

2022 TEACHER TRAINING COURSE USING DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

INTRODUCTION

- Why use devices, primarily smartphones, in the classroom? Aren't they just distractions?
- How can we expect students to stay focused on the task at hand when they could be sending messages, watching TikToks and who knows what else?
- Can't the classroom remain one area in which students put down their phones and pay attention to the teacher and to each other?
- These are all good points, and I think there is a lot to be said for letting students detach from their online selves for a few hours a day. But occasionally, letting kids discover new ways of using technology in English can be a great motivating tool, and also show them how much of the web there is beyond the small part in Italian.

WHAT IS TASK BASED LEARNING?

Task based learning requires students to complete a task in order to provide them with an opportunity to interact in English.

VIRTUAL TOURS

These tours take you around famous cities, landmarks, buildings, museums and even natural wonders. As a teacher, you can require students to navigate themselves around these sights in order to find information, listen to speakers and research more about places that they would love to visit or places that are connected to topics that they are studying.

One of my favourite tours is David Attenborough's Great Barrier Reef www.attenboroughsreef.com . Full of videos, amazing photography and interactive activities. There is enough information here to interest students for many lessons, but giving them a few things to find in a certain time limit can really encourage them to interact with English.

The New York Virtual tour at www.youvisit.com/tour/nyc is also fantastic.

New York Virtual Tour Answers

www.youvisit.com/tour/nyc

Statue of Liberty - How many people visit the Statue of Liberty each year? (Nearly four million)

Ellis Island - What proportion of Americans can trace their family history to at least one person who passed through the island? (Nearly half)

South Street Seaport - Name a shop that you can see in the background (Lee Lee's Forest, Superdry Store, Ambrose)

Union Square - Where is Union Square situated in New York City? (At the intersection of Broadway and Fourth Avenue)

Herald Square - According to an advertising hoarding, what is the "World's Largest Store?" (Macy's)

Madison Square Garden - Madison Square Garden is the first/second/third busiest music arena in the world? (Third)

Empire State Building - What animal can you see climbing the building? Why do you think this is? (A gorilla - it climbs the Empire State Building in the film "King Kong")

Times Square - Name five musicals that you can see advertised (Wicked, Kinky Boots, Holler If Ya Hear Me, Jersey Boys, Mamma Mia, The Phantom of the Opera, Matilda (in the distance), Rocky, Motown, Pippin, Chicago.

Grand Central Terminal - How many people visit the station every year? (almost 21.6 million)

Top of the Rock - Where is the Top of the Rock located? (atop the historic Rockefeller Center)

Brooklyn Bridge - When was Brooklyn Bridge Built? (1883)

2022 TEACHER TRAINING COURSE USING DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

Kahoot!

The Kahoot! Quiz is at <https://kahoot.com>

- Type the address into the browser of your phone or use the Kahoot! App.
- Pick Play at the top of the page
- Choose either Classic mode for single students

Or

- Choose Team Vs Team for a group of students (they can use a shared device or personal device)
- The game produces a pin number which you type into your phone.
- Then you add a name
- And get ready to play!
- You can even create your own quizzes specific to topics you're working on, or find many pre-made quizzes on the web.
- English Weather Quiz <https://create.kahoot.it/share/english-weather-idioms/7fc9f2cb-a409-4c3a-b3dd-bbdf35572c9a>

Mobile Treasure Hunt

- In groups the students find 3 facts about a place or item.
- They note the website (English website and not Wikipedia)
- The objective is to find the most interesting facts.
- The most interesting facts gets the most points 1-5
- Group with the most points wins.

Instructions

- Print a copy of the worksheet for each student.
- They need one mobile per group at least (move students into other groups to achieve this).
- For each picture the students must find 3 facts about that place or item.
- They must make a note of the web address (which must be in English).
- They write down their 3 facts in English (the most interesting gets the most points 1-5) this encourages them to search and not take the first piece of information they see.
- The most interesting fact is decided by the teacher or other groups.
- The groups can gain points if they complete the last two questions correctly.
- At the bottom of their worksheet they can add up their points and the most points at the end is the winner.
- They must present their findings to the class by bringing up the websites and telling the class their facts.
- They lose points if they use an Italian site.
- They can't use Wikipedia (it's too easy).
- They should be practicing reading, writing, speaking, listening and conversation as each student needs to take part in all aspects of the activity especially presenting.

2022 TEACHER TRAINING COURSE USING DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

Conclusions

Devices allow students to interact with the most accessible source of English language in the world. It would be a shame not to use them in class.

“Device time” could be used as a reward for good work. In general, devices are best kept in pockets or bags unless you give the students permission to use them.

Safety is always in issue using phones. Some ground rules for using phones in the classroom:

- Students agree to use phones only for the task at hand. No social media, messages, photos during the task.
- Mobiles should be visible and available to be viewed by the teacher at any time during the task.
- Phones are kept on silent, unless the teacher has specifically given permission otherwise.
- Devices can only be used in tasks in which the teacher has agreed to their use.

MLA is on Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat with lots of short instructional videos on Grammar, Vocabulary. We are planning a lot more soon too. Check us out – search for MLA World!

USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/discover/about-us/virtual-tour/>

<https://g.co/arts/2kqZyALuc4e8mLQr7> - Robben Island Prison Tour: Where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.

www.attenboroughsreef.com – An enormous interactive tour of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef with English icon David Attenborough

www.youvisit.com/tour/nyc - One of many virtual New York City Virtual Tours

<https://kahoot.com> – Kahoot interactive quizzes. Or download the Kahoot! App on your device.






<https://create.kahoot.it/share/english-weather-idioms/7fc9f2cb-a409-4c3a-b3dd-bbdf35572c9a> Our Weather Idioms Quiz


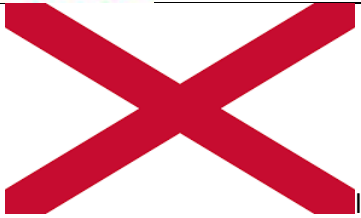


<https://www.iste.org/explore/toolbox/6-ways-use-students-smartphones-learning>

Mobile Phone Treasure Hunt

Rules :

1. Must use English websites
2. Can't use Wikipedia
3. Must write answers in English
4. Write down the web address where you found the information
5. MOST interesting answers gets more points 1-5
6. MOST amount of points wins.

	Website: Facts: 1) 2) 3)
	Website: Facts: 1) 2) 3)
	Website: Facts: 1) 2) 3)
	Website: Facts: 1) 2) 3)
	Website: Facts: 1) 2) 3)

	Website: Facts: 1) 2) 3)
 <p>Northern Ireland</p>	Website: Facts: 1) 2) 3)
	Website: Facts: 1) 2) 3)
	Website: Facts: 1) 2) 3)
Extra Point: Spell the character correctly	
Extra Point: Correct pronunciation	

Points:	1)	2)	3)	4)	5)	6)	7)	8)	9)	10)
Total Points:										



New York Virtual Tour

youvisit.com/tour/nyc



Navigate the tour and answer a question from each place you visit

Statue of Liberty - How many people visit the Statue of Liberty each year?

Ellis Island - What proportion of Americans can trace their family history to at least one person who passed through the island?

South Street Seaport - Name a shop that you can see in the background

Union Square - Where is Union Square situated in New York City?

Herald Square - According to an advertising hoarding, what is the "World's Largest Store?"

Madison Square Garden - Madison Square Garden is the first/second/third busiest music arena in the world?

Empire State Building - What animal can you see climbing the building? Why do you think this is?

Times Square - Name five musicals that you can see advertised

Grand Central Terminal - How many people visit the station every year?

Top of the Rock - Where is the Top of the Rock located?

Brooklyn Bridge - When was Brooklyn Bridge Built?