

Teaching Academic Content to Low- Literacy Students



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For an electronic version of the handout:

<http://www.soundsofenglish.org/Presentations/TESOL2006/teaching-content.htm>



**Literacy Content Curriculum Topics
Transitional High School Program
Fairfax County, VA**

September: Colors, Shapes, Prepositions

October: Five Senses

November: Thanksgiving

December: Matter and Measurement

January: Map Skills

February: World Geography

March: Landforms

April: Introduction to Civics

**May: Introduction to Living
Things – Animals**

June: Plants

**July: Living Systems
(summer school)**

Suggested Books for Literacy Content Class

This list is not available electronically. For more information, please contact Michelle.Campiglia@fcps.edu.

Suggested Websites for Teachers and Students

Colors, Shapes, Prepositions

- What color is this? <http://www.geocities.com/pccprep/colors.html>
- Color quiz from the Internet TESOL Journal. <http://iteslj.org/v/ei/colors.html>
- Shapes quiz from the Internet TESOL Journal. <http://iteslj.org/v/ei/shapes.html>

5 Senses

- Five senses game cards: <http://www.esl-galaxy.com/kierenkids/games/sense%20game%20cards.doc>
- Five senses game card directions: <http://www.esl-galaxy.com/kierenkids/games/five%20senses%20game%20rules.doc>

Thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving word scramble: <http://a4esl.org/q/h/9704/af-sw-thanks.html>

Matter and Temperature

- BBC Solids and Liquid: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/8_9/solid_liquids.shtml (the directions are a little complicated, but the game is not very difficult)

Map Skills

- There is not much at the basic reading level of these students, but here is an on-line jigsaw puzzle of a compass rose: <http://www.jigzone.com/z.php?1F5PGB0X86C93F>
- BBC Compass Quiz: http://www.bbc.co.uk/apps/ift/scotland/education/sysm/landscapes/highlands_islands/quizzes/compass/quizengine?quiz=compass#focus
- BBC Map Symbols Quiz: http://www.bbc.co.uk/apps/ift/scotland/education/sysm/landscapes/highlands_islands/quizzes/symbols/quizengine?quiz=symbols#focus

World Geography

- <http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/>
- google earth: <http://earth.google.com/>
- continents quiz: <http://www.mcwn.org/MAPS&GLOBES/ContinentsQuiz.html>
- continents and ocean quiz: <http://www.mrnussbaum.com/contquiz.htm>
- continents and oceans word scramble: <http://www.surfnetkids.com/games/geography-sc.htm>

Landforms

- Enchanted Learning's Landform glossary (<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/geography/landforms/glossaryprintable.shtml>)
- Fossweb landforms module: <http://www.fossweb.com/modules3-6/Landforms/index.html>

Intro to Civics

- Interactive DC Map: <http://birdseye.octo.dc.gov/main.html>
- Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids: <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/index.html> (you can choose the grade level at this site. There are some things listed as K-2 that are at a reading and content level appropriate for older literacy level students)
- Kids Democracy Project: <http://pbskids.org/democracy/>. Some of the text may be too difficult. However, the site has a lot of information and related the role of government to the individual.

Intro to Living Things/Animals

- Animals quiz: http://www.evgschool.org/ESL_animals.htm
- Scrambled words-- animals: <http://www.manythings.org/sw/animals.html>
- BBC game – find the living things in the environment: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/6_7/plants_animals_env.shtml

Plants

- BBC Growing plants game: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/5_6/growing_plants.shtml

Living Systems


- Animal habitat flashcards: <http://bogglesworld.com/animalhabitatcards.htm>

Sample Reading Activity

America's Symbols: Using the Index

Directions:

- Use the index in the book.
- Find the page for these things.
- Draw a picture for each one.

<p>White House Page <u>14 and 15</u></p> 	<p>Great Seal Page _____</p>
<p>Flag Page _____</p>	<p>Eagle Page _____</p>
<p>Liberty Bell Page _____</p>	<p>Seal Page _____</p>

-developed by Sharon Widmayer
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Sample Reading Activity

Our Capital – Using the Table of Contents

Directions:

- Use the Table of Contents of the book *Our Capital*.
- Write the page where you can find information about these places.

Topic	Page
1. a map of Washington	14
2. the Lincoln Memorial	
3. National Air and Space Museum	
4. the Washington Monument	
5. the White House	
6. the Jefferson Memorial	
7. the Capitol Building	

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Sample Writing Activity



Sense of Sight



What do you see? I see an orange.



What do you see? I see a butterfly.



(a flower)

1. What do you see?

I see _____.



(a lemon)

2. _____?

_____.



(an ant)

3. _____?

_____.



(an elephant)

4. _____?

_____.

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Sample Writing Activity

Five Senses Writing Practice

Directions:

- Think about how you use the five senses.
- Write a sentence about how you use each sense.

Examples: (smell/coffee) I smell coffee every morning with my nose.
(see/teacher) I see my teacher at school at 6:30 pm.

1.(taste/food)_____

2.(hear/music)_____

3.(smell/flowers)_____

4.(touch/water)_____

5.(see/my family)_____

Now put your sentences in paragraph form.
Remember to indent, use capital letters, and periods.

I use my five senses all the time.
My five senses are very important.

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Sample Listening Activity



Sense of Hearing



What do you hear? I hear the ocean.



What do you hear? I hear the birds.



What do you hear? I hear the insects.



What do you hear? I hear the rain.

Directions:

- Listen to the sounds from the computer.
- Complete the sentences.

1. What do you hear?

I hear _____

2. What do you hear?

3. What do you hear?

4. What do you hear?

5. What do you hear?

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Sample Speaking Activity

Dialogues – Understanding our Rights Note to teachers

In this activity, students work in groups to write short dialogues to act out that demonstrate a right in the bill of rights. Lower LA students may not be able to come up with their own dialogue. They could be put in groups with stronger students or given teacher created dialogues to act out.

Example dialogues:

Police Office: I want to come into your house and look around. Man: I'm sorry, but can you please show me your permission.
Man: I hate the government! The taxes are too high! Woman: Don't say that! The government doesn't like it. Man: That's OK. In America I have the right to say things I think are important.
Woman comes into a room, puts down a rug facing east and starts to pray. Man: What are you doing? Woman: I am praying. Man: But this is school. Why are you praying? Woman: It is important for my religion. The government says I can pray if I want.
Man reading a newspaper that says President Makes Mistake as a headline. Woman: The president was wrong? Can they write that in the newspaper. Man: Yes they can in the U.S.
Man: You and your friends should go home. The police will arrest you if they see so many immigrants hanging out outside! Woman: In the US, they cannot arrest me just for meeting my friend.

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Sample Reading/Speaking Activity

Seven Continents

Directions:

- Read *Seven Continents* with your teacher.
- Use the book and what you learned in class to complete the chart.
- Talk about one of the continents in front of the class.

Continent	What You Will Find Here	Animals	Other Important Information
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

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Resources for Teachers

- *Magnetic Tape* can be ordered from Office Depot.
www.officedepot.com
- *Pattern Blocks for use with an overhead projector* can be ordered from www.etacuisenaire.com
- *Correction Tape* can be ordered from Office Depot.
www.officedepot.com. We recommend the 6 line width.
- *Communicators* can be ordered from www.eaieducation.com/communicator.html. They have downloadable language arts templates available at <http://site.eaieducation.com/PDF/LACommunicatortemps.pdf>.