

LESSON PLANS

What month is it?	
Lesson plan to be implemented in English class	
Aim	<p>All over the world, we have unique names for the months of the year, often with historical or cultural references. This game encourages students to think about these references at the same time as they play a game.</p> <p>The main goal of this lesson plan is to develop and practice speaking skills, learn some interesting cultural and historical facts and work in a team to reach an agreement.</p>
Students age-targeted	9 – 13 years old's
Estimated time	60 - 70 minutes
Topics covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● calendar ● history
Facility/ Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classroom ● Scissors
Tools/ Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Game cards sheet (1 per group) ● Answer key (1 per group)
Development of activities	<p>Activity 1: Introduction – the teacher introduces the students to the topic of the lesson (5-7 minutes).</p> <p>Activity 2: Share them in groups of three to five students each (10 minutes) and encourage them to discuss what is their favorite month of the year is and why.</p> <p>Activity 3: Now play the card game in groups. They have to discuss three facts about each month and guess which fact is false. Students play in groups of odd numbers so that they are forced to reach an agreement. The information is meant to be informative and fun (20-30 minutes).</p>



Activity 4: As a follow-on classroom task, students find out some background information about different calendars in other cultures (20 minutes).

Activity 5: Wrap-up (10 mins) students can present the information they found on different calendars in other cultures.



HANDOUT 1: Month cards



What month is it?

<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. January is named after the Roman god <i>Janus</i>. He was a god who looked after new beginnings. b. <i>Janus</i> had a second role. He guarded doors into and out of all kinds of places. c. A <i>Janus</i> word is a word that is spelled the same forwards and backwards, e.g. radar. 	<p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. February is named after the Roman goddess, <i>Febronia</i> who protected wildlife and gave people good health. b. February is named after a special feast, called the Feast of Februa, that took place during this month. c. February is National Grapefruit Month, a food holiday when people are encouraged to eat more citrus fruit.
<p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In Ancient Times the month of March was the last month of the year. b. The month of March is named after the Roman god of war, <i>Mars</i>, from the original Latin word <i>Martius</i>. c. March is <i>National Noodle Month</i> in some countries around the world when people are encouraged to eat lots of noodles. 	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The month of April comes from the Latin <i>Aprillis</i>, the fourth month of the ancient Roman calendar. b. April is named after <i>Aprilia</i>, the Roman god of speed. c. In old English, April was called <i>Eastermondab</i> (Easter month).
<p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The month of May is named after the Greek god <i>Mayo</i>. b. The month of May is named after the Greek goddess <i>Maya</i>. c. Mayo (or Maya) was the child of Atlas and Hermes. 	<p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. June is named after the Roman god <i>Juno</i>, wife of Jupiter, goddess of marriage and childbirth. b. June used to be called <i>the midsummer month</i>. c. June used to be called <i>the wedding month</i>.

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<p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. July was named after <i>Julius Caesar</i> after he died in the year 44 BC. b. July is <i>family fun month</i> when people are encouraged to do fun things with their family. c. July is <i>anti-boredom month</i> when people are encouraged to do things to stop getting bored. 	<p>August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In the 8th century BC the first Roman emperor <i>Augustus</i> died. To honour their leader, the Romans decided to name a month after him. b. They chose the 8th calendar month because the emperor had won eight great battles in his lifetime. c. In English, august also means <i>respected</i>.
<p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. September comes from the Latin word <i>septum</i> which means seven. It used to be the 7th month in the Ancient Roman calendar. b. In Old English September used to be called <i>thrimilce</i> (three milk) because cows gave milk three times at this time of year. c. In Old English September used to be called <i>haligmonath</i> (Holy month). 	<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. October was named after <i>Octogen the Great</i> defeated Darous III of Persian in the year 331 BC, causing the fall of the Persian Empire. b. October comes from the Latin word <i>octo</i> which means eight. The name was chosen because it used to be the 8th month in the Ancient Roman calendar. c. October comes from the Latin word <i>octo</i> which means eight. The name was chosen because there are eight full moons each October.
<p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In some countries November is <i>National Blog Posting Month</i>. b. November comes from the Latin word <i>novem</i> which means nine. It was once the 9th month in the Ancient Roman calendar. c. November is the month of the year when most babies are born across the world. 	<p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. December comes from the Latin name <i>Decima</i> who represents the present time. b. December used to be the 10th month in the old Roman calendar which had only 304 days. c. In Old English, December used to be called 'Blotmonath' (blood-month).

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HANDOUT 2: Month answers

Answer key

January

- a. True
- b. True
- c. False. A Janus word is a word that has two opposite meanings. For example, left (remaining or departed). A 'palindrome' is a word that reads the same backwards as forwards (e.g. radar).

February

- a. False. There is no Roman goddess called Feronia. The goddess who protected wildlife and gave people good health is called Vesta.
- b. True
- c. True

March

- a. False. In Ancient Times the month of March was the first month of the year.
- b. True
- c. True

April

- a. True
- b. False. There is no Roman god Aprillia. Aprilia is the name of an Italian motorcycle manufacturer.
- c. True

May

- a. False. There is no Greek god called Mayo.
- b. True
- c. True

June

- a. True
- b. True
- c. False. June never used to be called 'the wedding month'.

July

- a. True
- b. False. Family fun month is in August.
- c. True

August

- a. False. He died in the 1st century AD.
- b. False. We have no idea how many great battles the emperor won in his lifetime.
- c. True

September

- a. True
- b. False. 'Thrimilce' is the Old English name for May.
- c. True

October

- a. False. Octogen the Great didn't exist. Alexander the Great defeated Darius III.
- b. True
- c. True

November

- a. True
- b. True
- c. False. The month in which highest number of babies are born across the world is August.

December

- a. True
- b. True
- c. False. In Old English December used to be called aerra Gelo and November used to be called Blotmonath.