

Lesson Plan: Discover the World, Famous Explorers and Their Journeys

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This lesson, "Discover the World: Famous Explorers and Their Journeys," is designed for elementary-level students. It adopts an interdisciplinary approach that connects English language learning to broader thematic understanding. This integration is crucial for making learning relevant and meaningful for young learners, demonstrating how language is a tool for exploring the world around them.

The lesson strategically introduces new vocabulary: *explorer, expedition, inhabitants, supplies, and trade*, within a rich, real-world context, ensuring that students learn words not on their own but as part of a connected idea. This approach helps them remember and actively use their new words. At the same time, the lesson provides practice of the past tense, revising important grammar rules through activities and communication. This builds a strong grammar foundation, essential for telling stories and talking about things that happened before.

The project-based learning task helps develop thinking skills, problem-solving, and teamwork, expanding what students learn beyond just language.

In essence, the lesson is built to offer a complete and engaging learning experience, preparing students for stronger language abilities.

Grade Level: 6th grade

Duration: 50 minutes

Topic: Famous Explorers and Their Journeys

Lesson Type: Integrated Skills and Project-Based Learning Lesson

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Recognize and define key information about famous explorers
2. Apply the studied vocabulary in context
3. Use and practice past tense simple

Procedure

I. Warm-Up Activity: Explorer Brainstorm

Purpose: Activate prior knowledge about explorers and stimulate discussion.

Duration: 5 minutes

Materials Needed: Whiteboard/chart paper, markers

- Write on the board: *"What qualities do you think make someone a famous explorer?"*
- Students work in groups of 3 to brainstorm qualities (e.g., bravery, discoveries).
- Groups share with class; teacher writes answers on board.
- Summarize qualities and explain how they relate to today's lesson.

II. Vocabulary Presentation & Practice

Materials: Smartboard, printed worksheet

Duration: 10 minutes

Activity 1: Pre-teach vocabulary

Write the list of words on the board: explorer, expedition, inhabitants, supplies, trade and ask students to match the words to their definitions

Worksheet – Part 1: Matching

Match each word to its correct definition:

Words:

1. ___ Explorer
2. ___ Expedition
3. ___ Inhabitants
4. ___ Supplies
5. ___ Trade

Definitions:

- A. People or animals who live in a place
- B. A person who travels to new or unfamiliar places
- C. Items needed for a journey
- D. A long trip with a special purpose
- E. To buy, sell, or exchange goods

To reinforce the vocabulary, ask students to use the words:

Worksheet – Part 2: Fill in the Blanks

Use the vocabulary words in context:

1. Marco Polo was a famous _____.
2. The _____ took several months.
3. The _____ of the island were friendly.
4. They packed all their _____ carefully.
5. They used spices to _____ with others.

Activity 2 Watching a Video

Students are asked to watch a video and write down a few names

Present the Video Resource: [Top 10 Most Famous Explorers in History](#)

Class discussion after watching:

"Can you name one explorer you saw in the video?"

"What is one new place or discovery you learned about from an explorer in the video?"

"After watching the video, what do you think was the most interesting *thing* an explorer did, or the most interesting *place* they went?"

III. Research Phase

Purpose: Develop a visual timeline about a famous explorer.

Duration: 10 minutes

Materials: Tablets/laptops/smartphones/cardboard

Grouping: Pairs or small groups

- Students research an explorer and create a simple timeline.
- Use past simple tense to describe events.
- Teacher provides support templates or questions for students needing help.

IV. Presentation Preparation

Purpose: Prepare posters for presentation.

Duration: 10 minutes

- Show an example using TimelineJS (teacher demonstration only):
[Interactive Timeline Example](#)
- Students prepare a poster with 3-4 key facts and images.

V. Presentations

Purpose: Share findings with the class.

- 1-minute per group or poster gallery walk.
- Encourage classmates to ask questions.

Duration: 10 minutes

Assessment:

Use a rubric to evaluate:

- Content accuracy
- Clarity and fluency
- Visual presentation

VI. Consolidation Activity: Kahoot Quiz

Purpose: Reinforce vocabulary and past tense usage.

Duration: 5 minutes

Materials: Student devices

Resource: [Kahoot Challenge](#)

- After quiz, have a short reflective discussion.

Homework

- Choose a different famous explorer
- Write a 50-word paragraph using the **past simple**, including at least: 5 regular verbs and 5 irregular verbs