



“Mind The Gap” London

Help students prepare for their Cultural Bytes with these supportive pre-talk activities

TEACHER INTRODUCTION

This series of online Cultural Bytes videos and this support material have been produced with a specific online audience in mind, however, we want to make clear that teachers can choose to use these videos and their accompanying materials with other audiences and other levels of English proficiency, but they may need to provide extra help and guidance in cases where the students are younger or have a lower level of English.

The aim of these activities is to present and practice target vocabulary in a fun and engaging way which will later be used during the Cultural Byte video. Although their aim is to help with understanding prior to the video, they may be adapted to fit your classroom’s specific needs for use at any time.

GAMES

Time Traveller

- Get students to imagine they have a time machine. Write a date and destination on the board e.g. London 1900. Ask students what they expect to see and what activities they can do.
- Change the date and time on the board and play again.

What did you do this weekend?

- Tell students that you had a really interesting weekend. Students need to ask you questions to find out what you did. When they guess, invite a student to do the same role as you.
- Repeat as many times as you wish. You could also adjust the difficulty by limiting the amount of questions that students can ask before the answer is revealed.



Have you seen this?

- Get students to give you an imaginary place e.g. London and write a list on the board of all the things you could see.
- Choose a certain word and encourage students to ask yes/no questions to find out what word you are looking at.
 - Teacher: Look at this!
 - Student: Is it an attraction?
 - Teacher: Yes, it is.
 - Student: Is it indoors?
 - Teacher: No, it isn't.
 - Student: Is it the London Eye?
 - Teacher: Yes, it is.
- Take it in turns amongst the students.

Riddle me rhyme

- Divide the class into teams and choose one word from the vocabulary set to write on the board.
- Give the teams 20 seconds to write down as many words as they can think of that rhyme with that word.
- Continue with the rest of the words.
- Get students to add up how many words they have and give them one point for each correct answer.
- The team with the most points is the winner.

For better or worse

- Choose two nouns from the vocabulary set and write them on the board.
- Get students to give you an argument for why one is better/worse than the other.
- Repeat with other pairs of nouns.



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Improve your knowledge of British culture by doing these activities after watching the **Cultural Bytes** video

POST-TALK SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Plan a trip around London!

Notes for the teacher

The objective of this task is that the students, in groups, plan a two day trip to London. This activity is designed for students to communicate with each other and to agree on a way to convey their itinerary to the rest of the class; therefore, it should be done using English as much as possible. Students can use a dictionary or the internet if necessary and some of the information learned in the Oxford Cultural Talk.

Steps:

1. Divide the class in groups of 4 or 5.
2. Students have to plan a two day trip, thinking about where they are going to stay, how they are going to travel around the city, what sights they are going to visit... In the worksheet, they have different examples of things they might want to visit. (15-20 minutes)
3. Once they have planned the trip, students present their plan to the rest of the class.

If you prefer, you can set a budget for the trip, so that the students plan the things that they want to visit according to the money they have.

You can either use the worksheets as hand-outs, project them or write them on the board.



Worksheet

1. Welcome to London! You have 20 minutes to plan a trip to the city with your friends! Think about the following things, and, if you need to, search on the internet for information about London:

- a. What do you want to see?
 - Museums (British Museum, Natural History Museum...)
 - Street art (Camden Town, God's Own Junkyard...)
 - Parks (Hyde Park, Richmond Park...)
 - Sports (Wembley stadium, London's Olympic Stadium...)
 - Religious places (Buddhapadipa temple, Westminster Abbey, The Fazl Mosque...)
- b. Where do you want to eat?
 - Restaurants (Indian food, vegan food...)
 - Food Markets (Camden Town, Borough Market...)
- c. How are you going to move around?
 - Public transport (Double-decker, the tube...)
 - Bike
 - Taxi
- d. Where are you going to stay?
 - Hostel
 - Hotel
 - Apartment

2. Create an itinerary for your trip including the information you found in step 1.

3. Now present your itinerary to the rest of your class in a short presentation! You could find some pictures online, display a map of London on the digital blackboard... Be creative! Who has the best itinerary?



Teacher's Notes

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These are some notes containing ideas of how to present or accompany the Mind The Gap Cultural Bytes video.

Activities for before the students watch the video

Students can be sent the pdf files containing the **pre-talk activities** BEFORE they are given access to the video. These activities include individual questions as well as group work and will help the students familiarise themselves with the topic in the video and the relevant vocabulary.

Additional multimedia that can be used by the teacher to give an online class or sent as links to the students for them to use in their projects or research around the subject.

Teachers who want to help their students engage with this topic can direct their students to these multimedia resources online, which will add colour and variety to the Cultural Byte London video. You could also send them to your students to encourage them to investigate certain London subjects in more depth.

What is London To You promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0I--En4pug>

This could spark a discussion about the message that the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan is trying to send out through this video.

Songs about London: There are possibilities of doing a gapfill with the lyrics of one of these songs.

London Boys

David Bowie <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scFpxKdm2w4>



Dark Streets of London

The Pogues <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNQpMCxh-ww>

Cemetries of London

Coldplay <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6gxuxw69z0>

LDN

Lily Allen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmYT79tPvLg>

London Calling

The Clash <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfK-WX2pa8c>

Or perhaps exploiting the fact that **Ed Sheeran** came to live in London when he was 16 and began making money by busking on the Tube – teachers could use one of Sheerans songs (Castle on The Hill) for a gap fill.

Castle on the Hill video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0ibBPhiaG0>

Gap fill: <https://www.englishfactory.es/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Ed-Sheeran-Castle-On-The-Hill.pdf>

Castle on the hill lyrics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Qp5vcuMilk>

London Transport: Information about new developments on the Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3Q0FZUKHKY>

Crossline: The new East West underground line currently under construction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S36fHqXWKdw>

The Knowledge The exam all black taxi drivers must pass:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sU4W36_5oiM

Cockney accent: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_FtnOTLkSs

Cockney Rhyming Slang: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NxQO2ZZjE>

Humour – The Two Ronnies Cockey Sermon https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ij5mw_eqKuc

Inside Buckingham Palace Tour: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_fe_b67lqY

Inside N^o 10 Downing Street: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEuwf0FtvJk>



Activities to be completed AFTER students watch the video

These are individual and group **post talk activities** which can be sent to the students in pdf format and which require them to reproduce information they have received in the video as well as extending and deepening their knowledge of the topic through projects