Global Issues through ELT
A seminar course for MA in ELT students

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Session 8: Calendar of Special Days

Session Overview:
• In this session we will become familiar with a number of different awareness-raising days
• We will also get to know various resources to use in our classrooms for building tasks and projects around these days
Earth Day: some background

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 activated 20 million Americans and is credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The *Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act* and many other groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed.

More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year in over 100 countries, making it the largest civic observance in the world.
Earth Day: ELT projects

Groupwork

In small groups of 3-4 share the ideas you collected in preparation for today’s class.

• How do people celebrate Earth Day?
• What was the most interesting idea?
• How could secondary students in Hungary celebrate Earth Day?
• How can teachers of English integrate language learning and awareness raising?
Why awareness-raising days?

It is difficult to maintain a global perspective on what’s happening in the world. In our busy, fast-paced lives, it’s easy to lose sight of the big picture.

Awareness-raising days can help us to see the big picture with regard to an important issue. They are a good opportunity to take stock, see how our world is changing and to reflect on what we can do to help create a better world.
From Black Friday to BND

Black Friday is the Friday following Thanksgiving Day in the United States: the fourth Thursday of November. It is often regarded as the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. It is one of the busiest shopping days of the year when discounts and special deals are offered.

As a response to Black Friday, an artist called Ted Dave invented BND. What do you think the letters might stand for?

B___ N_______ D___
‘BUY NOTHING DAY’: before you watch

We will watch a short clip introducing Buy Nothing Day. In the clip CNN interviews co-founder and editor-in-chief of Adbusters, Kalle Lasn. The interview offers an alternative perspective on our consumerist society.

One of the key words of the interview will be the word: CONSEQUENCE

Before you watch, list all the words you can think of which collocate with ‘consequence’. E.g. political -, immediate -, short-term -, long-term -, psychological -, ecological -, unintended -, far-reaching -.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oPfVmkFgko
After Viewing Questions

1. What is the message of the clip?
2. This interview took place in 2006. How can you tell?
3. What has changed since then?
4. Do you think the message is still relevant today?
5. In your view, how can we consume more responsibly?
Awareness-raising Day Project

Below is a list of some more awareness-raising days. Chose one and do some research on it for next time. Come up with some ideas for working with it in a secondary school context.

World Water Day       World Teachers Day
Human Rights Day       Safer Internet Day
World Population Day   World Health Day
World Dream Day        International Volunteer Day
The course so far: taking stock

**Individual reflection – Plenary discussion**

- What have been the key themes raised by the course so far?
- What makes ‘English’ different from the other school subjects?
- What are the main educational roles of a teacher?
- What are some ways of bringing global issues into the ELT classroom?
The course so far: taking stock

Here are some key terms/concepts/resources we’ve been looking at:

‘outrospection’    empathy    compassion

circle of compassion

‘educational moments’    critical thinking

creative thinking

The 8th Day    social responsibility

awareness-raising    news-in-levels
Task for next time

• Prepare a plan for a 45-minute lesson for a group of 15-16 year old secondary school students.

• Your plan should relate to an awareness raising day.

• Keep it short and simple, do not include more than 4-6 steps.

• Be ready to present your plans in groups.