

‘ELT for a Global World’



FSA
2015

Global Issues through ELT

A seminar course for MA in ELT
students

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Financed from the support ELTE won from the ‘Restructuring Higher Education’ Fund of the Hungarian Government

Session 7: Introducing 'Special Days'

Session Overview:

- In this session we will explore the potential of building classroom activities and student projects around special, awareness-raising days.
- We will also look at ways of introducing 'awareness-raising moments', activities, projects in fun and creative ways.

The 8th Day

Individual reflection

Imagine that a week contains eight days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday ... and WakeUpDay.

The weekdays are for study and work, the weekend for family and rest, and the 8th Day is for Waking up to what's happening in the world around us.

The 8th Day

Groupwork

In groups of 3-4 think of what people could do on the 8th Day. What are some activities that would help us to 'wake up' and see our lives in a wider perspective?

What would help us to see that our world is interconnected? To realise that what we buy, eat, throw away etc. all have an impact on the world.

The 8th Day: what could we do?

Plenary follow-up

Compare the ideas you came up with in group, to what another group of MA students came up with:

- Space travel: seeing Planet Earth from outer space
- Watching the news and discussing with friends how it relates to our lives
- Meditation and other forms of spiritual practice
- Visiting an 'Empathy Museum'
- Doing voluntary community service

Video Clip: pre-viewing task

My image of 'home'

1. I'd like you to form a mental image, to see 'your home' with your mind's eye. Get hold of the first picture that appears for you. Closing your eyes might help in moving to 'inner vision' mode.
2. When you're ready, open your eyes, describe your home image to the person sitting next to you, and listen to their description.

Pale blue dot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p86BPM1GV8M>



Group Memory

- Drawing on the memory of the whole group, recall all the inhabitants of planet Earth that were mentioned in the clip. One of you should act as a scribe putting the words up on the board as a mind-map.

Group Memory Check

Here are some of the inhabitants mentioned. Are there any you missed out?

corrupt politician, teacher of morals, hero and coward, hopeful child, creator and destroyer of civilization, every young couple in love, inventor and explorer, superstar, supreme leader, saint and sinner

Focus on key lexis 2

What does each lexical item mean? Can you paraphrase or come up with a synonym?

vantage point, vast, privileged position, delusion, obscure, to harbour life, humble, humbling experience, character-building experience

We will now watch the first part of the clip again. As you watch, listen for the above words and make a note of the context in which they come up.

Video Clip: after viewing 1

Follow-up discussion

The clip changes our normal perspective on planet Earth. By making outer space our vantage point, it allows us to look at our planetary home from the outside, to see it with the eyes of a space traveller.

Can you recall an experience that enabled you to see something familiar with fresh eyes? E.g. family, home, hometown, country, best friend? What made your perspective change?

Video clip: after viewing 2

Books & Films

Think of a book you've read or a film you've seen that the clip makes you think of.

What was the title and when did you read it/see it? In your view, what was the message?

Please formulate your ideas in one paragraph.

Then in small groups read out your paragraph and listen to what others have written.

Homework for our next session

In the next session we will focus on some specific awareness-raising days and how people tend to 'celebrate' or mark them.

For example, Earth Day falls on 22 April. Do some internet research and find out what people do on that day to raise awareness of *climate change*, *deforestation*, *species extinction* and the other pressing concerns facing our planet.