

CELEBRATIONS

St George's Day

Teacher's notes

Age: Teenagers/Adults
Level: Intermediate (B1) +
Time: 45 minutes

Activity: In this lesson, students will:

1. do a quiz about England for St George's Day (April 23rd);
2. debate national days;
3. write a quiz about their own country or national day.

Language focus: words connected with England and countries

Materials: one copy of the worksheet per student

Procedure

1. Write the following words on the board::

England

Great Britain

The United Kingdom

Ask students what the difference is. Do they know? Hand out copies of the worksheet and ask students to read the introduction to the worksheet to find out if their answers were correct.

2. Students work individually or in pairs to complete Exercise 1, the quiz. Check the answers and see who got the most correct.

Key:

1. b
2. a (yes, it's true!)
3. c
4. b (although c is more likely)
5. c
6. c
7. a
8. a
9. a
10. d
11. b
12. c
13. d
14. d



3. Students write one more quiz question then stand up and walk around the class asking their classmates their questions.

4. Ask students to look at Exercise 2. Do they celebrate national days in their own countries? Ask them to tell a partner about their national day, and share any interesting answers with the class. In the same pairs, students should then discuss whether it is a good or a bad thing to celebrate a national day and note down their ideas.

Open the discussion up to the class and ask them to decide whether England should celebrate St George's Day or not. You could round it off by taking a vote. (A few ideas that students might raise are suggested in the key.)



TECH TIP: Using authentic material in class can be rewarding and stimulating for students, as well as increasing their confidence. Before asking students to make their decision about St George's Day in Exercise 2, you could ask students, for example, to watch the following short video of Prime Minister David Cameron wishing England a happy St George's Day: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWSyRdy5z8U Can students add any reasons for or against celebrating a national day to their lists? Do they think Mr Cameron is for, or against, celebrating St George's Day?

CELEBRATIONS

St George's Day

Key:

Reasons to celebrate	Reasons not to celebrate
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patriotism / expressing national pride• For fun / to have a party!• Could be a day off work• Celebration of a country's history and achievements• Bringing citizens together and encouraging community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It could promote jingoism (thinking other countries are not as good as your own)• A national day can mean a day off work, which is bad for the economy• Sometimes the history behind a country can be controversial, so celebrations may not be welcomed (e.g. Australia Day is known as 'Invasion Day' by the Aboriginal people and is a day of mourning)• A national day may not feel relevant to people (e.g. St George is not English; the day is not an official holiday in England; many people born in England would call themselves British rather than English).

5. Students work in small groups for Exercise 3. They write five quiz questions about their own country and its national day, or a country they know well. Encourage them to make the answers fun! They then work with another small group to ask each other their questions, or ask them to the whole class. As an alternative, you could set this exercise for individual homework and ask students to answer the quizzes in small groups as a warmer for your next lesson.

CELEBRATIONS

St George's Day

Worksheet

Can you explain the difference between England, Great Britain and the United Kingdom? No? Well, read on ...

England is England. No problem. Great Britain is the name of the island which consists of England, Scotland and Wales. And the United Kingdom (often abbreviated to UK) is the political name of the country that consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (plus a few small islands). A British person is someone who comes from the UK. An English person is someone who comes from England.

Exercise 1: The England quiz

How much do you know about England? Read the questions and choose your answer.

- Who is the patron saint of England?
 - Sebastian
 - George
 - Simon (Templar)
 - Bernard
- What do English people do on England's national day?
 - nothing
 - eat Yorkshire puddings
 - light fires and organize firework displays
 - recite Robert Burns poetry
- What is the national emblem of England?
 - the football hooligan
 - God Save the Queen
 - the rose
 - David Beckham
- What is an English breakfast?
 - a cure for a hangover
 - a hot breakfast with bacon and eggs
 - some coffee, if you're lucky
 - a rare flower grown only in Kent (the Garden of England)
- Heathrow Airport is the world's busiest airport. It was originally called London Airport but later changed its name to Heathrow. Who or what was Heathrow?
 - a Conservative prime minister
 - a character from one of Emily Brönte's novels
 - a village located under Terminal 3
 - an ancient Saxon god
- What percentage of the United Kingdom's population lives in England?
 - approximately 23 per cent
 - approximately 43 per cent
 - approximately 84 per cent
 - exactly 98.8 per cent
- Why was 1966 an important year for England?
 - it was the last time England won the World Cup
 - England won the Battle of Hastings
 - England was granted independence from Scotland
 - it didn't rain
- Who said, 'Oh, to be in England, Now that April's there'?
 - poet Robert Browning
 - pop star Harry Styles
 - Prime Minister David Cameron
 - actor Benedict Cumberbatch
- Complete this quote from the great Samuel Johnson: 'When two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of _____.'
 - the weather
 - tea
 - sport
 - gardening
- What happened in Farriner's bakery in Pudding Street?
 - the first pudding was created
 - George Danone was born
 - William Shakespeare was born
 - the Great Fire of London was started

CELEBRATIONS

St George's Day

Worksheet

11. Which city is famous for producing the band Oasis and having the most popular football team in England?
- a. Liverpool
 - b. Manchester
 - c. Birmingham
 - d. Luton
12. Which is the second largest city in England after London?
- a. Liverpool
 - b. Manchester
 - c. Birmingham
 - d. Luton
13. What is (or was) Hadrian's Wall?
- a. the wall around Buckingham Palace which Hadrian Bloom climbed in 1987
 - b. slang for a toilet
 - c. the code name used to identify Margaret Thatcher during the Falklands War
 - d. the wall that Hadrian built to keep the Scots out of England
14. What did Napoleon Bonaparte say about England? Complete the quote: 'England is a nation of _____.'
- a. cowards
 - b. puddings
 - c. accountants
 - d. shopkeepers

Can you write another question about England based on what you know about the country?

15. _____
- _____
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

Exercise 2: National days

Does your country celebrate a national day? Do you think celebrating a national day is a good thing or a bad thing? In pairs, discuss some positives and negatives for celebrating a national day, and write them down. Do you think England should celebrate St George's Day - or not?

Reasons to celebrate	Reasons not to celebrate

CELEBRATIONS

St George's Day

Exercise 3: Country quiz

Work in a small group and choose a country you know well. Create five quiz questions, like in Exercise 1, to ask your class. Try to make them fun!

1. _____ _____	4. _____ _____
a. _____	a. _____
b. _____	b. _____
c. _____	c. _____
d. _____	d. _____
2. _____ _____	5. _____ _____
a. _____	a. _____
b. _____	b. _____
c. _____	c. _____
d. _____	d. _____
3. _____ _____	
a. _____	
b. _____	
c. _____	
d. _____	