

## **LESSON PLAN in Teaching English as a Foreign or Second Language**

**Topic:** Theseus and the Minotaur

**Aims:**

1. To develop students' speaking skills – using the language of negotiation
2. To develop students' listening skills – listening for specific information
3. To develop students' vocabulary – revising the language of giving directions

**Level:** B1 – B2

**Age:** teenagers

**Time:**

**Materials:** Flashcards, Pen and Paper, Timer, (Bell), Maze, Mask

**Procedure**

1. The class is divided in groups of five. Ideally the groups are mixed ability ones. Each group is encouraged to think of a name to give themselves. (5 minutes)
2. The teacher asks students to brainstorm the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. At this stage the teacher does not reveal the story. (5 minutes)
3. The teacher informs students about the structure of the activity: a) Working with flashcards and b) Playing the maze game
4. Each group gets a set of 12 flashcards. Students are asked to negotiate in groups and put the cards in order so that they correspond to the story of Theseus and the Minotaur. Communication should be in English. The teacher shows the students the first card. While the groups are working, the teacher or a student-assistant moves around giving advice and clues so that the groups can move on with their work. The use of mobile phones or reference books is forbidden. (10-15 minutes)
5. The teacher asks students to stop working. The teacher or the student-assistant checks how many cards each group has got right and notes the number down.
6. The teacher or a student-assistant reads the story aloud once and the students correct the order of their cards. If necessary, the story is read a second time. The teacher or the student-assistant checks the order of the cards to make sure that all groups have got them right. The winners of the first stage (who got more cards in the right order before reading the story)

and the second stage (who got more cards in the right order after reading the story) are announced.

7. The teacher introduces the maze game. Students in their groups decide on the pair (or pairs, depending on the time available) that will compete in the maze. Then they brainstorm the language of directions (for example, "Turn left", "Turn right", "Go straight on", "Take three steps forward", etc. ) and keep notes. The teacher moves around to make sure that all groups have the necessary expressions for the game. Pairs practise before getting in the maze. Their aim is to get out of the maze in the least time possible. (10-15 minutes)
8. Students in the maze have to follow certain rules:
  - The pairs, who compete, should not see the maze before competing
  - One student in the pair is blindfolded.
  - The pairs should communicate only in English
  - They should not touch each other
  - The spectators should not help the competitors
  - If the pair or the other members of their group do not stick to the rules, a penalty is imposed, eg. 5 seconds added to their time
9. The first pair comes into the maze room. A student-assistant takes down their names. The same student is responsible for keeping the time. The pair moves to the beginning of the maze. One of the students wears a mask or a scarf so (s)he cannot see and the other student guides him/her. A second student-assistant stands in the maze to make sure that the rules are kept. When the pair reaches the end, their time is noted down.
10. When all pairs have competed, the game ends and the group with the fastest pair(s) are the winners.

#### Notes

- 1) the story is adapted from the Greek primary school book *3<sup>rd</sup> Grade History: From Mythology to History*, <http://ebooks.edu.gr/modules/ebook/show.php/DSDIM-C103/88/697,2630/>, accessed on 10/12/2017]
- 2) the pictures for the flashcards are taken from:

Card 1: Race <http://listverse.com/2008/08/04/15-fascinating-facts-about-the-ancient-olympics/> , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 2: Victory <http://www.rwaag.org/nike> , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 3: Murder <https://www.college.columbia.edu/core/content/aegisthus-murder-athenian-red-figure-vase-5th-c-bc> , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 4: Angry King [http://www.clipartpanda.com/clipart\\_images/angry-king-cartoon-viewing-38174536](http://www.clipartpanda.com/clipart_images/angry-king-cartoon-viewing-38174536) , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 5: Minoan boats attack Athens <https://gr.pinterest.com/pin/14566398773588919/?!p=true> , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 7: Theseus <http://moziru.com/explore/Mythology%20clipart%20theseus/> , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 8: Theseus goes to Crete <http://greece.mrdonn.org/theseus.html> , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 9: Theseus and Ariadne <http://greece.mrdonn.org/theseus.html> , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 10: The maze <http://ec-dejavu.ru/l/labyrinth-4.html> , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 11: Minotaur and Theseus <http://claphamschool.org/theseus-minotaur/> , accessed on 10/12/2017

Card 12: Athenians outside the maze [http://www.culture.gouv.fr/public/mistral/joconde\\_fr?ACTION=RETROUVER&FIELD\\_1=AUTR&VALUE\\_1=MOREAU%20Gustave&NUMBER=1&GRP=0&REQ=\(\(MOREAU%20Gustave\)%20:AUTR%20\)%20ET%20\(%27\\$FILLED\\$%27%20:VIDEO\)&USRNAME=nobody&USRPWD=4\\$%2534P&SPEC=1&SYN=1&IMLY=CHECKED&MAX1=1&MAX2=1&MAX3=100&DOM=All](http://www.culture.gouv.fr/public/mistral/joconde_fr?ACTION=RETROUVER&FIELD_1=AUTR&VALUE_1=MOREAU%20Gustave&NUMBER=1&GRP=0&REQ=((MOREAU%20Gustave)%20:AUTR%20)%20ET%20(%27$FILLED$%27%20:VIDEO)&USRNAME=nobody&USRPWD=4$%2534P&SPEC=1&SYN=1&IMLY=CHECKED&MAX1=1&MAX2=1&MAX3=100&DOM=All) , accessed on 10/12/2017