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# **Super Heroes**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. Do you like super Heroes?
2. Which super hero do you like?
3. If could be a super hero which one would you be and why?
4. If you can have super power which one would you like fire, water…?
5. What would you do if you were a super hero?
6. If you woke up in the middle of the night and you saw Batman in the corner of your room, what would you do?
7. Who is your favorite female superhero?
8. If the Joker was holding one of your loved ones hostage, and was asking you to do something that you don't want to do (E.G. kill your next door neighbor), would you do what he says, or would you count on Batman to save your loved one?
9. Do you think super heroes make mistakes?
10. Do super heroes exist?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Invisibility | Telekinesis | Technopathy | Healing |
| Invulnerability | X-Ray Vision | Heat Vision | Wall crawling |
| Water breathing | Precognition | Telepathy | Mind Control |
| Animation | Time Manipulation | Earth Manipulation | Fire Power |
| Ice Power | Teleportation | Shape Shifting | Duplication |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. For each of the following powers discuss three ways that you could use the power for good and three ways that you could use the power for bad.
2. Rank the powers from best power to worst power, be prepared to defend your reasoning.
3. All superpowers seem cool, but what would be the negative effects of the above superpower? Think of one downfall for each superpower.
4. Can you think of 5 more powers?

**Reading (Listening)**

**1**. [Superman](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/characters/p/supermanbio.htm)

Superman is comic book history. Without Superman, the first big comic book superhero, we might not have had Spider-Man, Batman, and the others. Due to the success of Superman, other comics companies pushed making superheroes and to that, Superman is owed a huge debt. Decades later, Superman is still going strong, with a movie in the works, multiple titles to choose from, and a hit TV show. The Man of Steel is certainly on top in terms of historical importance, abilities, and current popularity.

**2.** [Spider-Man](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/characters/p/spidermanbio.htm)

What Spider-Man lacked in ability, he made up in heart. The wall-crawler is one of the first of many true to life superheroes and because of this; Spider-Man has become loved and adored by fans the world over. Spider-Man is Marvel comics number one superhero, with legions of fans, blockbuster films, and many hot comics to read.

**3.** [Batman](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/characters/p/batmanbio.htm)

There is something about the dark brooding sense of Batman that intrigues people. Or maybe its Batman’s alter-ego, millionaire, Bruce Wayne, that people wish they had more in common with. Maybe the reason so many people identify with him is that Batman has no truly supernatural powers. Any one of us could be Batman whatever the case; Batman has struck a chord with fans around the world. The Dark Knight is hugely popular with a multiple hit movies and many different comic titles to choose from.

**4.** [Wolverine](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/characters/p/wolverinebio.htm)

 Next to Spider-Man, Wolverine is certainly one of Marvel comics most popular superheroes. He was pretty much the focus of the X-Men movies and helped make a star out of Hugh Jackman. Wolverine has quickly risen to the top of the X-Men as the fans favorite character and considering how many characters there are to choose from, that’s no small task. He can be seen in his own comic as well as The X-Men comics and The New Avengers.

**5.** [The Hulk](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/characters/p/hulkbio.htm)

Many people can relate to unleashing their rage. The Hulk has been a large part of Marvel’s rise to stardom and fans all over have enjoyed the intense action and emotion that The Hulk exudes. One reason fans resonate so well with The Hulk is that we all get angry and so many of us can relate to wanting to release the rage within us, something The Hulk is all to well-known for. A hit movie and another on the way, video games, his own comic, cartoons, and toys make The Hulk truly a heavy hitter.

**6.** [Wonder Woman](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/characters/p/wonderwomanbio.htm)

The World’s most well-known female superhero has been through many different incarnations throughout history. She had a popular TV show, has her own comic book, and has a spot on the Justice League of America. Wonder Woman is a character that girls and women can look up to and be proud of. All told, Wonder Woman is one of comic books greats.

**7.** [Green Lantern](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/greenlantern/p/glhaljordan.htm)

The Green Lantern is a huge cornerstone of the DC universe. Green Lantern has had a huge resurgence as of late. The re-launch of the series, the re-establishing of the Corps, and the return of Hal Jordan has made Green Lantern shoot up onto the list of top superheroes. Who could ask for more? With a movie in the works, a spot on the Justice League and multiple comics make Green Lantern a hot item.

**8.** [Captain America](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/captainamerica/p/captainamerica.htm)

 The symbol of America has long touched the hearts and minds of free people everywhere. Captain America stands for all that America should be; noble, strong, hard-working, just, and honest. With these qualities, Captain America easily makes it on the list as one of the top comic book characters.

**9.** [Spawn](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/spawn/p/spawn.htm)

Todd McFarlane’s creation has become the most popular independent comic book character. A movie, cartoons, comics, and toys have made Spawn one of the hottest commodities in a while. Although his popularity may have waned in recent years, the accomplishments of this character are hard to ignore. The success of Spawn has paved the way for other independent comics, showing you don’t have to be part of DC or Marvel to make it big.

**10.** [Punisher](http://comicbooks.about.com/od/punisher/p/punisher.htm)

The Punisher is one of the first “anti-heroes”, or a hero that doesn’t always act as nice as we would like. The Punisher started the ball rolling for the darker side of comics, and when comics like The Watchmen and The Dark Knight Returns made the genre even more popular, the Punisher fit right in. Thanks to the Punisher, comics have been able to explore their darker side. Whether that is good or not is up to you.

**Reading Questions**

1. Which of the Superheroes above do you know? What do you know about their stories?
2. Which of the above superheroes is your favorite? Why?
3. Are there any superheroes from you country? Who are they? What can they do?
4. Why are superheroes important to our society?

**Group Project**

1. In your group create a new superhero. You need to think of all of the following items, and then present it to the class.
	1. Superhero Physical Features
	2. Special Personality Characteristics
	3. Super Powers
	4. Weakness
	5. Background Story
	6. Arch-Nemesis

**Homework**

1. Write one page about the background story of one of the superheroes above or about a different superhero not discussed.

# **Dating and Love**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. Do you believe in love at first sight?
2. Have you ever been on a blind date?
3. Describe a perfect date.
4. Is there such thing as a perfect relationship for you?
5. Do you know the difference between “love” and “lust”?
6. Have you ever had a crush on someone?
7. How old were you when you had your first boyfriend or girlfriend?
8. Do you think love is necessary to have a good marriage?
9. Do you think that you can you find eternal love through the Internet?
10. Have your parents ever disapproved of any of your relationships?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| He’s taken. | She dumped me. | I’m seeing her. | Hit it off. |
| On the rocks. | Pop the question. | Tie the knot. | Have a crush. |
| To be nuts about | Head over heels | Under her spell | Puppy Love |
| Rose colored Classes | To settle down | Break it off | Love at first sight |
| Madly in love | Make out | The old ball and chain | Going Steady |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. Which of the words/phrases above are considered positive? Negative? Neutral?
2. Which words relate to dating? Marriage?
3. What’s the difference between a crush and love?

**Reading (Listening)**

**Life In A Love by Robert Browning**

Escape me?
Never—
Beloved!
While I am I, and you are you,
So long as the world contains us both,
Me the loving and you the loth,
While the one eludes, must the other pursue.
My life is a fault at last, I fear—
It seems too much like a fate, indeed!
Though I do my best I shall scarce succeed—
But what if I fail of my purpose here?

It is but to keep the nerves at strain,
To dry one's eyes and laugh at a fall,
And baffled, get up to begin again,—
So the chase takes up one's life, that's all.
While, look but once from your farthest bound,
At me so deep in the dust and dark,
No sooner the old hope drops to ground
Than a new one, straight to the selfsame mark,
I shape me—
Ever
Removed!

**To a Stranger. by Walt Whitman**

PASSING stranger! you do not know how longingly I look upon you,
You must be he I was seeking, or she I was seeking, (it comes to me, as of a dream,)
I have somewhere surely lived a life of joy with you,
All is recall’d as we flit by each other, fluid, affectionate, chaste, matured,
You grew up with me, were a boy with me, or a girl with me,
I ate with you, and slept with you—your body has become not yours only, nor left my body
mine
only,
You give me the pleasure of your eyes, face, flesh, as we pass—you take of my beard,
breast,
hands, in return,
I am not to speak to you—I am to think of you when I sit alone, or wake at night alone,
I am to wait—I do not doubt I am to meet you again,
I am to see to it that I do not lose you.

**Reading Questions**

1. With a partner discuss the meaning of these two poems.
2. Why do people write love poems?

**Group Project**

1. In groups of two or three make a questionnaire designed to help people find their soul mate. Your questionnaire should have at least ten multiple choice questions (there is a sample question below). After you finish your questionnaire, go around the class and survey each of your classmates. Once you have finished work with your partner to decide who would be the best match.

Sample Question:

1. In my free time I enjoy:
	1. Being alone
	2. Going for long walks
	3. Hanging out with a lot of people
	4. Watching Movies/Reading Books
	5. None of the Above

When you are giving your classmates you questionnaire use the following form to record their answers.

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| Name | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
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**Writing**

1. You have 5 minutes to write a love poem. Use at least two of the following words in your poem.

**Adore, bewitched, cherish, complete, crazy, forever, everlasting, lucky, treasure, wild**

**Homework**

1. Write one page about your interpretation of one of the poems above. Give details and examples to support your belief.

# **Advertising**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. What is the most shocking advertisement you have seen?
2. What makes an ad memorable?
3. Do you buy products because of advertising?
4. Why do you buy one product over another?
5. Do favorite or annoying celebrities make you want or not want to buy a product?
6. Is there truth in advertising?
7. Why is it necessary to advertise?
8. When out walking or shopping in the city, do you accept advertising fliers or free samples that are offered to you?
9. What forms of advertising are there?
10. What is the most advertised product?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commercials | Products | flyer | Handouts |
| Target Audience | Printing | Slogan | Market |
| Logo | Niche | Catch Phrase | Jingle |
| Reputation | Broadcasting | Image | Consumerism |
| Waste | Desire | Necessity | Capitalism |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

Fill in the blank with a word from above.

1) \_\_\_\_\_\_ is a free market economic system.

2) \_\_\_\_\_\_ requires constant buying to keep the economy going.

3) The vase sat hidden in a \_\_\_\_\_\_ in the wall.

4) I \_\_\_\_\_\_ peace more than I want money.

5) Radio \_\_\_\_\_\_ were advertising products.

6) A catchy \_\_\_\_\_\_ reminds people to recycle.

7) The designer shoes had a recognizable \_\_\_\_\_\_.

8) The store's \_\_\_\_\_\_ advertised the sale.

9) He has a \_\_\_\_\_\_ for always being goofy.

10) The station is \_\_\_\_\_\_ the ballgame.

**Reading (Listening)**

The Negative Effects of Advertising

Advertising may have some good points, but also there are some negative aspects too. While some of them are obvious, most of advertising potentially harmful facets go undetected.

Here are some of the most important:

**1. Hidden Costs**

You should know that [advertising costs](http://www.realcool.biz/articles/The_Negative_Effects_of_Advertising_a34_f0.html) lots of money and that money comes from you - the consumer. When you buy a product, you pay for the product itself, which means its packaging, costs of the development, the machinery, the facility where the product has been made in, etc.
But what you probably don’t know is that by buying some product, you also pay for that its advertising as well. While it’s logical to pay objective costs, such as package or production, it’s not understandable why pay company to tell us about the product we already bought.

 **2. Lying to Customers**

Advertisers know that they cannot outright make false claims, because any claim they make must be supported by some kind of statistic, according to the law. However, advertisers can and often do bend and curve the truth for their own benefit and in order to promote and advertise own product.
Company can exaggerate certain features of their products or they can make vague and ambiguous claims that sound good. Of course any negative features of the product won’t be mentioned.
Advertisements can be deceitful, especially for younger population who spends days in front of [TV screen](http://www.realcool.biz/articles/The_Negative_Effects_of_Advertising_a34_f0.html) and watch aggressive and false advertising in between popular shows.

 **3. Conditioning and False Trendsetting**

But, in order to hypnotize mass population, companies need to create trends that customers will follow. This is the true purpose of advertising today. Advertisers have found out that if they make a product, and make customers believe that their product will make them happy, sales will skyrocket. To fulfill that, advertisers must bombard customers with images and false claims for hours every day patiently, until people start to believe in certain things.
Once a trend and its image for advertising purposes have been created, conditioning can begin. Customers become addicted to products that they usually don’t need, and that’s the real image of our society of over consumerism. Today, because of ad conditioning and trendsetting, judgments are made on what kind of clothes people wear, what shampoo and kitchen cleaner they use, and not on who we really are. This leads to a certain degree of social discrimination and emotional insecurity, especially in younger population. In order to be accepted and cool, you need to spend.

 **4. Censorship**

Advertisers want their ads shown on certain stations or websites that have certain content, because they want to attract a certain audience. Most mass media mediums have become nothing more than vessels for advertising, which means that advertising and companies that use it have become a powerful force as far as censorship.
But, how can advertising censor a television network’s programming? If you have a popular prime time show that’s a bit ‘sketchy’ toward certain things or views, that can be an obstacle for popular brand product that want prime [time advertising](http://www.realcool.biz/articles/The_Negative_Effects_of_Advertising_a34_f0.html) in that show. Producers will never say: “Heck with the commercial!”
Instead they will ask show writers to rewrite sketchy parts that can ruin products’ reputation.
That basically means that our precious moments of fun or enlightenment are often replaced with long and boring commercial blocks, which basically means subtle censorship.

**5. Degradation of Art**

The last negative effect of advertising presented in this article I want to discuss is the complete degradation of some forms of art. No more creativity on TV. Everything you see or hear on it now is meant to sell you something.
Actors present you new products you should by. Models look more beautiful and younger with new makeup that you should - guess what – buy. You watch 90 minutes movie, but it’s extended to two hours because of commercials. Football game is 30 seconds of action followed by endless minutes of advertising agony.
Another problem are totally unimaginative commercials, made for zombies. They’re mostly not funny, not creative and they lack even smallest trace of art.
With so much money in their pockets, great corporations make fools of themselves because of these ads.
But they still occupy our precious time for fun and enlightenment.

It can be concluded that advertisers lost their compass long time ago. Advertisements are made in spirit of blind over consumerism. Without a soul. However, money from [consumers pockets](http://www.realcool.biz/articles/The_Negative_Effects_of_Advertising_a34_f0.html) who are attracted to shiny goods, still keeps them breathing.

Next time you go shopping, or see an advertisement, ask yourself if you really need that product. Also, ask yourself what it all really costs.
And is it worth.

**Group Project**

1. Create an advertisement for one of the following products.
	1. A new super soft toilet paper
	2. Sunglasses that double as a cell phone
	3. A cup that can heat the drink without burning the holder
	4. A cleaning bomb, it looks like a grenade, but when you drop it in a room it sucks out all the dust
	5. A pen that glows when someone is lying

You should include the following information in your advertisement.

1. What is the product’s name?
2. Who is your target audience?
3. Why does the customer need this?
4. What is this product replacing?
5. How much is this product?

**Writing**

1. You have five minutes to write about one person in the classroom. You can write about any of the following elements.
	1. Physical features
	2. Clothes
	3. Name

After you finish writing hand the paper to the teacher. The teacher will read your article while your classmates guess who is being written about.

**Homework**

1. Write one page about an advertisement that has influenced you. You should include the following information.
	1. What was the product?
	2. What happened in the advertisement?
	3. Why did you love or hate the advertisement?
	4. How did it influence you?
	5. Did you buy the product?

# **Business**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. What one thing can transform business to a higher level?
2. Do you want to start a business one day? If so what kind?
3. If you own a business how do you motivate your employees?
4. What is the biggest factor in the success or failure of a company?
5. Do you think companies should provide transport facility to employees?
6. Will you give any special benefit to your employees?
7. Do you think technology is important to a business?
8. What is the average salary here in China?
9. Do you think customer service is important?
10. Do you think economy affects business?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Service | Recession | Economy | Man power |
| Human Resources | Employees | Boss | Target |
| Customers | Innovation | Budget | Income |
| Profit | Loss | Expansion Plan | Loan |
| Assets | Real estate | Salary | Insurance |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

You the vocabulary words above to fill in the blanks below.

1. He repaid the \_\_\_\_\_\_ to the bank.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_\_ is a time of low economic activity.
3. The money I earn is called my \_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. My weekly \_\_\_\_\_\_ doesn't allow new expenses.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_ paid for repairs on the vehicle.
6. If a friend moves away, the \_\_\_\_\_\_ is painful.
7. The nation's \_\_\_\_\_\_ is losing resources.
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_ and creativity are key to discovery.
9. Items worth money in your home are \_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. I made a good \_\_\_\_\_\_ on my investment.

**Reading (Listening)**

8 Key Elements to Starting Your Own Business

**1. Desire.** There is a lot of talk in our community nowadays about passion. New and would-be entrepreneurs are advised to identify what they are passionate about and build a business around that. It’s not so much that I disagree with the basis of this idea (after all, I don’t want to build a business around hauling trash or data entry, as I find both jobs mind-numbing) – it’s just not enough. You need to have an active desire to turn your passion into a business in order to be successful. In fact, I would argue that you need to have confirmed that you have an active desire to **start and operate** your own business, no matter what the industry.

I can think of no better example than a young lady in my E-club who is a musician. She plays the violin, and she is looking to build a business that offers musical entertainment to event planners. The thing is – what happens if she’s moderately successful at this and wakes up in a few years to find that playing music has become just another chore? Be certain that you have the desire to turn your passion into your job.

**2. An Idea.** Most of you are probably rolling your eyes at this one. Maybe you’re even questioning why you’re continuing to read if I’m going to be this obvious. Bear with me. Of course you need an idea to start a business – but the point I’m making here is that an idea can be enough. Working with young entrepreneurs has highlighted that too many people believe that starting a company requires much more than an idea. Too often, ideas are stillborn on the route to becoming new ventures for a host of reasons (fear, lack of knowledge, etc.). That’s why it is worth reminding yourself that any successful venture starts with an idea. Your idea is the seed from which your company grows.

**3. Sweat equity.** Are you familiar with this term? It actually comes from the real estate world – originally this referred to enhancing a property’s value by do-it-yourself improvements. For our purposes, sweat equity can be considered any and all resources that you devote to your business – other than your own cash contributions. In practical terms, this is mostly going to refer to time that you spend. I’ve never been involved in anything that requires the type of time commitment needed to start and operate a business. If you’ve never been an entrepreneur, I want you to stop for a moment and guess how many average hours each week you need to devote to your business…OK – whatever you guessed is wrong, even if you guessed 168 hours. Exaggeration? Perhaps a bit – but you should presume that you’re underestimating the active time you will need to devote to this enterprise. Be certain that you have the time (especially if you’re going to do this while employed elsewhere) and are willing to spend it on your new venture.

**4. Ability to learn.** This is the key skill that you must have if you plan to become an entrepreneur. When coupled with a desire, an idea and enough time, you can learn everything else. Starting and running a business involves a set of skills – all of which can be learned. Don’t know the first thing about financial statements? Selling practices? How to network? Best methods for collecting receivables? All of these (and more) are teachable. If you have learned how to learn, then you have the core skill set needed to be an entrepreneur. Presumably you already believe this, or you wouldn’t be reading this blog.

**5. Persistence.** You’ve heard it before and I’m sure you’ll hear it again in the pages of this blog – successful entrepreneurs are tenacious. Woody Allen famously noted that “90% of life is just showing up.” To a certain extent, that’s true for an entrepreneur. You must have the capacity to show up and execute day in and day out. If you combine an ability to learn with persistence, you can be assured that eventually you will surmount (or go around) most obstacles in business.

**6. (Human) Capital.** For the most part, businesses that are scalable and sustainable require employees. You will need a plan for acquiring the best and brightest to fill each role in your firm – whether it be receptionist or chief marketing officer. Mediocre human capital will result in a mediocre (at best) enterprise. By the way, recessions are great times for small business in this regard. When job markets are in disarray, you may be able to acquire human capital that would be otherwise unavailable to a new, untested venture.

**7. (Financial) Capital.** It’s certainly possible to start a business with little (or even no) capital. You are most likely going to be starting on a relative shoestring and bootstrapping in the early phases of your growth. However, with some exceptions (primarily on-line based information businesses), you will need capital to build a scalable business. If you are looking to grow beyond simply providing you with a replacement for a salary, you’re going to need to finance. This won’t be easy – particularly in today’s financing environment – but it isn’t impossible. You’ll start with friends and family, proceed to angel investors and may even seek out venture capital funds if your business model warrants that. One way or another, though, capital will become an integral component of growing and succeeding.

**8. (Customer) Attention.** At some point, you’ve got to sell your product/service offering to a customer. Business is sales. There’s no way around that hard fact. That means you’ve got to get attention – eventually customers’ attention. Your great idea and the business infrastructure you build is meaningless without customers. There are numerous ways to garner attention (many of which we address in this blog), and you need to be planning for this from the moment you decide to take your first entrepreneurial steps.

Are there other key elements you think are needed to succeed in starting and growing a business?

**Group Project**

1. Make a Business plan for a new company. You should include the following points in your Business Plan.
	1. Your Company Introduction
		1. Who you are?
		2. What you do?
		3. Where is it?
		4. Why is it unique?
	2. Market Opportunities
		1. What are the opportunities that you can take advantage of?
			1. For example: in Taiyuan there are very few Indian restaurants are popular, but there are very few restaurants.
	3. Management
		1. Who is in management?
		2. Why are they qualified?
	4. Competitors
		1. Who will you are competing with?
		2. What are you competitor’s strengths? Weaknesses?
		3. What is your competitive edge?
	5. Financial Projections
		1. How much do you expect to spend opening this company?
		2. How much do you expect to make in the first year?
		3. Show evidence of these projections.

**Writing**

Becoming a good writer or talker requires you to make creative similes, such as “he is as big as a mountain.” In groups work on completing the similes below, Be creative as possible.

* + - 1. As cold as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			2. White like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			3. As fun as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			4. Cute as a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			5. Disgusting like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			6. Beautiful like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			7. As rich as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			8. As interesting as\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			9. More boring than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			10. Cooler than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Homework**

1. Divide up the parts of the business plan that you and your partners were working on and type up a one page summary of each part.

# **Politics**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. What type of political system does China have?
2. What different types of governments are there?
3. How long is the term of elected officials in China?
4. Can you name the President of the United States?
5. What are the benefits and drawbacks of being an EU member?
6. Who is the most controversial politician in China?
7. How has your political views changed during your lifetime?
8. How long is the term of elected officials in America?
9. Do you like politics and why?
10. Why is politics important?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Election | Vote | Political System | Dictatorship |
| Governments | Ambassador | Communism | Conspiracy |
| Socialism | Totalitarian | Political Parties | The Man |
| Republican | Democrat | Citizen | Patriotism |
| Representative | President/ Chairman | Controversy | Nationalism |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. What is the difference between Socialism and Communism?
2. Is nationalism a good thing? Why or why not?
3. What conspiracies do you know? Where do conspiracies come from?
4. What’s the difference between a republican and a democrat?
5. What is the job of an ambassador?
6. How many political parties is too many?
7. Why do we call the government “The Man”?
8. What is the role of the government?
9. What is the role of the president/chairman?
10. What’s the difference between patriotism and naitionalism?

**Reading (Listening)**

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World political systems have changed dramatically during the last decade and may change even more in the future. The categories of political systems shown on the map are subject to some interpretation: established multiparty democracies are those in which elections by secret ballot with adult suffrage are and have been long-term features of the political landscape; recently established multiparty democracies are those in which the characteristic features of multiparty democracies have only recently emerged. The former Soviet satellites of Eastern Europe and the republics that formerly constituted the USSR are in this category; so are states in emerging regions that are beginning to throw off the single-party rule that often followed the violent upheavals of the immediate postcolonial governmental transitions. The other categories are more or less obvious.

One-party systems are states where single-party rule is constitutionally guaranteed or where a one-party regime is a fact of political life. Monarchies are countries with heads of state who are members of a royal family; note that a number of countries that have monarchs, such as the U. K. and the Netherlands, do not fall into this category because the monarchs are titular heads of state only. Theocracies are countries in which rule is within the hands of a priestly or clerical class; today, this means primarily fundamentalist Islamic countries such as Iran. Military governments are frequently organized around a junta that has seized control of the government from civil authority; such states are often technically transitional, that is, the military claims that it will return the reins of government to civil authority when order is restored. Finally, disordered states are countries so beset by civil war or widespread ethnic conflict that no organized government can be said to exist within them.

**Group Project**

1. Create your own Government System. A new Island has been found and you are in charge of developing a government for the people. You need to think of the following questions.
	1. Who will be in Charge of the country?
		1. One person/a group of people/the military/the church
	2. How will this position be chosen/
	3. How much power will this person or position have?
	4. How long will they serve for?
	5. Who will work under them?
		1. Who will be in charge of the military/education/finances/health/etc.?
	6. Will you have governors and mayors? If so how will they be selected how much power will they have?
	7. Will you have only one national government or will you also have local governments? If you have local governments how many levels will you have?
		1. For example: city government, county government, state government, regional government?
	8. How will you collect taxes? How much tax will you collect?
	9. What will be your first ten rules after the government has been established?
	10. What problems will your government have?

**Writing**

You have five minute to describe any object that you can think of without using any adjectives other than color. Note that you can use similes. After you finish hand your paper to your teacher. Your teacher will read the writing as students guess the object.

**Homework**

1. Write a summary of the government that you created in your group project. The writing should be at least one page.

# **Crime**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. Are some parts of this city considered more dangerous than others? Which parts?
2. Do you know anyone who has been mugged?
3. Are there any places that you are afraid to visit because of the high crime rate? If so, where?
4. How can you prevent things from being stolen?
5. What is a gang?
6. Do you always lock your house?
7. Have you ever witnessed a crime?
8. What makes some people become criminals? Is it poverty, upbringing, lack of education, unemployment or something else?
9. What weapons do police carry in China?
10. What do you know about the mafia?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dangerous | Gangs | Drugs | Thief/ pick pockets |
| Burglar | Assault | Mug | Victim |
| Suspect | Punishment | Cops | Rehabilitate |
| Legal/illegal | Murder | Vandalism | Arson |
| Graffiti | Witness | Shoplifting | Misdemeanor/felony |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. What’s the difference between a gang and the Mafia?
2. What’s the difference between being mugged and being robbed?
3. What do you think the punishment should be for Arson? Graffiti? Vandalism? Shoplifting?
4. What’s the difference between a misdemeanor and a felony? Give examples of both.

**Reading (Listening)**

TOP TEN STUPID CRIMINAL STORIES

### **1. Lottery Thief Sets Himself on Fire**

**ROME, GA June 2**
A convenience-store thief got away, but the video from the security camera told a strange, strange tale. A man broke into the store overnight, and tried to cover his tracks by burning the place down. He threw charcoal lighter fluid around, but by the time he ignited it, the fumes had permeated the store, and he [set himself on fire](http://www.11alive.com/news/article_news.aspx?storyid=97952). While in flames, he grabbed a roll of lottery tickets and fled. At the time of the story, police were looking for a man with facial, neck, and possibly wrist burns.

### **2. Ten Hours Stuck in Restaurant Vent**

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FL June 8**
An employee of the Lucky Buffet noticed a strange sight on arriving at the restaurant. There were [legs hanging out of a vent](http://www.baynews9.com/content/36/2007/6/8/258626.html) over the grill! 45-year-old Billy Jordan had tried to enter the restaurant the night before by climbing through the ductwork, but became stuck and stayed there for ten hours. Hillsborough County Fire Rescue workers used a rope to pull Jordan back out through the roof, after which he was arrested for burglary.

### **3. Immovable ATM**

**MILWAUKEE, WI July 27**
Three men backed a stolen vehicle through the glass front of a gas station. Their intent was to steal an ATM. But they didn’t realize that [ATMs are bolted to the floor](http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/8777087.html). After some thought, they tied a rope around the machine and attached it to the vehicle, but still could not dislodge it. They left empty-handed. The ATM was still in working order the next day.

### **4. The Famous Duct Tape Bandit**

**ASHLAND, KY August 13**
Police say Kasey Kazee entered Shamrock Liquors and attempted to rob the store. Employees were astonished that he had [disguised his face](http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/9129056.html) by wrapping it in duct tape! The store manager chased him out with a baseball bat and an employee held him in the parking lot until police arrived. Police removed the duct tape after taking pictures, and arrested Kazee, who denied any memory of the incident.

### **5. The Sign of the Crime**

**ADLINGTON, ENGLAND September 6**
Peter Addison and his friend Mark Ridgeway vandalized the Toc H centre, a children’s campsite building. They smashed crockery, set off fire extinguishers, and [drew graffiti on the walls](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/manchester/6981558.stm). Part of the graffiti said “Peter Addison was here.” Police found Addison through a computer database. Both teenagers pled guilty and were ordered to pay for the damage.

*Inspector Gareth Woods, of Cheshire Police, said: “This crime is up there with the dumbest of all in the criminal league table.*

*“There are some pretty stupid criminals around, but to leave your own name at the scene of the crime takes the biscuit.”*

### **6. He Didn’t See the Cop**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR September 7**
21-year-old Langston Robins walked right past [a uniformed police officer](http://blogs.usatoday.com/ondeadline/2007/09/police-say-tape.html) at the Metropolitan Bank and handed a robbery note to the teller. The unarmed would-be robber was arrested after a foot pursuit. Little Rock police spokesman Lt. Terry Hastings said:

*“I just don’t know why he didn’t see a uniformed police officer standing basically right in front of him,” Hastings tells the Associated Press. “My guess is he’s just not the brightest of people.”*

### **7. He Stole a Car to Turn Himself In**

**GENEVA, NY September 13**
29-year-old Vincent Estrada Junior was pulled over because the car he was driving had been stolen from a parking lot. Estrada explained that [he had stolen the car](http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=3599602) in order to drive to the Geneva City Police Department and turn himself in on a family court warrant! He didn’t make his destination, as police took him to the Ontario County Jail instead, where he was held on car theft charges.

### **8. Burglar Falls Asleep Under Victim’s Bed**

**WHITLEY BAY, England September 17**
Usually, the burglar robs the house while the victim is asleep, but in this story, the roles were reversed. 24-year-old Mark Smith sneaked into Heather Stephenson’s home, crept past her while she was ironing, and rifled through her belongings in the bedroom. Then he [fell asleep under her bed](http://www.thisisthenortheast.co.uk/display.var.1693740.0.burglar_fell_asleep_under_victims_bed.php). Mrs. Stephenson couldn’t wake him, and police officers had to drag him out from under the bed. Smith’s vodka and valium consumption were to blame. He received an 18-month sentence for burglary.

### **9. Cash My Million-Dollar Bill!**

**PITTSBURGH, PA November 9**
A man flew into a rage at the Giant Eagle supermarket when employees [refused to cash a million-dollar bill](http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/14300133/detail.html?rss=pit&psp=news). 66-year-old Samuel Porter slammed an electronic machine on the counter and refused to give his name to authorities. He was then taken to the Allegheny County Jail. The largest bill currently in circulation is the $100 dollar bill.

### **10. Carjacking at a Crime Scene**

**RALEIGH, NC December 11**
There had been a stabbing, and police were on the scene talking to a woman who had been a witness to the crime. 38-year-old Anthony William jumped into the woman’s car and drove away! He was arrested the next day, easily identified by the cops who [saw him steal the car](http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=news/local&id=5827536).

1. Which of the above stories do you think has the dumbest criminal? Why?

**Group Project**

1. Plan the Perfect Crime; you should include the following information.
	1. What is the crime?
	2. Why are you going to commit this crime?
	3. Detailed, step-by-step procedure of how you will commit this crime and get away with it.
	4. What will you do after you have committed this crime?

**Writing**

1. Choose a historical figure that you know a lot about. Then choose one of the sentence starters below to write a short paragraph from the historical figures point of view. You have 10 minutes to complete this task.

|  |
| --- |
|  The thing that I regret most about my life is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If I could accomplish one more thing, I would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The accomplishment that I am proudest of is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If I could live anywhere in the world, I would choose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The saddest moment in life was when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. My favorite childhood memory is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The thing that scares me the most is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |

**Homework**

1. Write one-page about a stupid criminal in your country.

# **War**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. Do you want to become a soldier?
2. Would you volunteer to become a soldier?
3. Why do countries need an army?
4. What are some of the jobs that soldiers do?
5. How can countries prevent conflicts when other nations are not trying to bring peace?
6. Do you think women should be soldiers?
7. Do you know anyone who is in the army or who has been?
8. What do you think soldiers away from home miss the most?
9. What do you think is the average age for soldiers in the world?
10. Is war necessary?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Air craft carrier  | Weapons of mass destruction  | cease fire | Self defense  |
| pre-emptive strike  | war zone | Bomber  | tanks  |
| arms race | Collateral damage  | war crimes  | in the line of fire |
| Prisoners of war  | missing in action  | war hero | Boot camp |
| Compulsory | Veteran | Soldiers | Military Service |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. Why do people keep prisoners of war?
2. What do you think of compulsory military duty?
3. If you had to go to war would you rather be a foot soldier, a tank driver, or a pilot? Why?
4. What kind of things do you have to do in boot camp?

**Reading (Listening)**

The Ten Strangest War’s

War is fought over many things. It can be about honor, glory, liberating a land that you believe is rightfully yours – the list goes on, but alongside those there have been a number of decidedly unusual wars, fought for trivial, or even contemptible, reasons. So, without further delay, I bring to you history’s top ten most bizarre wars. These are listed in no particular order.

**10: Lijar vs. France**

In 1883, the citizens of Lijar, a small village in southern Spain were infuriated when they heard reports that, while visiting Paris, the Spanish king, Alfonso XII had been insulted and even attacked in the streets by Parisian mobs. In response, the mayor of Lijar, Don Miguel Garcia Saez, and all 300 citizens of Lijar declared war on France on October 14, 1883. Not a single shot was fired, and not a single casualty sustained on either side during the confrontation, but despite the anticlimactic war, Mayor Saez was declared “The Terror Of The Sierras,” for his exploit.
A full ninety-three years later, in 1976, King Juan-Carlos of Spain made a trip to Paris, during which he was treated with great respect by the citizens of the French capital. In 1981, the town council of Lijar ruled that “in view of the excellent attitude of the French,” they would end hostilities and agree to a ceasefire with France.

War duration: (1883-1981) Ninety-eight years.
Casualties: None.

**9: The War Of The Oaken Bucket**

This war began in 1325, when a rivalry between the independent city states of Modena and Bologna spiraled out of control over the most unlikely of things: a wooden bucket. The trouble started when a band of Modena soldiers raided Bologna and stole a large wooden bucket. The raid was successful, but Bologna, wishing to secure both its bucket and its pride, declared war on Modena. The war raged on for twelve whole years but Bologna never did manage to get its bucket back. To this day the bucket is still stored in Modena’s bell tower.

War duration: (1325-1337) Twelve years.
Casualties: Unknown.

**8: The Paraguayan War**

The President of Paraguay, Francisco Solano Lopez, was a huge admirer of Napoleon Bonaparte. He fancied himself a skilled tactician and excellent commander, but lacked one thing, a war. So to solve this problem, in 1864 he declared war on Paraguay’s three surrounding neighbors, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. The outcome of the war? Paraguay was very nearly annihilated. It is estimated that 90% of its male population died during the war, of disease, starvation and battles with enemy armies. This was perhaps one of the most needless wars in history since Lopez had almost no reason to declare war on his more powerful neighbors.

War Duration: (1864-1870) Six years.
Casualties: 400,000 on both sides.

**7 : The War Of The Stray Dog**

In 1925, Greece and Bulgaria were not friends. They had fought each other during the First World War and those wounds had not yet healed. Tensions were perpetually high along the border, especially along an area called Petrich. Those tensions reached a boiling point on October 22, 1925, when a Greek soldier chased his dog across the Bulgarian border and was shot dead by a Bulgarian sentry. Greece vowed retaliation and, true to its word, it invaded Petrich the very next day. They quickly cleared Bulgarian forces from the area but were halted by the League of Nations, who sanctioned Greece and ordered them to leave Petrich and pay Bulgaria for damages. Greece withdrew its forces ten days later and paid Bulgaria 45,000 pounds.

War duration: (October 23-November 2, 1925) Ten days.
Casualties: Fifty-two dead on both sides.

**6 : The Aroostook War**

The Aroostook War was a military confrontation between the United States and Great Britain over the border of Maine. After the War of 1812, British forces had occupied most of eastern Maine and, despite having no troops in the area, still regarded it as British territory. In the winter of 1838, American woodcutters cut firewood in the disputed area and, as a result, incited the ire of Great Britain, who moved troops into the area. American troops moved over as well, and it looked like a war was imminent. However logistics on each side got snarled and the Americans received enormous amounts of pork and beans due to a mistake in the supplies department. This led to the war’s most popular nickname, “The War Of Pork And Beans.” For nearly a year, British and American troops waited each other out before their respective governments finally reached an agreement. Britain agreed to give America back eastern Maine and, in return, American troops backed down. The Aroostook War was devoid of military combat but there were still hundreds of deaths from disease and accidental injuries.

War duration: (December 1838-November 1839) Eleven months.
Casualties: 550 dead on both sides.

**5 : The Pig War**

Another British/American war, The Pig War was started when a British infantryman shot a pig that was wandering on American soil. The local American militia responded by gathering at the border and waiting for the British to make a move. Eventually the British apologized and the brief war ended, leaving the pig as the only casualty.

War duration: (June-October 1859) Four months.
Casualties: One pig.

**4 : Three Hundred And Thirty-Five Year War**

This war was fought between the Netherlands and the Isle of Scilly, which is located off the southwest coast of Great Britain. The war started in 1651, but like many wars of that era it was not taken seriously and soon forgotten about. Three centuries passed before the two countries finally agreed to a peace treaty in 1986, making their war the longest in human history.

War duration: (1651-1986) Three hundred and thirty-five years.
Casualties: None.

**3 : The Football War**

Some wars begin with a surprise attack, others a massacre, but this one began with a football game between El Salvador and Honduras, in 1969. El Salvador lost the game and tensions rose and rose until, on June 14, the El Salvadoran Army launched an attack on Honduras. Surprised by the sudden violence the Organization of American States organized a cease-fire that was put into effect on June 20, just one hundred hours after the first shots were fired.

War duration: (June 14-20 1969) Four days.
Casualties: 3,000 dead on both sides.

**2 : The Moldovan-Transdniestrian War**

This war began shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the former Soviet bloc country of Moldova experienced a crisis. Two-thirds of the country wanted closer ties with Romania, but the remaining third wanted to remain close with Russia. As a result, war erupted. But what makes this war truly strange is the fact that the men fighting each other during the day often gathered in no man’s land at night to mingle and drink. Soldiers even made pacts not to shoot each other if they saw each other during battle the next day. And this wasn’t a one time thing, it happened nearly every night for the duration of the war. One soldier wrote in his journal: “The war is like a grotesque party, during the day we kill our enemy, during the night we drink with them. What a bizarre thing war is.”

War duration: (March 2-July 21 1992) Four months.
Casualties: 1,300 dead on both sides.

**1: The Emu War**

This is perhaps the only formal war where one of the belligerents was not human, but rather avian. In 1932, the emu population in Australia was growing out of control, with an estimated 20,000 emus running around the Australian desert and causing havoc among crops. In response, the Australian military sent out a task force of soldiers armed with machine guns to kill the emus and even jokingly declared war on them. In mid-November they drove out into the desert and proceeded to hunt down any emus they could find. However, they ran into complications; the emus proved remarkably resilient, even when struck by multiple machine gun bullets they continued to run away, easily outstripping the heavily laden soldiers. The Emu War lasted for nearly a week before Major Meredith, the commander of the emu-killing task-force gave up in disgust after the soldiers only bagged a fraction of the elusive birds.

War duration: (November 11-18 1932) Seven days.
Casualties: 2,500 emus.

**Questions about the reading**

1. Which of the war’s above do you think is the most ridiculous?
2. Which of the war’s above do you think is the most legit?
3. What would make you want to go to war?

**Group Project**

Look at the following wars, briefly discuss all the information that you know about each of the wars. For instance, how did they start? When did they start? How did they end? When did they end? How many people died? How did it change the world?

1. The Trojan War (Troy Vs. Greeks)
2. The Peloponessian War (Athens vs Spartans)
3. The Punic Wars (Rome vs. Carthage)
4. The Crusades (Christians vs. Muslims/Heretics/Jews)
5. The American Revolution (Rebels, French vs. Britian)
6. Napoleonic War (France vs Europe)
7. The American Civil War (Union Vs. Confederation)
8. World War One (Allies Vs Central Powers)
9. World War Two (Allies Vs Axis Powers)
10. The Cold War (USA vs USSR)

**Writing**

Confess a Secret: Create a fictional character that has a secret to tell. Write 3 diary journal entries that talk about the secret, but doesn’t actually say it out right. After you finish hand in your writing to your teacher. He/she will read it for the class, the class should guess what they think the secret is.

**Homework**

1. Research one of the wars above write a brief summary outlining the key points of the war. The paper should be at least one page.

# **Disaster**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. What is a disaster?
2. What are some different kinds of disasters?
3. How can you help after a natural disaster?
4. If you could volunteer to help after a natural disaster, what could you do?
5. Do you think the Internet can be helpful in a disaster? Could the Internet be used for bad purposes in a disaster?
6. Have you ever given money to a charity?
7. What is the difference between a tornado and a hurricane?
8. If you had the power to stop a natural disaster that has happened in the past, which would you choose? Why?
9. What can you do to prepare for a disaster?
10. What would you do if you knew there would soon be a serious natural disaster and this could be your last day on earth?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Volunteer Work | Natural Disaster | Typhoon/Hurricane | Tornado |
| Earthquake | Volcano | Drought | Flood |
| Insurance | Famine | Cope | Prepare |
| Injured | Manmade disaster | Prevention | Damage |
| Armageddon | Chaos | Riots | Charity  |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. What is scarier a Tornado or an Earthquake? Why?
2. What causes riots?
3. How much money do you give to charities?
4. What are a few examples of manmade disasters?

**Reading (Listening)**

# **Top 5 Natural Disasters of the Decade**

[](http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/posted/archive/2009/12/26/a-decade-of-disasters.aspx)

**1. 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami (approx. 230,000 killed)**

On Boxing Day 2004, the worst undersea earthquake in 40 years struck off the coast of Sumatra. The quake, measuring at 9.2 on the Richter scale, was so intense that the head of Italy’s National Geophysics Institute said that even the Earth’s rotation might have been disrupted. “All the planet is vibrating,” he told a TV station.

As the earth’s crust heaved at the earthquake epicenter, a series of tidal waves reaching as high as 30 metres were sent smashing into such nearby countries as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and as far away as South Africa. Thousands of unsuspecting locals and tourists alike were washed away. The United Nations estimates that around 230,000 died in the deadly tide.

Although tourists could be seen back on some of the beaches within days, a lot of the affected areas have yet to recover five years later.

The emotional impact of this disaster was felt even further. In January, then-Prime Minister Paul Martin declared a national day of mourning, while the Ontario government established a toll-free “tsunami emotional support line” to help any upset citizens cope.

**2. 2005 Hurricane Katrina (approx. 1,836 killed)**

Hurricane Katrina was by all accounts a major storm — the costliest and one of the most deadly hurricanes in U.S. history. But what really made it stand out was when it broke the New Orleans levees on August 29 and let the Atlantic Ocean flood the historic city.

Subsequent images of dead New Orleans residents floating in the floodwaters shocked the world like no other disaster of the decade. For several days the world watched as the earth’s richest, most powerful country seemed helpless to rescue its own citizens.

Canwest reporter Sheldon Alberts surveying the shattered city on September 7 said this:

*It is cliché to say “words cannot describe” the tableau of human suffering that has unfolded in New Orleans and across the U.S. Gulf Coast over the past 10 days.*

*But it is true nonetheless. In the rush to explain the scope of the disaster as reporters and government officials tried to process the misery they had seen, there have been many comparisons to 9/11 and the South Asian tsunami.*

**3. 2008 Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar (at least 146,000 killed)**

Cyclone Nargis was a natural disaster made much worse by a disaster of a government.

Days before the Category 4 tropical cyclone struck, a Thailand-based disaster preparedness centre, set up after the 2004 tsunami, warned Myanmar’s leaders exactly what was about to happen. The warnings were ignored.

On May 2, Nargis made landfall, bringing 135 mph winds and a 3.5 metre wall of water. Satellite photos of the region which took the brunt of the storm showed that entire islands had submerged and one town had been almost entirely swept away.

Afterward a concerned world community begged for three weeks before Myanmar’s paranoid military junta finally allowed international aid workers in to help. Meanwhile countless people who survived the storm died of injuries, starvation and disease.

No full Nargis death toll will ever be known as the government quickly gave up trying to count the dead in order to hide the disaster’s true extent.

**4. 2008 Sichuan earthquake (approx. 87,400)**

Tremors from the 7.9 magnitude earthquake that hit China on May 12 were felt in parts of at least 10 other countries. At least 64 major aftershocks, ranging in magnitude from 4.0 to 6.1, were recorded within 72 hours of the original quake.

Worst of all, the quake struck during the day when children were in school. At least 7,000 schools are believed to have collapsed in Sichuan province at the epicenter, killing 5,335 students.

Many schools collapsed instantly while older buildings remained standing, leading citizens to accusations of shoddy and corrupt building practices. In a rare public show of anger in the country, grieving parents who had lost their only child took to the streets, demanding Communist officials pay for what happened. In the end parents were allowed to have a new child and were given money as compensation, if they stopped criticizing the government.

**5. 2005 Kashmir earthquake (approx. 79,000)**

“It is a whole generation that has been lost in the worst affected areas,” a Pakistani army spokesman said a couple days after this 7.6-magnitude earthquake hit on October 8.

Less than two weeks later a UN official called the quake “the most difficult humanitarian crisis ever because the scale is huge, the logistics are so difficult and there’s such a brutal winter coming on.”

Landslides and dangerous terrain made travel over the Himalayan roads of northern Pakistan and Pakistani-controlled Kashmir extremely difficult. Help was slow to come for the victims lying in the debris of their collapsed homes and schools. Perseverance paid off when a 40-year-old woman was dug out alive — two months after the quake.

**Other notable disasters of the decade (with approx. deaths):**

• 2003 Bam earthquake, Iran (30,000)

• 2001 Gujarat earthquake, India, Pakistan (20,000)

• 2006 Bantul earthquake, Indonesia (5,800)

• 2001 Floods and landslides, Brazil (5,100)

• 2007 Cyclone Sidr, Bangladesh, India (4,200)

• 2004 Floods, Haiti, Dominican Republic (3,350)”

**Reading Questions**

1. Which natural disaster do you think was the worst?
2. What makes some natural disasters worse than others?

**Group Project**

1. You and your group have been put in charge of disaster prevention. Think of a plan to prevent destruction or death from one of the below disasters.
	1. Tornado
	2. Earthquake
	3. Hurricane
	4. Drought
	5. Famine

For each prevention plan you need to include the following information

1. Cost
2. How many people do you need to carry out the plan?
3. Material Needed
4. Protocol for when disaster happens.

**Writing**

1. Choose one of the following titles and write about it for 10 minutes.
2. [a] Beauty visits once a year.
[b] Bad news is the best medicine.
[c] Silence makes the heart grow fonder.
[d] Strike while the head wears the crown.
[e] A rolling stone is worth two in a bush.
[f] Uneasy lies the head that gathers moss.
[g] A penny is the mother of invention.

**Homework**

1. Write about a disaster that has happened in your country.

# **Space**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. Do aliens exist?
2. Are space aliens friendly or hostile? How do we know?
3. Do you think we should go to Mars in the future?
4. Do you believe there is water on the moon?
5. Is Pluto a planet?
6. If there is life out there, do you think it would be more or less technologically advanced than we are?
7. What’s on the other side of black holes?
8. Do you want to go to space?
9. Have you seen a spaceship?
10. Do you think the sun will be cause of the end of earth?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Meteor | Satellite | Asteroid | Astronaut  |
| Astronomer | Orbit | Constellation | Galaxy |
| Space | Solar Eclipse | Crater | Universe |
| Black Hole | Supernova | Lunar Eclipse | Star Cluster |
| Dark Matter | Aliens | Lightspeed | Nebulas |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. Write a sentence for each of the following words, then share the sentences with the class to make sure you have used them correctly.
2. Satellite: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Constellation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Universe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Orbit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Light Speed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reading (Listening)**

10. Lightweight

**Fact:** If you put Saturn in water it would float

The density of Saturn is so low that if you were to put it in a giant glass of water it would float. The actual density of Saturn is 0.687 g/cm3 while the density of water is 0.998 g/cm3. At the equator Saturn has a radius of 60,268 ± 4 km – which means you would need an extremely large glass of water to test this out.

9. Constantly Moving

**Fact:** We are moving through space at the rate of 530km a second

Our Galaxy – the Milky Way is spinning at a rate of 225 kilometers per second. In addition, the galaxy is travelling through space at the rate of 305 kilometers per second. This means that we are traveling at a total speed of 530 kilometers (330 miles) per second. That means that in one minute you are about 19 thousand kilometers away from where you were. Scientists do not all agree on the speed with which the Milky Way is travelling – estimates range from 130 – 1,000 km/s. It should be said that Einstein’s theory of relativity, the velocity of any object through space is not meaningful.

8. Farewell old friend!

**Fact:** The moon is drifting away from Earth

Every year the moon moves about 3.8cm further away from the Earth. This is caused by tidal effects. Consequently, the earth is slowing in rotation by about 0.002 seconds per day per century. Scientists do not know how the moon was created, but the generally accepted theory suggests that a large Mars sized object hit the earth causing the Moon to splinter off.

7. Ancient Light

**Fact:** The light hitting the earth right now is 30 thousand years old

The energy in the sunlight we see today started out in the core of the Sun 30,000 years ago – it spent most of this time passing through the dense atoms that make the sun and just 8 minutes to reach us once it had left the Sun! The temperature at the core of the sun is 13,600,000 kelvins. All of the energy produced by fusion in the core must travel through many successive layers to the solar photosphere before it escapes into space as sunlight or kinetic energy of particles.

6. Solar Diet

**Fact:** The Sun loses up to a billion kilograms a second due to solar winds

Solar winds are charged particles that are ejected from the upper surface of the sun due to the high temperature of the corona and the high kinetic energy particles gain through a process that is not well understood at this time. Also, did you know that 1 pinhead of the sun’s energy is enough to kill a person at a distance of 160 kilometers? [Sourced from Planet Science]

5. The Big Dipper is not a constellation

**Fact:** The Big Dipper is not a constellation, it is an [asterism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asterism_%28astronomy%29)

Many people consider the big dipper to be a constellation but, in fact, it is an asterism. An asterism is a pattern of stars in the sky which is not one of the official 88 constellations; they are also composed of stars which are not physically related to each other and can be vast distances apart. An asterism can be composed of stars from one or more constellations – in the case of the Big Dipper, it is composed entirely of the seven brightest stars in the Ursa Major (Great Bear) constellation.

4. George’s Star

**Fact:** Uranus was originally called George’s Star

When Sir William Herschel discovered Uranus in 1781, he was given the honor of naming it. He chose to name it Georgium Sidus (George’s Star) after his new patron, King George III (Mad King George). This is what he said:

In the fabulous ages of ancient times the appellations of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were given to the Planets, as being the names of their principal heroes and divinities. In the present more philosophical era it would hardly be allowable to have recourse to the same method and call it Juno, Pallas, Apollo or Minerva, for a name to our new heavenly body. The first consideration of any particular event, or remarkable incident, seems to be its chronology: if in any future age it should be asked, when this last-found Planet was discovered? It would be a very satisfactory answer to say, ‘In the reign of King George the Third.’

Uranus was also the first planet to be discovered with the use of a telescope.

3. Extra Moons

**Fact:** Earth has at least 4 moons

Okay – that is not actually true – but it is very close. In 1986, Duncan Waldron discovered an asteroid (5km across) that is in an elliptic orbit around the sun with a period of revolution virtually identical to that of Earth. For this reason the planetoid and earth appear to be following each other. The periodic planetoid is named [Cruithne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3753_Cruithne) (pronounced krin-yə) after an ancient group of Scottish people (also known as the Picts). Because of its unusual relationship with Earth, it is sometimes referred to as Earth’s second moon. Cruithne, is fainter than Pluto and would require at least a 12.5 inch reflecting telescope to attempt to be seen. Since its discovery, at least three other similar asteroids have been discovered. These types of objects are also found in similar relationships to other planets in our Solar System. In the image above (courtesy of [Paul Wiegert](http://www.astro.uwo.ca/~wiegert/3753/3753.html)), the earth is the blue circle with a cross in it, and Cruithne’s orbit is shown in yellow.

2. Sunspot Music

**Fact:** Sunspot activity may be the primary reason for the beautiful sound of Stradivarius violins

Antonio Stradivari is considered to be the greatest violin maker ever. He lived in Italy in the 17th and 18th centuries. Scientists have been unable to work out what it is about his violins that makes them so incredible, but they do know that the timber used to make them is a very important contributing factor. From the 1500s to 1800s, the earth underwent a [little ice age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_ice_age) mostly due to increased volcanic activity and decreased solar activity (this is called the [Maunder Minimum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maunder_Minimum)). As a result of this cooling, the types of trees that Stradivari used for his violins were particularly hard (due to slow growth). Hard timber is especially good when making violins. It is very probable that had Stradivari lived in a different age, his violins would not be prized as they are today. This picture above is made of three overlapping photos. It shows the rings in the spruce tree used to make the most famous Stradivarius violin, the “Messiah.” The first row of numbers gives the width of each ring in millimeters (one mm is about the thickness of a fingernail). The bottom row gives the years in which each ring grew.

1. Cold Welding

**Fact:** If two pieces of metal touch in space, they become permanently stuck together

This may sound unbelievable, but it is true. Two pieces of metal without any coating on them will form in to one piece in the vacuum of space. This doesn’t happen on earth because the atmosphere puts a layer of oxidized material between the surfaces. This might seem like it would be a big problem on the space station but as most tools used there have come from earth, they are already coated with material. In fact, the only evidence of this seen so far has been in experiments designed to provoke the reaction. This process is called cold welding.

**Reading Questions**

1. Which of the above facts is the most amazing?
2. Which fact did you already know?
3. Is it useful to know these types of facts? Why or why not?

**Group Project**

1. This project is done individually first. Then in pairs. First each partner should create a fictional character from space you should consider all of the following characteristics and more if you can.
	1. What does he/she/it look like?
	2. What is their personality like?
	3. What is his/her/its family like?
	4. What was their childhood like?
	5. What are his/her/its dreams?
	6. What are his/her/its hobbies or daily routine?
	7. What is his/her/its biggest fear?
2. Then after you have thought of your character take turns asking questions about your partner’s fictional character so that you can try and understand everything about this fictional character.

**Writing**

1. You have five minutes to write a brief introduction to your alien. Then give your teacher the paper so that your classmates can guess who created who?

**Homework**

1. Imagine your fictional alien is going to visit the Earth. Write two pages about your Alien’s adventures here on Earth.

# **The Unexplained**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. Have you or a friend ever gone to a psychic or fortune teller?
2. Do you think that some people can predict the future?
3. Is the belief in UFOs, aliens, physic powers, growing because belief in religion is dying?
4. Has anything ever happened to you that you cannot explain?
5. Do you believe that there are things in our universe that cannot be explained?
6. Do you believe in reincarnation or that you only live once?
7. Do you believe that UFOs exist? Why?
8. Do you think people can move objects without touching them?
9. If you could develop just one special power which one would you choose? Why?
10. Do you believe that ghosts exist? Why?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Psychic | Fortune Teller | UFO’s | Horoscope |
| Universe | Reincarnation | ESP (Extra Sensory Perception) | Possess |
| Ghosts | Vampires | Dragons | Near Death Experience |
| Hypnotize | Déjà vu | Fire Walking | Supernatural |
| Loch Ness Monster | Conspiracy Theory | Big Foot | Ouiji Board |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. Why do people get hypnotized?
2. What happens in reincarnation?
3. Where do horoscopes come from?
4. What is the difference between a fortune teller and a psychic?

**Reading (Listening)**

5

The Mad Gasser of Mattoon

The Mad Gasser of Mattoon was the name given to the person or persons believed to be behind a series of apparent gas attacks that occurred in Botetourt County, Virginia, during the early 1930s, and in Mattoon, Illinois, during the mid-1940s. The first reported gasser incident occurred at the home of Cal Huffman, in Haymakertown, Botetourt County, where there were three reported attacks over the course of a single night.
At about 10:00 pm on December 22, 1933, Mrs. Huffman reported smelling an unusual odor, and was overcome by a feeling of nausea. The odor and the nausea returned again at about 10:30pm, at which time Cal Huffman contacted the police. A third attack occurred around 1:00 a.m., this time affecting the entire house; in total, eight members of the Huffman family were affected by the gas, along with Ashby Henderson, a guest staying at the house.

The next recorded incident occurred in Cloverdale on December 24. Clarence Hall, his wife, and their two children returned from a church service at about 9:00 p.m. They detected a strong, sweet odor and immediately began to feel weak and nauseated. Police investigating the case discovered that a nail had been pulled from a rear window, near where the gas appeared to be the most concentrated, and presumed that the nail hole had been used to inject it into the house. A third incident occurred on December 27, in which Troutville resident A. Kelly and his mother reported similar signs and symptoms to the Huffman and Hall cases. A fourth and fifth incident occurred on January 10, when Mrs. Moore, a guest in home of Haymakertown resident Homer Hylton, reported hearing voices outside before gas was injected into the room through a damaged window. The second attack that night was reported in Troutville, at the home of G. Kinzie.

At least 10 other cases were reported in Botetourt, and 10 years later, over 20 new cases were reported in Mattoon. One witness claimed to have seen the gasser and described “him” as a tall thin woman dressed as a man and footprints belonging to a woman were discovered at some of the scenes.

4

Zana

In the mid-eighteenth century, hunters in the Ochamchir region of Georgia (a Province of Russia on the edge of the Black sea) captured a ‘wild woman’ who had ape-like features, a massive bosom, thick arms, legs, and fingers, and was covered with hair. This ‘wild woman’, named Zana by her captors, was so violent at first that she had to spend many years in a cage with food being tossed to her. Eventually, she was domesticated and would perform simple tasks, like grinding corn. She had an incredible endurance against cold, and couldn’t stand to be in a heated room. She enjoyed gorging herself on grapes from the vine, and also had a weakness for wines, often drinking so heavily she would sleep for hours. As Colin Wilson points out in The Encyclopedia of Unsolved Mysteries, this is likely how she became the mother of many children to different fathers. These children usually died when she tried to wash them in the freezing river. The villagers started to take her children away from her and raise them as their own; unlike their mother, the children developed the ability to communicate as well as any other villager. Zana died in the village about 1890; the youngest of her children died in 1954. Her story was researched by Professor Porchnev who interviewed many old people (one as old as a hundred and five) who remembered Zana, as well as two of her grandchildren. The grandchildren had dark skin, and the grandson, named Shalikula, had jaws so powerful that he could lift a chair with a man sitting in it. It is believed that Zana may have somehow been a surviving member a previous evolutionary state of man.

3

The Devil’s Footprints

The Devil’s Footprints was the name given to a peculiar phenomenon that occurred in Devon, England on 8 February 1855. After a light snowfall, during the night, a series of hoof-like marks appeared in the snow. These footprints, measuring 1.5 to 2.5 inches wide and eight inches apart, continued throughout the countryside for a total of over 100 miles, and, although veering at various points, for the greater part of their course followed straight lines. Houses, rivers, haystacks and other obstacles were travelled straight over, and footprints appeared on the tops of snow-covered roofs and high walls which lay in the footprints’ path, as well as leading up to and exiting various drain pipes of as small as a four inch diameter. Reports of similar anomalous, obstacle-unheeded footprints exist from other parts of the world, although none is of such a scale as that of the case of the Devil’s Footprints.

2

The Death of Mary Reeser

Mary Reeser, born in 1881, was found almost completely consumed by fire in her Florida home in 1951. The odd thing about the discovery of her body was that part of her left foot was left completely unscathed, and the extremely high temperature required to cremate a human body did not cause damage to the room or objects around the pile of ash which remained. The FBI investigators called in Professor Krogman from the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Medicine, in the hopes that he might explain the mystery. He said: “I find it hard to believe that a human body, once ignited, will literally consume itself — burn itself out, as does a candle wick, guttering in the last residual pool of melted wax [...] Just what did happen on the night of July 1, 1951, in St. Petersburg, Florida? We may never know, though this case still haunts me. [...] I cannot conceive of such complete cremation without more burning of the apartment itself. In fact the apartment and everything in it should have been consumed. [...] I regard it as the most amazing thing I have ever seen. As I review it, the short hairs on my neck bristle with vague fear. Were I living in the Middle Ages, I’d mutter something about black magic.” The mystery has never been solved.

1

The Amityville Incident

There won’t be many people reading this list who have not heard of the Amityville horror movie – and the majority will no doubt have watched it. What you may not know is that it is based on true events. The authors of the original book (George and Kathy Lutz) were convinced right up to their deaths that the story was true. In 1975, the couple moved in to a home in Amityville, New York. Unbeknownst to them, 13 months earlier, the son of the previous owners shot and killed all six members of his family – claiming to have been directed by voices in his head. The killer (Ronald DeFeo) is still in prison in New York and will remain there until his death. Most strangely, all six of the victims were found lying face down in their beds with no signs of a struggle or sedatives having been administered.

Within 28 days of moving in to the house, George and Kathy Lutz fled – claiming a series of horrific experiences forced them to leave. The family experienced foul smells, loud voices, physical attacks, and unexplained noises. All members of the family, at one time or another, witnessed glowing red eyes in the house. Kathy discovered a small hidden room that was painted red and the family dog refused to go near it. A priest was called in to bless the house and he also witnessed some of the phenomena which he later testified to on camera. The current owners, and those after the Lutzes claim to have had no unusual experiences in the house. The distinctive Dutch style windows have been remodeled to keep curiosity seekers away.

**Reading Questions**

1. What do you think was the motive behind the gas attacks?
2. Where do you think Zana came from?
3. Do you think the Devil’s prints were real? If not where did they come from?
4. How do you think the woman burned up?
5. Do you think George and Kathy Lutz really experienced the strange things that they claimed or do you think they invented the story?

**Group Project**

1. Make an outline for a ghost story. You should include the following information.
	1. Background Story
	2. Main Characters
	3. Eye-Witnesses
	4. Setting (Place and Time)

**Homework**

1. Write the ghost story that you made an outline for in your group project it should be at least 1 page.

# **News**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. What is the role of newspapers in society?
2. Is the newspaper dying? Why?
3. Do you think that news is censored in some countries?
4. Which kind of news is the best for you? Why?
5. Do you think that the news is necessary? Why or why not?
6. Should the news give an opinion?
7. Do you like to keep up with current events?
8. Do you think that reading a newspaper is a good way to improve your English?
9. If the news reported your week, what would be the headline?
10. What was the most memorable news you ever watched?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Headlines | Eye-Witness | Top Story | Daily Edition |
| Reporter | Live from the scene | Get a lead  | Evening News |
| Interview | Weather Report | In the field | Teleprompter |
| Up Next | Meteorologist | Column | Bipartisan News |
| Front Page | Anchorman | Report | Network |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. What’s the difference between a report and a column?
2. Why is bipartisan news important? What is the opposite of bipartisan news?
3. Why is the anchorman so important?

**Reading (Listening)**

Strange News Stories in 2012

Make a Headline : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-- The Associated Press reported in May that Kentucky prison officials were working behind the scenes to resolve the thorny question of whether inmate Robert Foley deserves a hip replacement. Normally, a prisoner in such extreme pain would qualify. However, Foley, 55, is on death row for killing six people in 1989 and 1991, and since he has exhausted his appeals, he is still alive only because a court has halted all executions while the state reconsiders its lethal-injection procedure. Furthermore, all local hospitals queried by the prison to perform the procedure have declined to take Foley because the prison considers him dangerous. [Associated Press via AzCentral.com (Phoenix), 5-17-2012]

Make a Headline : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-- In April, the Federal Communications Commission announced that it was fining Google for deliberately impeding the agency's investigation into the company's collection of wireless data by its roaming Street View vehicles and that the agency had decided, based on Google's "ability to pay," that it needed to double its staff-proposed fine in order to "deter future misconduct." Hence, it raised Google's fine from $12,000 to $25,000. (As pointed out by ProPublica.org, during the previous quarter year, Google made profits of $2.89 billion, or $25,000 every 68 seconds.) [ProPublica, 4-16-2012]

Make a Headline : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The most recently reported morbidly obese person who required that her home be partially torn apart by firefighters so that she could be lifted out to be taken to a hospital was teenager Georgia Davis in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. Davis, 19, weighs nearly 800 pounds, and 40 people were involved in extricating her in May from her upstairs bedroom, via scaffolding. (Several years ago, Davis enrolled in a weight-loss camp in the U.S. and got down to about 250 pounds, but she quickly gained it back.) [WalesOnline.com, 5-24-2012]

**Reading Questions**

1. Which of the above stories do you think is the weirdest?
2. Have you heard any strange news stories lately?

**Group Project**

1. Look at the following headlines. Divide up into pairs, one person is the eyewitness the other is the reporter. The eyewitness should pretend their either seen the incident or they were close to someone involved in the story. The reporter should ask the eyewitness all the necessary questions so that they can write up a report regarding the story. Then switch places and report on a different story. Keep your notes for the homework.

Fox News mistakes Fey for Palin
Titanic sinks again
Teen throws wild party - by mistake
Kids offered for sale on Kijiji
Pants on the ground means no bus in Texas
Terrorists get a lesson in cupcake making
Man ordered to apologize 100 times on Twitter
Patio umbrella knocks out town's power
Fetus has Facebook profile
Leaping sturgeon breaks woman's leg

**Writing**

Childhood Place

1. Think of an important place or event from your childhood. Write a fictionalized story about a child who goes to this place or this event as a children's book for someone about the same age that you were when you were in the place or involved in the event. Because you're writing a fictionalized record of the place or event, your details don't have to conform to actual truth. You can weave two or three (or more) memories about the place together in one story. You can make up things about the place that you're not sure of or that you wish had occurred. Your story should show how you thought and felt about the place or event as a child. Your reader has never been to the place you are describing, so you will need to use specific, concrete details which make the place vivid and your perspectives clear.

**Homework**

1. Write up the report that you got from your partner in the group project.

# **Dreams and Nightmares**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. Do you dream regularly?
2. Do you remember your dreams?
3. What is your worst nightmare?
4. Could you go back to sleep after a nightmare?
5. What is the difference between our daydreams and our dreams at night?
6. Are some kinds of thoughts and dreams similar?
7. Can our dreams come true?
8. Do you think that dreams can help us solve problems?
9. What cause nightmares?
10. Why do we have dreams?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Deeper Meaning | Being chased | Drowning | Analyze |
| Symbolism  | Vivid dream | Therapist | Sleep Walking |
| Monsters | Lucid dream | Flying | Sleep Talking |
| Good dream | Falling Dream | Freud | Freddy Krueger |
| Bad dream | Loosing Teeth Dream | Interpretation | Sweet Dream |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. What is the difference between a lucid dream and a vivid dream?
2. What do you think falling dreams mean? Chase dreams? Loosing teeth dreams?
3. What do you know of Freud? Do you agree with his ideas? Why or why not?

**Reading (Listening)**

Common Dreams and Their meanings

Car Troubles

In these types of dreams you are usually in or near a car or some other type of vehicle which is out of control or has other problems that seem insurmountable. For example, the brakes may have failed, you may have lost control of the steering, or be heading over a cliff or crashing. You can either be the driver or the passenger. This is a very common type of nightmare and it occurs in all people – not just those who can drive. This dream usually means that you are feeling powerless over something in your life – or that you are heading for a crash (metaphorically speaking).

Faulty Machinery

In the faulty machinery dream you are trying to operate mechanical equipment which either fails to work, or fails to work in the way that you expect it to. The vast majority of these dreams involve a telephone – either trouble dialing, losing a connection, or dialing a wrong number. It can involve a lost Internet connection, or something manual like a jammed or broken machine. This dream often means that you feel you are losing touch with reality, or that a part of your body or mind is not functioning as it should. It can also occur when you are feeling anxious about making a connection with another person in real life.

Lost or Trapped

Dreaming about being lost is very common and will usually occur when you are having conflict in deciding how to react in a situation in real life. In the dream you are trying to find your way out of an area – such as a forest, city streets, a large building, or other maze-like structure. Another way this dream plays out involves you being trapped, buried alive, caught in a web, or unable to move for some other reason. This is often accompanied by a feeling of terror. This dream usually means that you are trapped in real life – unable to make the right choice.

Missed a Boat or Plane

In this type of dream you are rushing to catch a bus, train, plane, or other type of public transport – but you miss it – usually by a fraction of a second. Rather than feeling fear in this dream, you usually feel frustration. This dream can also occur in a different form, in which you arrive late for an important performance or sporting event that you are supposed to participate in, only to find that the event has already begun. This dream usually means that you feel that you have missed out on an important opportunity in your real life. It will often occur when you are struggling over an important decision.

Failing a Test

This dream usually manifests itself in people who have been out of school for a long time. In the dream you are prevented from passing a test in a variety of different possible scenarios. In one scenario you find that you are unable to make it to the test on time, often through being unable to find the test room. In other versions you are unprepared (either through lack of study) or you are missing equipment. This dream usually means that you are feeling tested in some way in your real life. You may feel that you are unprepared for something or playing the wrong part in life.

Ill or Dying

In this dream, you (or a loved one) are ill, injured, or dying. It is a moderately common dream and, not surprisingly, occurs often at the onset of an illness. Aside from becoming ill, this dream can mean that you are emotionally hurt or are afraid of becoming hurt. The dream may also be warning you of an upcoming physical risk to yourself or a loved one. When it is someone else in the dream that dies, it can mean that you feel that part of yourself (that you see represented by that person) is dead. It may also mean that you wish the person would go away, or that you fear losing them.

Being Chased

Dreaming of being chased can be a truly horrifying experience. Most often the chaser is a monster or some person that is frightening, and occasionally it may be an animal. You may be surprised to know that this is the most commonly experienced nightmare theme. The meaning of these dreams is that someone, something (possibly something as obscure as an emotion) is making you feel threatened. One way to determine the root of the threat is to ask yourself who or what in your real life most closely resembles the “creature” or circumstance in your dream. It is also worth noting that sometimes this dream is a replay of an actual event in your life.

Bad or Missing Teeth

Teeth dreams are fairly common and they usually involve the discovery of extremely decayed or missing teeth in your own mouth. Sometimes you will dream that you open your mouth and your teeth begin to fall out. The fact that the majority of people today have reasonable teeth (perhaps with the [exception of the British](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZCzKko03W4&feature=related)), it is not surprising that we feel so emotionally disturbed by these dreams. So, what does it mean when we dream about missing teeth? At the most basic level it means that we are afraid of being found unattractive. At a deeper level, it can signify a fear of embarrassment or a loss of power in real life.

Dream Nudity

In this type of dream you are in a state of undress, partial undress, or inappropriate dress (for example wearing pajamas to work). Occasionally you are the witness of another person who is naked while you are clothed. This is often accompanied by feelings of embarrassment and shame, but occasionally with the feeling of pride or freedom. The meaning of this dream is that you are feeling exposed, awkward, or vulnerable, or you are afraid that you have revealed too much of yourself (such as a secret or a very personal feeling) in a real life situation. An interesting fact about this type of dream is that it occurs much more frequently in people who are involved in a wedding ceremony in their real life.

Falling or Sinking

We have all had falling dreams – it is such a common dream, in fact, that myths have arisen over them; the most common myth is, of course, that you will die if you hit the ground in the dream. I can assure you, having hit the ground in more than one falling dream, that this is not true at all. In the falling dream we are usually falling through the air and frightened. Occasionally we may be sinking in water (and in danger of drowning). Typically a person having this dream is feeling insecure or lacking in support in their waking life. These dreams often occur when you are overwhelmed in life and feel ready to give up. If you have this dream you should evaluate your current situation and try to locate the problem that is overwhelming you. Deal with it and this dream should go away.

**Reading Questions**

1. Have you ever had one of the above dreams? What was happening in your life when you had this dream?
2. Do you especially agree with any of the interpretations above? Why?
3. Do you disagree with any of the interpretations above? Why?

**Group Project**

1. Break up into groups of three. One person from the group chooses to describe a fictional dream. The dream should be at least 2 minutes long. The other two students will be psychologist. Give your interpretation of the dream and your advice of that the patient should do. Afterwards switch roles and do it again.

**Writing**

You have 10 minutes to create a story using words of one-syllable only, beginning with a phrase such as:

“The last time I saw her, she…”

“From the back of the truck…”

“On the night of the full moon…”

“The one thing I know for sure…”

**Homework**

Write one page describing a dream you had once, include your interpretation of the dream.

# **Story Telling**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. Is story telling just for kids？Why?
2. Why tell stories?
3. How do you define storytelling?
4. Where do you find stories to tell?
5. What are the basics of how to tell a story?
6. How do you learn a story?
7. How do you keep track of all the stories you learn?
8. What makes a good storyteller?
9. What is storytelling?
10. Where can you learn more about storytelling?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Plot  | Scene | Characters | Setting |
| Antagonist | Protagonist | Climax | Rising Action |
| Conflict | Falling Action | Narrative | Action/Adventure |
| Romance | Comedy | Thought Provoking | Ambiguous Ending |
| Script | Author | Foreshadow | Irony |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. Put the following words in order of how they usually happen in a story: plot, setting, conflict, falling action, rising action.
2. Why does an author use foreshadowing?
3. What are the different types of narrative?
4. Give an example of a thought provoking ending?

**Reading (Listening)**

The Original Fairy Tales

Little Red Riding Hood

The version of this tale that most of us are familiar with ends with Riding Hood being saved by the woodsman who kills the wicked wolf. But in fact, the original French version (by Charles Perrault) of the tale was not quite so nice. In this version, the little girl is a well bred young lady who is given false instructions by the wolf when she asks the way to her grandmothers. Foolishly riding hood takes the advice of the wolf and ends up being eaten. And here the story ends. There is no woodsman – no grandmother – just a fat wolf and a dead Red Riding Hood. The moral to this story is to not take advice from strangers.

Snow White

In the tale of snow white that we are all familiar with, the Queen asks a huntsman to kill her and bring her heart back as proof. Instead, the huntsman can’t bring himself to do it and returns with the heart of a boar. Now, fortunately disney hasn’t done too much damage to this tale, but they did leave out one important original element: in the original tale, the Queen actually asks for Snow White’s liver and lungs – which are to be served for dinner that night! Also in the original, Snow White wakes up when she is jostled by the prince’s horse as he carries her back to his castle – not from a magical kiss. What the prince wanted to do with a dead girl’s body I will leave to your imagination. Oh – in the Grimm version, the tale ends with the Queen being forced to dance to death in red hot iron shoes!

Rumpelstiltskin

This fair tale is a little different from the others because rather than sanitizing the original, it was modified by the original author to make it more gruesome. In the original tale, Rumpelstiltskin spins straw into gold for a young girl who faces death unless she is able to perform the feat. In return, he asks for her first born child. She agrees – but when the day comes to hand over the kid, she can’t do it. Rumpelstiltskin tells her that he will let her off the bargain if she can guess his name. She overhears him singing his name by a fire and so she guesses it correctly. Rumpelstiltskin, furious, runs away, never to be seen again. But in the updated version, things are a little messier. Rumpelstiltskin is so angry that he drives his right foot deep into the ground. He then grabs his left leg and rips himself in half. Needless to say this kills him.

Hansel and Gretel

In the widely known version of Hansel and Gretel, we hear of two little children who become lost in the forest, eventually finding their way to a gingerbread house which belongs to a wicked witch. The children end up enslaved for a time as the witch prepares them for eating. They figure their way out and throw the witch in a fire and escape. In an earlier French version of this tale (called The Lost Children), instead of a witch we have a devil. Now the wicked old devil is tricked by the children (in much the same way as Hansel and Gretel) but he works it out and puts together a sawhorse to put one of the children on to bleed (that isn’t an error – he really does). The children pretend not to know how to get on the sawhorse so the devil’s wife demonstrates. While she is lying down the kids slash her throat and escape.

**Reading Questions**

1. What was each of the original stories above? How did they change?
2. Can you think of any other stories that have changed like the ones above?
3. Why do you think these stories were changed?

**Group Project**

Choose one “letter” from each element then in groups of three use English to discuss an outline for a story using one element from each of the following sections.

1. Character
	1. A new mother
	2. A photographer
	3. A 93-year-old woman
	4. A jazz musician
	5. A Drunk
	6. An alien from outer space
2. Setting
	1. New a National Forest
	2. A wedding celebration
	3. A city park
	4. A polluted stream
	5. A college library
	6. The porch of an old farmhouse
3. Time
	1. During a forest fire
	2. After a big thunderstorm
	3. Late at night
	4. In early spring
	5. After a fight
	6. The night of high school graduation
4. Situation/Challenge
	1. An important decision needs to be made
	2. A secret needs to be confessed
	3. A death has occurred
	4. Someone has accused someone else of doing something wrong
	5. Something embarrassing has just happened
	6. Someone has found or lost something

Your outline (all members of group should keep notes) should include the following aspects:

1. Setting (place and time)
2. Background
3. Conflict
4. Rising Action
5. Climax
6. Falling Action

**Homework**

1. Divide the group project into equal parts and write the story as homework.

# **American History**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. How much do you know about American history?
2. Do you learn about American history in school?
3. When did Europeans first come to the Americas?
4. Who lived there before the Europeans came?
5. What has happened to the native people in the Americas?
6. Who do you think was the best president in U.S. history? Why?
7. Who do you think was the worst president in American history? Why?
8. What is China’s relationship with the United States in the past?
9. When did Chinese people go to China?
10. What happen during the American Revolution?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Enlightenment | Rock N Roll | The New Deal | Louisiana Purchase |
| Boston Tea Party | The Great Depression | Space Race | Custard’s Last Stand |
| American Revolution | Panama Canal | Bay of Pigs | The Alamo |
| War of 1812 | Gold Rush | Pearl Harbor | Gulf War Crisis |
| Civil War | Emancipation Proclamation | Industrial Revolution | Vietnam War |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. This event left the south in destruction for many years later. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. This event happened in the middle of the Cold War. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. This event helped settle the western part of the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. This event sparked many protests due to the brutality of war. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. This event almost doubled the size of the U.S. overnight.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reading (Listening)**

From the Past to the Present:

1) The American Revolution

Everything about America today started right here. You could point to any number of other events, such as Columbus' discovery of the New World, or the Mayflower, but America was going to be discovered sooner or later. However, it was the Revolution that actually created the United States.

2) The Lewis and Clark Expedition

These guys were the first to 'go where no man has gone before'. Their daring exploration of discovery was a monumental gamble. The fact that they returned alive was a miracle in itself. The information they brought back with them was the first step in settling the West.

3) The Western Migration and the California Gold Rush

I put these events together, because in many ways they are related. The offer of free land for settlers and the possibility of riches lying on the ground touched off one of the largest human migrations in history. Along the way, an entire race was subjugated and nearly wiped out by disease and outright murder. Cities, towns, states, and a new breed of Americans were created where only wilderness had existed previously. By the time it was over in the 1890's, America had become a nation with two coasts, Indian guilt, and a colorful history.

4) The Civil War

The War Between the States split America in two. The bitterness and divisions caused by the war still plague America today. Although slavery was ended by the war, racism became stronger afterward. A hundred and fifty years later, the effects of the war still echo throughout the country. The South was economically destroyed by the war, and many states have not completely recovered. America lost its arguably best President and hundreds of thousands of its citizens. It could take another century before all the wounds are healed.

5) The Inventors

The Industrial Revolution was already shaping the future of the country in the late 19th century, but it needed leaders to guide it into the 20th. American inventors such as Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, Samuel Morse, and Alexander Graham Bell helped create a new revolution - and a new America. Their work can be linked to everything that has happened in technology since.

6) Pearl Harbor

World War II was already in full swing on December 7, 1941. America would have entered the war eventually, but the nation would not have been galvanized to action to the degree it was without Pearl Harbor. Without Pearl, it is doubtful the United States would have committed so many resources to the development of the atomic bomb. But when we did, it changed our nation and the world forever.

7) Vietnam

The Vietnam War was a decade-long check-in at the Reality Hotel for America. Until Vietnam, it was assumed the United States could shape foreign policy in any way it wished, and in any place it wanted. The war changed our outlook on the world and made Americans realize there WAS a global community - and that we would have to make policy decisions within that framework.

8) The Moon Landing

When Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin took their step for man and mankind, America began expanding beyond the planet. Although there have been a few missteps along the way, space has become a regular part of American life that continues today - and a major employer.

9) The Dawn of the Information Age

Bill Gates and company, the Internet, and the invention of modern computers changed not only America, but the world. As Andy Warhol predicted, everyone would become famous for fifteen minutes - and many did, because of the Internet. However, the Information Age also ushered in freedom and fear together. Freedom to communicate around the planet, and fear about the results of technology. The future, and where all of this will eventually lead, is still in doubt.

10) 9-11

September 11, 2001 brought the latest shift in consciousness and Americans' outlook on the world. The results were an unpopular war and polarized divisions within the citizenry. The collapse of the World Trade Center also brought home the uncomfortable realization that some people out there really hate America, and continue to do so. It was a wake-up call and a loss of innocence. For the first time, talk of freedom and the Bill of Rights faded a bit as the government responded to terror threats with non-Constitutional laws. Like the Information Age, the eventual results remain to be seen.

**Reading Questions**

1. These events are listed in order of time, which do you think was the most influential? Why?
2. Which do you think is the least influential? Why?
3. How do you think each of the following events above changed America?

**Group Project**

1. In groups of 2 or 3 pick one of the events above. Imagine that this event didn’t happen. How would our world be different?

**Writing**

You have 5 minutes to write about your day today, but from the point of view of either your shoes or from your hair.

**Homework**

1. Write one page about the discussion that you had with your group during the group project section.

# **Chinese History**

**Pre-Discussion Questions**

1. When and why did the practice of foot binding begin?
2. What are three good things about the Silk Road?
3. In your opinion, who was the best leader of China? Who was the worst?
4. Who was the last empire of China?
5. What happened during the Three Kingdom period?
6. Do you think Empress Ci xi caused the fall of Qing Dynasty?
7. What were the negative and positive effects of imperialism on China?
8. Why did China get involved in the Korean War?
9. What did the first Han emperor discard?
10. What did the Tang Dynasty invent?

**Vocabulary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Gunpowder | Journey to the West | Chinese Poetry | Spice Trade |
| Paper | Dream of Red Mansions | Water Color Painting | Silk Road |
| Printing | The Water Margin | Opium Wars | Emperor |
| Compass | Calligraphy | Three Kingdoms | Open Door Policy |

**Vocabulary Check Activity**

1. What is Journey to the West about? Dream of Red Mansions? The Water Margin?
2. How did the Silk Road change China?
3. What things did the Chinese invent?
4. Why is the “Three Kingdoms” period so popular?

**Reading (Listening)**

|  |
| --- |
| The 20 events are as follows: |
|  |
| 1. The Eight-Power Allied Forces (aggressive troops sent by Britain, the United States, Germany, France, Tsarist Russia, Japan, Italy and Austria in 1900, to suppress the anti-imperialist Yihetuan Movement) invaded China and forced the Qing court to sign the International Protocol of 1901 in the ninth lunar month of 1901 with 11 countries, which turned China into a semi-colonial and semi-feudalist society.
2. The Revolution of 1911, the Chinese bourgeois democratic revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, led to the founding of the Republic of China on January 1, 1912, and the fall of the Qing Dynasty on February 12, 1912, ending the 2,000-year-old feudalist society in China.
3. The May 4th Patriotic Movement in 1919, a great anti- imperialist, anti-feudal revolutionary movement, marked the beginning of the new democratic revolution in China.
4. The founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on July 1, 1921, opened a new chapter in the Chinese revolution.
5. The Northern Expeditionary War in 1926 dealt a heavy blow to the reactionary rule of the Northern Warlords and the imperialist powers in China.
6. The Nanchang Uprising, which occurred on August 1, 1927, marked the beginning of the CPC-led armed revolution against the Kuomintang regime.
7. The CPC Central Committee Political Bureau held an enlarged meeting in Zunyi, southwestern Guizhou Province, from January 15-17, 1935. The meeting elected Mao Zedong a member of the Political Bureau Standing Committee and established Mao's leading position in both the Red Army and the Party Central Committee. The meeting saved the Party, the Red Army and the Chinese Revolution at a critical juncture.
8. The War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-45) was the first time that China won a complete victory in the fight against foreign invasion in its modern history.
9. The CPC held its Seventh National Congress in 1945, which made Mao Zedong Thought the guiding theory for the Party.
10. The War of Liberation (1945-49) ended the Kuomintang reactionary rule and the People's Republic of China (PRC) was founded on October 1, 1949.
11. The War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea (1950-53).
12. In 1952, the CPC put forward the general line for the country's transition to socialism and by 1956, China accomplished the socialist transformation.
13. China exploded its first A-bomb, on October 16, 1964, and its first H-bomb, on June 17, 1967, and launched its first satellite on April 24, 1970. These represent an important achievement in New China's construction.
14. The legitimate seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations was restored in 1971.
15. The downfall of the "Gang of Four" and the end of the " Cultural Revolution" in 1976 marked a new development stage for China.
16. The National Conference on Science and Technology was convened on March 18, 1978, at which Deng Xiaoping highlighted the important role of science and technology as a productive force.
17. The convening of the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh CPC Central Committee in late 1978 marked the beginning of China's ongoing reform and opening.
18. Deng Xiaoping's inspection tour of south China in early 1992 and the 14th CPC National Congress marked the start of a new stage of China's reform, opening and modernization drive.
19. The return to the motherland of Hong Kong and Macao, in 1997 and 1999, respectively, put an end to the history of humiliation for China in its modern history and represented a big step forward toward the country's complete reunification.
20. The CPC held its 15th National Congress in September 1997, at which Deng Xiaoping Theory was made the Party's guiding ideology.
 |

**Reading Questions**

1. What other events do you think were important in shaping China?
2. Which of the events above do you think was the most important in the last century? Least important?

**Group Project**

1. In groups of 2 or 3 make your own top ten lists. From the beginning of China until present day, what were the ten most important events in shaping modern day China? For each event give a short summary and then explain how it changed China.

**Homework**

1. Choose one of the events that you discussed in your group project. Write one page outlining what the event was and how it changed China.