

Learning Unit / Module

Title ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES: CANADA, SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA

Class	Third class – lower secondary school
Subjects involved	Students A1/A2
Number of lessons	20 hours + 2 hours final assessment

TEACHING AIMS including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical knowledge • Language communication • cognition 	<i>what learners will know by the end of the lesson/unit.</i>	LEARNING OUTCOMES <i>what learners will be able to do at the end of the lesson/unit</i>	<i>what learners will be aware of at the end of the lesson/unit</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To present the content of the unit</i> • <i>To introduce the concept and main features of the content</i> • <i>To make learners aware and build on prior knowledge</i> • <i>To help learners understand that learning can be achieved in a second language</i> • <i>To help learners understand that keeping a record of new words is important</i> 	Geographical, historical and political features of Canada, South Africa and Australia in English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the countries with their respective capitals and landmarks watching the maps • Describe the boundaries and geographical features of the countries • Mention information concerning population, history, government and economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main features of the countries • The effects of the British Empire on the Commonwealth countries and their cultures.

Content

- CANADA:
 - a) Territory and climate
 - b) History
 - c) Country profile (government, population, capital city, currency, religion, language)
 - d) Major cities
 - e) Inuit people
 - f) Economy
 - g) Canadian flag
 - h) Curiosities

- SOUTH AFRICA
 - a) Territory and climate
 - b) Landscape and natural beauties
 - c) The Rainbow nation (Zulu)
 - d) The flag
 - e) Apartheid and Nelson Mandela
 - f) Country profile
 - g) Economy
- AUSTRALIA
 - a) Territory and climate
 - b) Landscape and natural beauties (places and animals)
 - c) Country profile
 - d) Aborigines
 - e) The Outback
 - f) The National Sorry Day
 - g) Major cities
 - h) Economy
 - i) Curiosities

Communication

LANGUAGE OF LEARNING

Vocabulary: words and expressions about territory, country profile, history and economy

Structures: passive form, if-clauses, present perfect, building sentences

Functions: Ask for and giving information; comparing among the countries, describing geographical, historical and economical profile of the countries.

LANGUAGE FOR LEARNING

Vocabulary: cardinal points, kinds of maps, words and expressions about the territory and the features of the country.

Structures: simple present, past simple, modal verbs, comparative and superlative, present continuous

Functions: describing a geographical map, describing it with a fact file, talking about places in general

Cognition

- Describing rivers, lakes, mountains, boundaries, major cities
- Read and describe different kinds of maps
- Reading comprehension (text about the country profile)
- Watch and understand a video
- Writing short paragraphs to sum up the lesson
- Ask questions and answers
- Awareness of similarities/differences among the countries

Culture

Learning about the different cultures through the historical, political and economic aspects.

Materials and Resources

IWB, computer, projector, internet access (to watch video, look at maps and online materials)
PPT presentation and exercises (supplied by the teacher).

PROCEDURE: LEARNING UNIT STEPS

-teaching and learning activities in the whole unit with tasks subdivided in single lessons-

- Warm up and Activating prior knowledge
- Find out (tasks)
- Sort out (tasks) } subdivided in various lessons
- Assessment

LESSON 1 – CANADA
TIMING 2 HOURS

WARM UP	Create interest and raise motivation Brainstorming about Canada	Whole class	IWB, PPT, internet access
FIND OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing Canada looking at the physical and political map. • Building a glossary • Describing boundaries, landscape and climate • Introducing Commonwealth • Illustrating the transition from New France to the British Empire and the Independence of the country • Country profile • Major cities 		
SORT OUT	<p>Comprehension check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher gives the learners a text about the geographical features of Canada and then the teacher asks them to finish a similar text. 		

LESSON 2 – CANADA
TIMING 2 HOURS

WARM UP	Asking question about the previous lesson	Whole class	IWB, PPT, internet access
FIND OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read a text about Inuit people and speak about the different Canadian cultures • Introducing the main economic activities of the country • Build an economic glossary • Speak about the flag and its meaning, Canadian festivals and curiosities. 		Texts and exercises supplied by the teacher
SORT OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher asks learners to do an exercise to sum up the two lessons. (fill the blanks) 		

LESSON 3 - CANADA (review)
TIMING 2 HOURS

SORT OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher asks learners to set up a fact file about Canada (including geographical, historical, political, economic features) 	Work in pairs/groups (max. 4 students)	PPT presentation and students' notes
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LESSON 4 - SOUTH AFRICA

TIMING 2 HOURS

WARM UP	Create interest and raise motivation Brainstorming about South Africa	Whole class	IWB, PPT, internet access
FIND OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing South Africa looking at the physical and political map. • Describing the physical and political map • Look at online materials about the landscape • Describing boundaries, landscape and climate • Speaking about the “<i>Rainbow Nation</i>” and its multi-ethnic population (Zulu) and country profile 		Materials supplied by the teacher
SORT OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher asks learners to describe the two maps and recognize the main geographical features • Reading texts about geography and population of the country 	Individual	Texts supplied by the teacher

LESSON 5 - SOUTH AFRICA

TIMING 2 HOURS

WARM UP	Asking questions about the previous lesson	Whole class	IWB, internet access, ppt, materials supplied by the teacher
FIND OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the meaning of the flag to speak about Apartheid • Mention Nelson Mandela's life and his importance for the country • Speak about the current political system • Mentioning the main economic activities 		
SORT OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher writes a framework about apartheid with the learners (what happened before and at the end of apartheid) • Reading comprehension about Nelson Mandela 	Whole class	

LESSON 6 - SOUTH AFRICA

TIMING 2 HOURS

WARM UP	Comprehension check about Nelson Mandela (homework) Asking questions about apartheid	Individual	Materials supplied by the teacher
FIND OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching the video of Mandela's first speech after prison and do a listening activity (fill the blanks) 	Individual	IWB, internet access, materials supplied by the teacher

SORT OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True or false exercise to review the main features of the country • Team activity: writing an article on apartheid following teacher's instruction 	Individual Group (max. 4 people)	Materials supplied by the teacher
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LESSON 7 - AUSTRALIA

TIMING 2 HOURS

WARM UP	Create interest and raise motivation Brainstorming about Australia	Whole class	IWB, PPT, internet access
FIND OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing Australia looking at the physical and political map. • Look at online pictures about the natural beauties and Australian animals • Describing boundaries, landscape and climate • Speaking about the country profile • Zooming on the Aborigines and the National Sorry Day 		Materials supplied by the teacher, PPT
SORT OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching a video about the National Sorry Day and do a listening activity (fill in the blanks with given words) 	Individual	PPT, IWB, materials supplied by the teacher

LESSON 8 – AUSTRALIA
TIMING 2 HOURS

WARM UP	Asking questions about the previous lesson	Whole class	IWB, internet access, ppt, materials supplied by the teacher
FIND OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History timeline of the country (since the British conquest to nowadays) • Describing major cities and famous monuments • Speaking about the main economic activities 		
SORT OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing activity (fill in the blanks) about the country 	In pairs	Materials supplied by the teacher

LESSON 9 - AUSTRALIA
TIMING 2 HOURS

SORT OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write the answers to questions supplied by the teacher with full sentences • Setting up the fact file about the main features of the country 	In pairs Whole class	Materials supplied by the teacher
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LESSON 10 – REVIEW FOR THE TEST
TIMING 2 HOURS

FIND OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the glossary 	Whole class	Materials supplied by the teacher
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read texts about the three countries • Check each fact files to sum up 		
SORT OUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher shows some pictures describing the main features of the countries (landscapes, flags, head of state, major cities, ethnic groups). The students have to guess the country and then speak about the subject. 	Individual	Online materials

LESSON 11 – FINAL ASSESSMENT

TIMING 2 HOURS

TASKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write boundaries on a blank map • Fill the blanks in a text about the geographical features of the three countries (with given words) • True or false exercise • Answer the questions
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