

WebQuest - Teacher's notes

Boston

1 Introductory quiz

Divide your students into groups of between two and four. Direct your students to the following website:

http://uk.holidaysguide.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-239205-boston_history-i

Ask your students in their groups to find answers to the following questions on the history of Boston:

Key

1. Who was the Vanguard of English settlers led by in 1624?
Reverend William Blaxton
2. When was the colony of Massachusetts Bay established?
1630
3. Where was Harvard College founded?
Cambridge
4. What industries were fortunes made in during the industrial boom?
Shipbuilding, maritime trade, manufacturing textiles and shoes
5. What was the "Big Dig"?
An ambitious public works project to place the Central Expressway underground.

2 Tea at a party!

Boston is probably best known for the infamous 'Boston Tea Party'. Obviously the people there were just following the instructions on the packet which said 'add water'. What was the 'Boston Tea Party'? And why was it so important?

<http://www.bostontepartyship.com/activities.asp>

(With this link you will have to click on the *Tea Party Gazette* and this will open a PDF document.)

This activity is designed to be a reading race. Divide your class into four groups (A, B, C & D).

Stage 1

Ask each group to find the answers to their two questions using the *Boston Tea Party Gazette*. Once the first two groups have finished go round and check their answers and give the answers to those groups who haven't finished.

WebQuest - Teacher's notes

Boston

Award points to each group: ten points for the group who finished first with both questions correctly answered, six points to the second team and one point to the other two teams.

Key

Group A

1. May 10th, 1773
2. 112

Group B

1. December 16th, 1773 (about 5 o'clock)
2. Sam Adams, John Hancock, Paul Revere and Benjamin Edes

Group C

1. Debts from wars
2. 26 million cups of tea

Group D

1. A print shop
2. 342

Stage 2

Each team takes it in turn to read out one of their questions. The other three teams race to find the answer in the text. The team to find the correct answer first are awarded two points. Once all eight questions have been read and answered move on to stage 3.

Stage 3

Next, working in their groups (A, B, C & D) ask your students to read through the *Boston Tea Party Gazette* and write five more questions based on the information in the text. Monitor students' questions and check that the questions are grammatically correct and answerable.

Stage 4

Repeat the steps for stage 2 but this time using the five questions written by each team in stage 3.

Finally you could ask the groups to make a display showing the timeline of events leading up to the Boston Tea Party.

3 Grammar - abstract nouns and nominalization

'An abstract noun is a word that names a quality, idea, or feeling instead of a person, animal, place or thing.'

WebQuest - Teacher's notes

Boston

Source: Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners of English, 2002

Explain to your students the difference between a concrete noun and an abstract noun. Write an example of a sentence which uses an abstract noun and a concrete noun(s) on the board, and underline the abstract noun. E.g.:

Joseph's bravery in rescuing the small dog from drowning amazed his family and friends.

Explain that we can see Joseph and the dog and his family, but we cannot see (or hear, taste, smell etc) his bravery.

Ask the students to give you further examples of concrete nouns and abstract nouns to check their understanding.

a) Ask students to complete this activity by underlining the abstract nouns in the following quotations by Benjamin Franklin, a famous Bostonian. He often used abstract nouns.

Key

- " The absent are never without fault. Nor the present without excuse. "
- " If passion drives you, let reason hold the reins. "
- " Let thy discontents be thy secrets. "
- " Admiration is the daughter of ignorance. "
- " The proof of gold is fire... "

Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790, American Scientist, Publisher, Diplomat

<http://www.bellaonline.com/ArticlesP/art14071.asp>

b) Ask your students to think of five more examples of abstract nouns. Check their answers.

c) Explain to your students that nominalization is the process of turning a verb or an adjective into a noun. Give the students the following example:

" Let thy discontents be thy secrets. "

- Benjamin Franklin

WebQuest - Teacher's notes

Boston

Explain to your students that in this example, the word “discontents” has been used as an abstract noun. We cannot see, smell, touch, hear or taste “discontents”. However, in the following quotation, the same word in a different form (discontented) has been used as an adjective, in order to pre-modify the noun “man”.

“The discontented man finds no easy chair.” - Benjamin Franklin

Point out that if we were to change “discontented” (an adjective) into “discontents” (an abstract noun) we would have nominalized the adjective.

Ask your students to de-nominalize the abstract nouns from Benjamin Franklin’s quotations, and turn each abstract noun into an adjective or verb or both if possible. Explain to students that the noun does not always change.

Key

Abstract noun	Verb / Adjective
Absent	Absently (adj)
Fault	Faultless (adj) Faulty (adj)
Present	Presentation (n/adj) Presentable (adj) Present (v)
Excuse	Excuse (v)
Passion	Passionate (adj)
Reason	Reasonable (adj) Reasoned (v)
Discontents	Discontented (adj)
Secrets	Secret (adj)
Admiration	Admire (v) Admiring (adj)
Proof	Prove (v) Proven (adj)

4 Vocabulary - British English and American English

Ask your students to read through the *Sweet Story* which is set in Boston. Ask them if they notice anything strange? If they don’t notice that some words

(in italics) are in British English instead of American English then point this out to them.

Next ask them to go through the story again and change the words in italics from British English into American English. Encourage them to use the online ‘dictionary’ (website address below) to help them OR alternatively get them to use the new **Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners**.

WebQuest - Teacher's notes

Boston

To make the task easier you could write the American English words up on the board (mixed up) and ask the students to select the correct American English word to match the British English equivalent.

Finally ask your students to work in pairs and finish the story (this could be done for homework).

Key

Br Eng

pavement

bonnet

petrol

windscreen

taps

dustbins

boot

sweets

mobile phone

Am Eng

sidewalk

hood

gas

windshield

faucets

garbage/trash cans

trunk

candy

cell phone

<http://www.effingpot.com/>

Direct your students to this website to help them to check the differences between American and British English.

5 A Boston tour

a) Divide your class into four groups (A, B, C & D) and ask each group to find out as much as they can about the places on their tour. Ask your students in their group to write five questions based on the places along their 'trail'.

Group A: Chapter 1

Group B: Chapter 2

Group C: Chapter 3

Group D: Chapter 4

b) Next, ask your students to work in their groups to find the answers to the questions another group has written.

http://www.nps.gov/bost/freedom_trail_ch1.htm

WebQuest - Teacher's notes

Boston

6 A look at Poe

Begin by writing the name 'Edgar Allan Poe' on the board and brainstorming what your students know about this famous American writer.

a) Tell them they are going to do a quiz on Edgar Allan Poe and that they will work in small teams. Put the students into teams of between three and five and give them five minutes to read through the short summary of Edgar Allan Poe's life using the following website:

http://www.poemuseum.org/poes_life/index.html

b) Next get the students to try and answer the ten multiple choice questions on this online quiz.

http://www.poemuseum.org/educational_resources/for_students.html

c) Finally, let them read the summary page again to check the answers that they got wrong.

7 Extra websites

Activity 2)

<http://www.ctbw.com/jones.htm>

A simplified account of the "Boston Tea Party" that can be used by lower level students.

Activity 4)

<http://englishclub.8m.com/ukus1.htm>

Another site which looks at the differences between American and British English.

Activity 6)

<http://www.poemuseum.org/>

Extra information about Edgar Allen Poe

General interest

http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/north_america/boston/