

A Teaching House April Fool's Day! – Teacher's notes

Lesson Aims:	Level:
Learners will develop listening skills and learn about April Fool's Day. Learners will also develop their speaking skills	Suitable for Intermediate/Upper Intermediate and Advanced students.
Video materials: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dfWzp7rYR4 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzhDsojoqk8	
Images: http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Observer/Pix/pictures/2009/1/20/1232477929290/Arctic-ice-cave-001.jpg http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Travel/Pix/pictures/2009/11/27/1259333305591/Adult-polar-bear-Arctic-N-001.jpg http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/01367/antarctic-penguin_1367800i.jpg http://www.gdargaud.net/Antarctica/Life/WeddellSeal.jpg http://images.nationalgeographic.com/wpf/media-live/photos/000/005/cache/killer-whale_591_990x742.jpg	
Other: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools'_Day	
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1) Lead In

Give the students the work sheet with the animals. In pairs students brainstorm as many facts as they can about them

Suggested answers:

- Polar bears mostly eat seals
- Polar bears are the world's largest predator
- The largest of all seals is the Elephant Seal.
- Seals only spend about 20% of their time on land.
- Many whales are toothless.
- There are 79 to 84 different species of whale
- Penguins are a type of bird
- Penguins can't fly

2) Prediction task. Tell the students they are going to watch a short video about a newly discovered colony of penguins with an unusual ability. In pairs, the students write down a prediction as to what the ability may be.

Sts then watch the video clip and check their predictions.

Get some feedback from the students. What do they feel about this new discovery? Have they heard about this?

3) Detailed Listening task. Sts listen/watch the clip again and answer the following questions:

- a) How many species of penguins can fly? One
- b) Why do penguins usually huddle together in winter? To keep warm
- c) Where do the penguins fly to? (The rainforests of) South America
- d) What do they do there? Bask in the sun

4) Post-teach vocabulary. Students match the words to their definitions based on the context of the listening

I. Colony of penguins (e)	a) To sit in the sun
II. Little fellas (b)	b) (slang) small people/animals
III. Rainforest (f)	c) To group together, usually to keep warm
IV. Huddle together (c)	d) Something amazing that someone/something can do
V. Incredible ability (d)	e) A group/family of penguins
VI. Basking in the tropical sun (a)	f) A tropical forest

5) Discussion: In groups get the students to discuss the following questions:

Are you surprised by this new discovery?

What do you think the impacts of the discovery will be?

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Have you ever heard of any other unusual animal discoveries in your lifetime?

After the students have discussed these, get some feedback from them based on their opinions.

6) Pretend like you are moving on to a new topic. You need to try to keep up the appearance that the flying penguins exist until the very end of the lesson.

Ask the students what date it is (if April 1st) or what day it was the day before/after etc (whenever April 1st was/will be).

Ask them if they know that April 1st is a very special day and if they know why?

Tell them it is April Fool's Day and if they know what it means? Get them to unfold their handout and read what it means.

7) Ask the students to get into groups (would work best with mixed nationalities in each group) and discuss the following questions:

Does April Fool's Day exist in their country?

If so, are the dates the same?

What do people usually do on this day?

What is the best prank/joke that they have heard about on that day?

Get some feedback from the different groups about what they have discussed. Let the students decide which sounds most interesting.

8) In groups, students discuss a prank/joke they could do on a friend. They need to decide on the following information:

Who they will play the trick on and why?

What they will need to do in order for the trick to be successful?

The plan for carrying out the trick.

Students then present the ideas to the class and the class votes on the best/funniest practical joke.

9) Tell the students they are going to watch something about April Fool's Day pranks. Tell students to watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzhDsojoqk8> and decide what they think about the prank. It should take the students only a few minutes to realize that the penguins clip was a fake.

No feedback required, you can just laugh with them and send them on their way.



Brainstorm information about these animals:

- 1) You are going to watch a short video about a colony of penguins with an unusual ability. Write down what you think it may be.

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- 2) Watch the clip again and answer the following questions:
- How many species of penguins can fly?
 - Why do penguins usually huddle together in winter?
 - Where do the penguins fly to?
 - What do they do there?

- 3) Match the words and phrases below to their meaning:

VII. Colony of penguins	g) To sit in the sun
VIII. Little fellas	h) (slang) small people/animals
IX. Rainforest	i) To group together, usually to keep warm
X. Huddle together	j) Something amazing that someone/something can do
XI. Incredible ability	k) A group/family of penguins
XII. Basking in the tropical sun	l) A tropical forest

- 4) In groups discuss the following questions

- Are you surprised by this new discovery?
- What do you think the impacts of the discovery will be?
- Have you ever heard of any other unusual animal discoveries in your lifetime?

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April Fool's Day is celebrated on April 1 every year. April 1 is not a national holiday, but is widely recognized and celebrated in various countries as a day when people play practical jokes and hoaxes on each other called *April fools*.

- 5) In your groups discuss the following questions:

- Does April Fool's Day exist in your country?
- If so, are the dates the same?
- What do people usually do on this day?
- What is the best prank/joke that you have heard about on that day?