



Puzzling Mysteries
Pre-activities

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

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 the 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.

Word list for Oxford Cultural Talk “Puzzling Mysteries”:

1. Clue (noun)	2. Disappear (verb)
3. Agility (noun)	4. Storm (noun)
5. Courageous (adjective)	6. Pattern (noun)
7. Knowledge (noun)	8. Fingerprint (noun)
9. Magnifying glass (noun)	10. Suspect (noun)
11. Unknown (adjective)	12. Detective (noun)
13. Magnifying glass (noun)	14. Evidence (noun)
15. Legend (noun)	16. Solve (verb)
17. Predict (verb)	18. Crime (noun)
19. Lies (noun)	20. Investigate (verb)

For all activities, [please refer to the wordlist provided](#)

PUZZLING GAMES

Secret Message

- Divide the students into teams.
- Write a message on the board using a basic code e.g. replace letters A-Z with numbers 1-26.
- Get the students to try and guess the secret message.
- The first team to give the correct answer then writes another secret message for the other teams to guess.

Disappearance

- Choose a word from the vocabulary set and write it on the board but replace some of the letters with dashes.
- Ask students to see if they can solve the word. If they can’t, then give them another letter. If the student guesses correctly, then they can take the role of the teacher and give the rest of the class a different word with dashes.



The missing piece

- Get students to memorise the classroom for a minute.
- Ask one student to leave the room while another student removes something or changes something in the class.
- When the student comes back in to the classroom, they have to say what has changed.

Mind Maps

- Get students to write the vocabulary topic on the board on a scrap piece of paper in red or green ink.
- Set a time limit depending on the level of your students for them to write down as many things as possible related to the vocabulary topic.
- This game could also be played in teams and the team with the most words in the winner.

Who's that?

- Write the name of a well-known person on a sticky note. Choose a student to come to the front of the class and stick the note on their head.
- The student can only answer yes/no to the questions that the rest of the class gives him/her.
- Repeat with different students.



Puzzling Mysteries
Post-activities

Consolidate your knowledge of Puzzling Mysteries by doing these activities after watching the Cultural Byte video

Detective vocabulary:

D _ T _ _ T _ _ E	
_ L _ E	
_ U S _ E _ _	

C _ _ M _	
_ _ I D _ N _ E	
T _ I _ F	

Detective definitions:

a) Hints that help you solve a mystery (also the name of a game!)
b) One or more reasons for believing that something is or is not true. Synonym of proof.
c) A person thought to be guilty of a crime or offence.
d) Someone who solves mysteries.
e) An action/activity against the law or illegal.
f) A person who steals.

Answer Key: a (clue), b (evidence), c (suspect), d (detective), e (crime), f (thief)



Detective skills:

Use your dictionary to look up the meaning of following words. What are some synonyms for these words?

Meaning:

AGILITY: _____

SECRECY: _____

ATTENTIVE TO DETAIL: _____

COURAGE: _____

Synonyms:

AGILITY	SECRECY	ATTENTIVE TO DETAIL	COURAGE

Answer the following questions and share with your teacher and classmates:

What are your detective skills and abilities?

Are you ready to solve a mystery?





Puzzling Mysteries
Teacher's Notes

TEACHER INTRODUCTION

This series of online Cultural Byte 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.

These are some notes containing ideas of how to present or accompany the *Puzzling Mysteries* Cultural Byte video.

Activities for BEFORE the students watch the video:

Students can be sent the pdf files containing the **pre-talk activities and wordlist** 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: 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.

 <i>Island Statue Walk</i>	Researchers test a new theory that suggests how ancient Easter Islanders may have used ropes to "walk" the <i>Moai</i> to their platforms: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YpNuh-J5IgE
 <i>Nazca Lines</i>	Researchers surveying in southern Peru with drones have captured images of ancient geoglyphs. More than 50 of the massive ancient drawings are considered new discoveries by archaeologists https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Spvn_BGCLa0
 <i>The Devil's Triangle</i>	Why is it that not a month goes by without a boat or plane being claimed by the Bermuda Triangle? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVoQ8pGWqR8
 <i>Loch Ness Monster</i>	New Evidence of the Loch Ness Monster: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KgacFkMIqyE When did Gordon Holmes see the monster?

Activities to be completed AFTER students watch the video:

These are individual and group **post talk activities** which should be adapted to the classroom situation and sent to the students in pdf format. This may require from the students to reproduce information they have received in the video as well as extending and deepening their knowledge of the topic.