

ACTIVITY 1: Authentic tasks

Choose one of the tasks presented here and in your group, decide:

1. Is it authentic to your learners?
2. Would you choose not to teach it or to adapt it? How would you adapt it?

Option 1



2 Work in pairs to put the events in order from the first (1) to the most recent (7).

What happened first?

- construction of the Pyramid of Giza in Egypt
- invention of the microscope and the telescope
- discovery of electricity's applications
- founding of the United Nations to preserve peace after the Second World War
- start of regular trade between Europe and the Americas
- first exploration of space
- development and spread of agriculture

Option 2

Which event do you think is the most significant? Why?

1 Scientists discovered a huge hole in the ozone layer above Australia.

2 J. K. Rowling published *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*. At the time it was the fastest-selling book ever.

3 Ridley Scott's historical drama *Gladiator* was released. The movie won five Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Actor for Russell Crowe.

2000 THE NEW MILLENNIUM

4 The Summer Olympic Games were held in Sydney, Australia. Taekwondo was added to the list of Olympic sports, and women competed in weightlifting for the first time.

5 Sony launched Playstation 2, which went on to become the bestselling video game console of all time.

6 The Annual Latin Grammy Awards were held for the first time for performances in Spanish and Portuguese.

Option 3

7 Predict your future and whether money will affect your life. Write a paragraph, using these or your own ideas.

buy a house earn money explore the world get a degree get a job have children
pay for my college education retire take care of my parents

By the age of ... , I'll have been ...

When I'm ... , I'll have ...

I won't have ... by the time I ... , because ...

Option 4

4 You are going to create your own time capsule. Work in groups.

- 1 Select five or six things to include in your time capsule. What do the things represent? What do they say about your life, everyday life, and/or society in general?
- 2 Be practical. Will the objects survive for a long time? If you're including technology, will people in the future be able to use it and access information?
- 3 Decide when your time capsule is going to be opened and imagine the impact the objects might have. Do you think people will find these items interesting / useful? How might people interpret them?

ACTIVITY 2: Authentic texts

Choose one of the texts here. Decide in your group:

1. Is it authentic for your learners?
2. Would you choose to teach it? Would you adapt it? How?

Option 1

Mila Kunis

- She was born in the Soviet Union in 1983. Her mother taught physics and her father was a mechanical engineer.
- In 1991, her family moved to the U.S. with just \$250. Her father worked as a taxi driver and her mother worked in a store.
- She was very unhappy in elementary school because she didn't speak English.
- She started acting classes when she was 9 years old.
- Today, she is an award-winning actor who has appeared in many TV shows and movies.



Option 2

4 Read the text about supermarkets and discuss the questions.

King Kullen, the world's first supermarket, was built in New York City in 1930. Until then, people did their shopping at small grocery stores where there was personal service. However, King Kullen had self-service and was much bigger. Prices were often discounted, too. This new type of store was a huge success and supermarkets soon became popular, with many being built outside of cities where land was cheaper and there was space for a parking lot. In the 1950s, more people had cars and refrigerators at home, so these stores became "a one-stop shop" where you could buy all your week's groceries. Today supermarkets are everywhere, from mountains to the middle of the desert. But what about the future? More and more groceries will be delivered to people's homes, but the supermarkets will still be king!



Option 3

A **WIN or DIE:**
Biological Competition

The natural world is a battleground, with organisms locked in a constant struggle to survive. Air, water, food, space – all of these are limited resources, and if an organism can't get enough of them, its days are numbered.

Intraspecies competition is when members of the same species compete for resources, such as food or nesting sites. If you've ever seen two stags battling it out with their antlers, you've witnessed a dramatic form of intraspecies competition. Only the most successful individuals will have the opportunity to pass on their genes to the next generation. If an individual has a characteristic that puts it at a disadvantage in its environment, it is less likely to reproduce and be able to pass that characteristic on.



Stags battling with their antlers

Interspecies competition is when two species living in the same ecosystem compete for resources. Generally, two species with similar resource needs and behaviors cannot coexist over the long term. The less competitive species will be unable to get the resources it needs. To survive, individuals might emigrate to another area where there is no competition from the other species, or the species might adapt so that it has different needs or behaviors. For instance, some birds and bats have evolved to share the same space and food resources, with birds operating by day and bats by night. If the weaker species fails to emigrate or adapt, it will eventually become extinct.

Invasive species are non-native species that arrive in a new area and damage the environment because other species cannot compete with them. A handful of wild rabbits were imported into Australia from Europe in the nineteenth century. With few predators, they thrived. By the 1920s, there were ten billion of them, eating the vegetation and driving many native mammal species near to extinction.

What do you think the idiom "its days are numbered" means?

Study the word "thrived" in context. Can you guess its meaning?

Option 4

Artist Peter Fuller talks about his hobby

There's a popular idea that artists are not supposed to be into sport, but mountain biking is a huge part of my life. It gets me out of my studio, and into the countryside. But more importantly, racing along as fast as you can leaves you no time to worry about anything that's going on in your life. You're too busy concentrating on not crashing. The only things you pay attention to are the pain in your legs and the rocks on the path in front of you.

I'm in my sixties now, but I started cycling when I was a kid. In the summer my friends and I would ride our bikes into the woods and see who was brave enough to go down steep hills, or do big jumps. The bikes we had then weren't built for that, and often broke, so I used to draw pictures of bikes with big thick tyres that would be strong enough for what we were doing. They looked just like modern mountain bikes. However, it wasn't until many years later that someone actually invented one. By the 1980s, they were everywhere.

At that time I was into skateboarding. I did that for a decade until falling off on to hard surfaces started to hurt too much. Mountain biking seemed a fairly safe way to keep fit, so I took that up instead. I made a lot of friends, and got involved in racing, which gave me a reason to train hard. I wanted to find out just how fit and fast I could get, which turned out to be fairly quick. I even won a couple of local races.

In the end I stopped racing, mainly because I knew what it could mean to my career if I had a bad crash. But I still like to do a three-hour mountain bike ride every week. And if I'm out cycling in the hills and see a rider ahead, I have to beat them to the top. As I go past I imagine how surprised they would be if they knew how old I am.

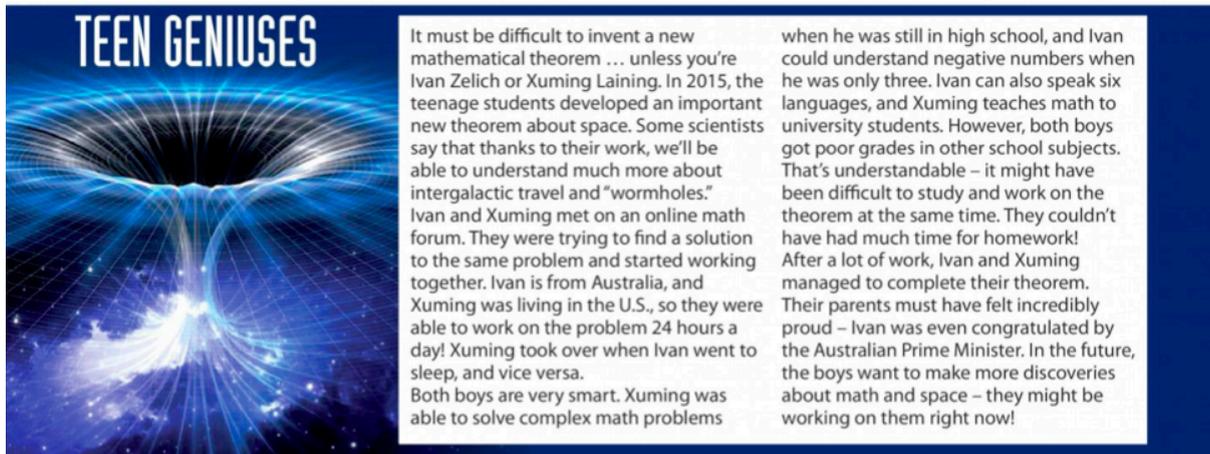
ACTIVITY 3

Choose one of these sections of a textbook and in your group adapt it to be more relevant/authentic for your learners.

Option 1

1 Read the article and answer the questions.

- 1 What did Ivan and Xuming do?
- 2 How did they work together?
- 3 What happened to their school work?



TEEN GENIUSES

It must be difficult to invent a new mathematical theorem ... unless you're Ivan Zelich or Xuming Laining. In 2015, the teenage students developed an important new theorem about space. Some scientists say that thanks to their work, we'll be able to understand much more about intergalactic travel and "wormholes."

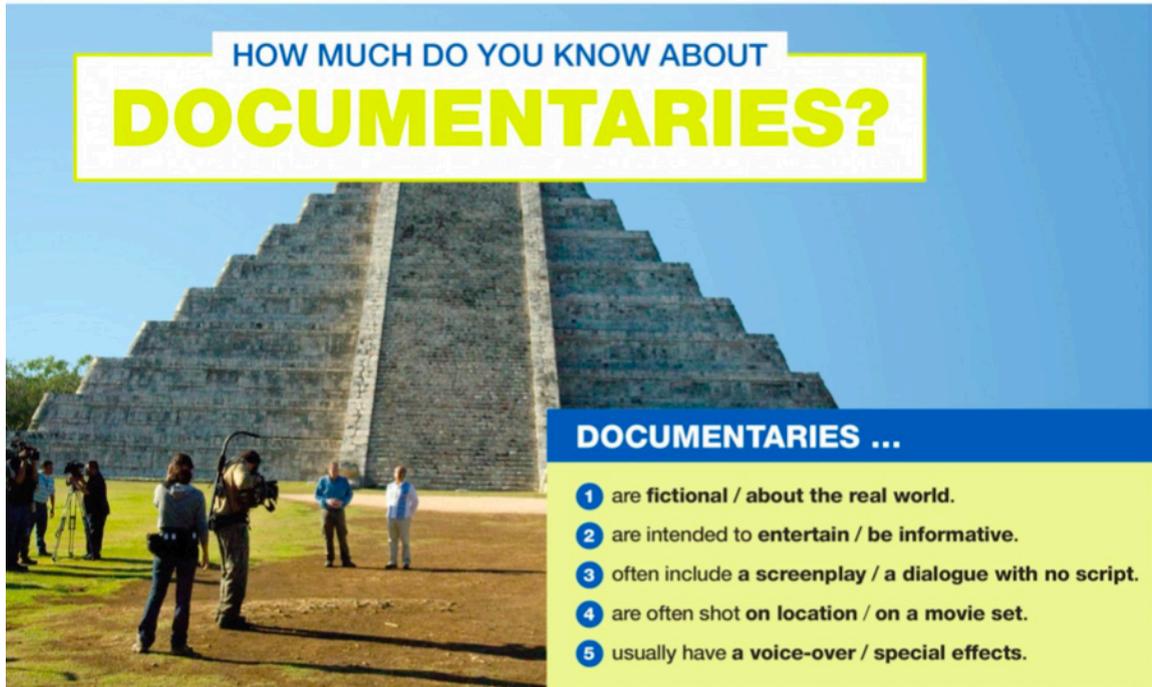
Ivan and Xuming met on an online math forum. They were trying to find a solution to the same problem and started working together. Ivan is from Australia, and Xuming was living in the U.S., so they were able to work on the problem 24 hours a day! Xuming took over when Ivan went to sleep, and vice versa. Both boys are very smart. Xuming was able to solve complex math problems

when he was still in high school, and Ivan could understand negative numbers when he was only three. Ivan can also speak six languages, and Xuming teaches math to university students. However, both boys got poor grades in other school subjects. That's understandable – it might have been difficult to study and work on the theorem at the same time. They couldn't have had much time for homework! After a lot of work, Ivan and Xuming managed to complete their theorem. Their parents must have felt incredibly proud – Ivan was even congratulated by the Australian Prime Minister. In the future, the boys want to make more discoveries about math and space – they might be working on them right now!

Option 2

1 Study the life skills strategy. Then think of a video or presentation that you have seen recently and liked. What made it interesting?

2 In pairs, read the quiz about documentaries and choose the best answer.



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT
DOCUMENTARIES?

DOCUMENTARIES ...

- 1 are **fictional** / about the real world.
- 2 are intended to **entertain** / be informative.
- 3 often include a **screenplay** / a dialogue with no script.
- 4 are often shot **on location** / on a movie set.
- 5 usually have a **voice-over** / special effects.

Option 3

Key phrases Showing interest

Really? / Oh yes?

What / How about you?

I know what you mean.

That's interesting / amazing / weird!

Where / When / Why / Who / was that, then?

So tell me

- 7** Work in pairs or small groups. Look at *Tell Me About ...* and take turns to start conversations. Use the key phrases to show interest in what the others say.



- 8 REFLECT** Are you a good conversationalist? What do you do well? How can you improve?

Option 4

- 6** Work in pairs. Look at pictures A–D and discuss the questions. For each question, say what you feel is certain and uncertain. Use *might, could, must, and can't*.

- 1 What can you see in the picture? What is happening?
- 2 Where is the picture from? Social media, an advertisement, an announcement, a public campaign, a book, a movie poster, or a news site?
- 3 Do you think that the picture is retouched? Why? / Why not?
- 4 What's the aim of the photographer? Why did they take the picture and alter it this way?



Reflection:

Talk for 5 minutes in your groups.

What opinions/thoughts do you have on authenticity in the classroom? Is there any ideas you like/dislike? Can you think of a time when you adapted something because it didn't seem authentic? How did it go?