene 3), students stand in two lines facing each-other, consisted in reproducing several waves with the body curling up, with arms up, in a cadence. The movement was repeated in a cadence of dance improvisation. During the fourth exercise/scene, the two rows of students performed dance improvisation while passing different balls (representing sediment transport) in the direction of the obstacle (the sub-aerial beach, Figure 4), jumping to mimic breaking waves. In the fifth exercise/scene, students applied the same type of movements than in the fourth exercise/scene, but listening a different soundtrack; music changed in intensity and the balls moved to the obstacle when the music's intensity was lighter and move in the opposite direction when the music was louder and more intense to represent fair-weather waves and storm waves, respectively. During the sixth exercise/scene, students spread thorough the available space and rested on the floor, while relaxing, and sensory stimulation was induced by speech, appealing to sensations felt while sunbathing (sea smell, warm on the skin, wind sensation, sand grains below the body). Sound-tracks included music/sounds with lyrics allusive to the sea (exercises 1, 2 and 6), soundtracks of animation movies (exercise 2), sounds from nature (wind on exercise 3 and



240 waves on exercise 6), a Portuguese traditional theme (exercise 1), classical music (exercise 5),
and pop music (exercise 4). The activity was called “The Sea Rolls the Sand”, which is the
name of the Portuguese traditional song. All musical themes had easy rhythmical and melody
compositions.

3. “The Sea Rolls the Sand” activity implementation

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3.1. Performing opportunities and institutional framework

The activity was performed within the framework of the outreach task of a research project
devoted to the evolution and resilience of barrier island systems (the EVREST project). The
project, led by a research centre (CIMA – Universidade do Algarve) also included Tavira
250 Centro Ciência Viva (Science Centre devoted to dissemination to the general public) who
facilitated the bridge between researchers and primary schools’ students.

The activity was performed six times, within national and international initiatives. During the
first two times, the sessions were included in the activity of the “European Researcher Night”,
in September, 29th 2017. These sessions took place in the educational laboratory of the Tavira
255 Ciência Viva science centre, which was emptied as much as possible to create space for physical
activities. The other four sessions were included in a national initiative “Science and
Technology Week”, in November 23th and 24th, 2017. These sessions took place in three
schools, including private and public schools, on classrooms and in the gym.

Overall 112 students participated in the activity, divided in school classes, varying between 15
260 and 22 students per session. Two classes in small schools in rural areas include students from
different grades; 1st and 4th, in one case, 3rd and 4th in another case. Tavira municipality had 323
students attending 4th grade classes or mix classes, divided in 16 classes (with 13 to 26
students/class). Therefore, about 35% of all 4th grade students of the municipality participated in
the activity.

265 All students in the class participated, including children with cognitive impairment, attention
deficit disorder, amblyopia, light autism, hyperactivity and dyslexia.

Teachers assisted all sessions and had no intervention on the scientific topics or session
alignment; however, occasional teacher’s interference occurred to assist behaviour control of the
class. In one of the sessions, a teacher assigned for cognitive impairment students was also
270 present, but no interference took place. There was no discussion or presentation in advance with
the teachers about the sessions’ specific methods and contents. Teachers volunteered to



participate solely based on the information of the general topic. They were brief about the need of an empty room and that children should be wearing clothes appropriate for physical activity.

275 **3.2. Activity evaluation by participants**

At the end of the activity, with children still laying over the room floor, small inquiries were distributed to obtain an anonymous evaluation. Questions concerned: 1) if they enjoyed the activity, 2) if they liked the movements; 3) if they liked the music; 4) how do they prefer to learn science; 5) if they think they learnt something new; and 6) if they would like to repeat it, and if so with another person or in another place.

280 From the 112 students that responded the inquiries, there was an even distribution of boys and girls (51% were girls). Results showed that all children enjoyed themselves, and 80% enjoyed a lot (Figure 5A). About 75% liked the movements a lot and only 1% was not sure about this. Only one student did not like the music selection. After anonymously filling the inquiry, the student stated: “I hate classical music”.

285 According to the inquiry’s responses, these children prefer to learn science through movement and games, although field trips and laboratory experiments were also frequently selected (20/112, Figure 5B). When questioned about how much they learned with the activity, 35% answered they learned something new, and 60% answered they learned a lot, with 5% stating they already knew everything. 99% of children want to repeat the activity, but 20% of the students from one of the schools referred they preferred to do it elsewhere (Figure 5C).

The time constraints and the lack of personnel to assure children’s supervision did not allow a proper quantitative assessment of the schoolteacher’s opinions. Nevertheless, teachers expressed that “the activity was very nice and good for children this age”. Additionally, some teachers were concerned about some children’s inability to follow entirely the scientific content, or not having an appropriate behaviour all the time.

295 The researcher conducting and researchers assisting the activity observed that these children, living in coastal areas, although having limited scientific background on coastal geology, have plenty of empirical experience on the coast.

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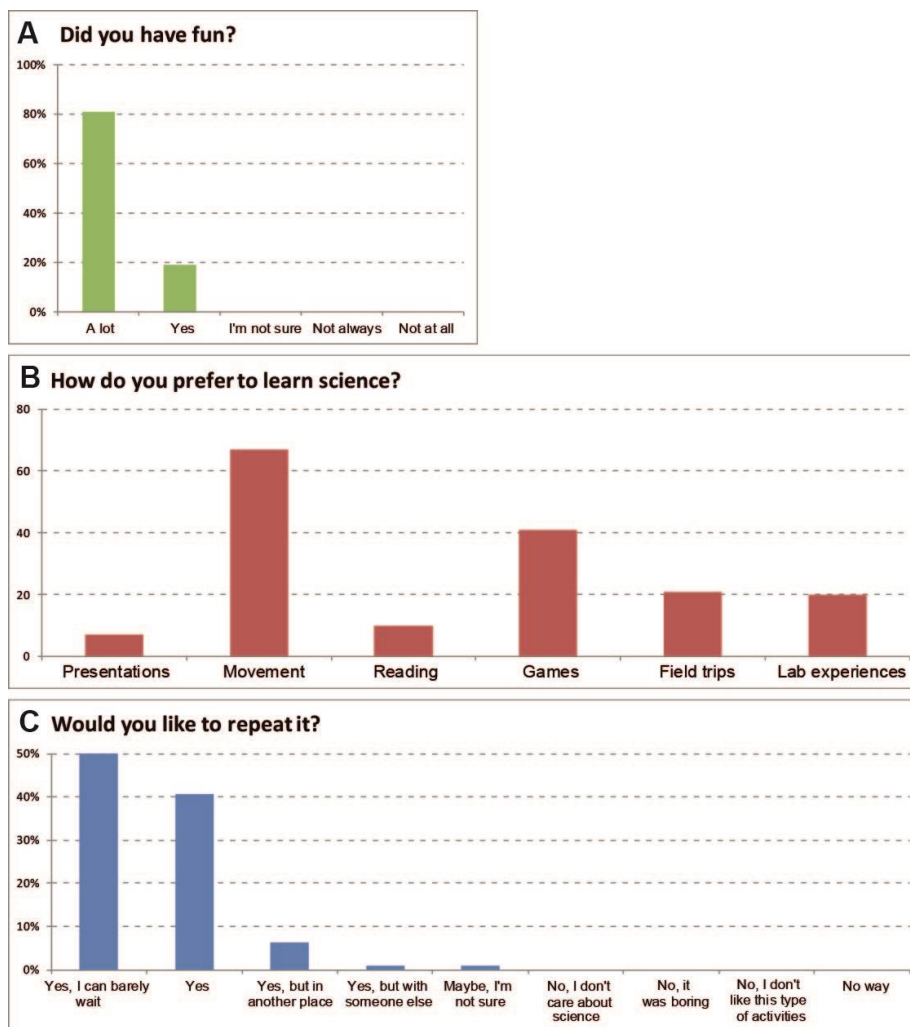


Figure 5 - Results of inquiries for some of the questions.
 Note: for the question about how they prefer to learn about science, multiple responses were allowed, and the vertical axis is the number of responses, not a percentage.

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4. Innovation, insights, and limitations of the interdisciplinary fusion

The observations made throughout the activities showed that the developed and performed activity has pros and cons in relation to more traditional forms of informal education.

310 The main hypothetical risks associated with the methodology application are: the detachment of children of the activity; the disinterest of children in the scientific subject; the lack of understanding of children about the message; shame feeling during the dance exercises; and the little time for reflection they had to consolidate the scientific contents. Some of these risks could



not be directly observed and measured with the results of inquiries. The size of the sample (six sessions, 112 students) was considered sufficient for a pilot test, attesting its feasibility, age
315 adequacy, content relevance, students teachers interest and acceptance. However, the sample size and composition were insufficient to analyze other factors. Comprehensive analysis and conclusions would require a comparison between the impact of this activity and another science communication format covering the same scientific topics and age group.

The main opportunity associated with the methodology application is the engagement of
320 children about science concepts, by focusing attention (demonstrated by Kim (2012) as the first step towards engagement) on the affective domain of learning, showing emotions through movement. Furthermore, it seems to promote ocean literacy, although this requires measurable assessment in future implementations and studies. The innovation of the presented activity is the enlargement of the science communication strategies, whereby scientists communicate through
325 creative dance.

Insights from the activity development and performance can be summarized as follows:

- The interdisciplinary solution is adequate as a general approach to solving complex issues; the complex issue here being a generalized disconnection between students and geosciences. The appeal to conceptual understanding, rather than memorization in
330 geosciences (e.g. names of minerals and rocks, types of volcanism and their location, names of geomorphological features) aligns with the most necessary improvements in curricular guidelines identified by Afonso et al. (2013) for Portuguese education of sciences. The storytelling technique of contents sequencing versus a plain sequence of contents looks as a successful technique of engagement with the activity.
- The emotional involvement in the presence of music seems to effectively encourage engagement, participation and willingness to take part in different experiences. Several positive emotions and feelings were promoted during the activity, evolving from
335 anticipation, pleasure, surprise, enjoyment, to excitement, and then serenity and relaxation. The pleasant memories of the playful visits to the beach evoked during the activity (vacations, playing, and freedom) became also associated to science and
340 learning. The movement and improvisation is effective in creativity stimulation, self-expression and stress release, thus aligns with 21st-century educational orientations (as demonstrated by Cone and Cone (2012)). Moreover, the activity is innovative, yet not supported by screens. During the early stages of the activity, shyer children tended to be
345 reluctant to participate, very self-conscious and consequently their movements are small. As the activity advanced, they became more open and engaged on the proposed exercises.
- The activity is able to mitigate some student's exclusion factors. Inclusion of students with diverse and special needs in the classroom has been a major focus in education



350 over the past 30 years (Villanueva et al., 2012). The children’s layout in space (spread
or in two lines facing each-other), participating in chain sequencing, allows students
with some degree of impairment to engage in the activity. The activity potentially
improves the level of attention of kinaesthetic learners. Additionally, the organization of
the activity for school classes, rather than an activity for families, assures the presence
355 of children that would not participate otherwise.

- The social benefits from this type of activity include team building and students learn self-discipline, gain an appreciation to other movement styles, and discover the value of individual differences through creative exploration and problem solving. The use of free (not choreographed) movements and balls can break the stereotype of “dancing is for girls” thus promoting gender equality. These are values identified in creative dance (e.g., Landalf (1997), Carline (2011), Cone and Cone (2012)) that can be taken into science communications.
- A single session is clearly insufficient as students take time to adapt to a completely different way of learning. Even if the second session would be about a different subject, 365 students would know what to expect.
- A thorough evaluation of science communication initiatives is essential to enable the identification whether long-term objectives are being met, it can help to make the iteration of science communication initiatives more efficient, and can also highlight areas that need further strengthening (Illingworth, 2017). In this study, due to the 370 sporadic nature of the event, within a major event, it would be difficult to establish a baseline of children’s knowledge prior to the intervention. In future studies, an improved programme can incorporate an assessment of the student’s interest and understanding of the scientific subject, in comparison to other methods. This entails the development and testing of a specific impact assessment design.

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5. Final remarks

A science communication activity for primary-grade children, was described and qualitatively evaluated. It combines coastal science concepts, storytelling techniques, and creative dance techniques. The way scientific concepts were translated into the dance class structure were 380 described thoroughly, to allow science communicators the chance to look behind-the-scenes of dance creative.

The dance ability to directly improve overall learning skills (which is at least questionable, according to Keinänen et al. (2000)) was not the purpose here. The proposal is to use art (dance to exemplify) as a means to promote science engagement through emotional involvement, 385 creativity and sensory stimulation. The presence and acknowledgement of emotions is a further way that the practice of science communication can overflow expectations and models of it, and



something else that it would be valuable to notice more in science communicators analysis (Davies and Horst, 2016).

390 The proposed activity had the ability to promote social inclusion of children with special needs, physical impairment, and kinaesthetic learners. The theme of social inclusion in the science communication field is not new; the political value of science communication was explicit in many cornerstones of the history of this field (Massarani and Merzagora, 2014). Nevertheless, the exclusion from science communication activities is not only a statistical fact, but also a neglected matter on communication research (Dawson, 2018).

395 Regarding the activity impacts, inquiry results showed that all children enjoyed themselves. Nevertheless, the improvement of geoscience literacy was not measured. Yet, science communication paradigms have shifted from science literacy (the ‘deficit model’) to “Science and Society” (e.g. Bauer (2008)). This activity is aligned with the most recent paradigms, where communication is interactive and constructive, with emphasis on dialogue, deliberation, participation, and empowerment (Davies and Horst, 2016). It contributes to the students “science capital” (as defined by Archer et al. (2015)) on the dimensions of science-related attitudes, values and dispositions, knowing people in science-related jobs, making science relevant to the everyday lives of students, besides the potential for increased science literacy. Addressed geoscience topics and adopted art forms can be combined in a number of ways:
405 volcanology and music (e.g., types of volcanoes and volcanic rocks can be approached by percussion instruments and rhythms); climate change and drama (e.g., impacts of heat waves can inspire a play); oceanography and poetry (e.g., waves and currents around the world can inspire poems), plate tectonics and sculpture (e.g., faults and bedding planes can be approached and appreciated as blocks of a sculpture, cf. artist Laura Moriarty in
410 <http://www.lauramoriarty.com/>). This almost endless number of mishmashes, on top of the aesthetical value of earth-science objects, from a desert landscape, to a mineral, a geyser, satellite imagery, a canyon, a rocky shore, just to name a few, is an asset worthy of further exploration in science communication of STEAM.

415 **Competing interests.**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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