

World Teachers' Day: Invest in the future, invest in teachers!

Join in with over 100 countries around the world on 5th October to celebrate the role of teachers and their contribution to the well being of generations of children (and adults).

Can you imagine a situation where your children are unable to attend

school because there are no teachers? Not just because a teacher was sick for a few days, but literally, no teachers at all? How could your children possibly compete for jobs or learn basic skills if they had never been taught to read and write – or been taught all the other subjects that belong in the classroom and prepare you for your life as adult?

Sadly, this is the case for more than 59 million children around the world who are unable to attend primary school due to a lack of teachers. Some countries (especially those in the Middle East and North Africa) are unable to keep up with educational demand as population growth far outstrips the provision of teachers. Other countries are suffering from war and population displacement. According to latest figures from UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), the world today needs an additional 1.4 million teachers to achieve universal primary education. And by 2030 (only 15 years in the future), the world will need a staggering 27 million more qualified primary teachers! That is why UNESCO is calling on countries to invest in the future and invest in teachers.

UNESCO first introduced *World Teachers' Day* in 1994 to recognize the crucial role of teachers around the world and to mobilize support for teachers who play such an important role in the development and well-being of any country. But many teachers face challenges: learning environments may be unsafe, salaries are low and unreliable, and many classes are too big - because there aren't enough teachers. *World Teachers' Day*, a day when we can pay tribute to some of our beleaguered colleagues, is always held on 5 October and it is observed by over 100 countries.

In the Philippines last year, the government paid tribute to its teachers on *World Teachers' Day* preceded by *National Teachers' month*; this year UNESCO will host an open Forum 'Teaching today' in Paris; American teachers commemorate the day; teachers throughout Australia are celebrating; the Canadian Teachers' Federation recognize the day;

Scotland have lesson plans prepared for children; New Zealand is involved and so is Tonga.

So on 5 October let's celebrate the wonderful teachers that we have here in Europe and remember the many children around the world who are unable to attend school because there are not enough qualified teachers.

If you would like to know more about *World Teachers' Day*, then click [here](#) to see what happened last year.

Or watch this short [YouTube video](#) from UNESCO as a reminder that we are all part of a global network.

And if you would like to use **World Teachers' Day** as a topic in your lesson, then we have provided you with two activities at A2 level. You'll find them in the following **Teacher's notes** and on the **Worksheet**.

Teacher's notes

Activity 1: My favourite teacher (level A2, 15+ mins)

- Make one copy of **My favourite teacher** for each student.
- On the board write: *World Teachers' Day*.
- Explain that UNESCO (= *Organisation der Vereinten Nationen für Erziehung, Wissenschaft und Kultur*) supports *World Teachers' Day*. It is an opportunity to recognize the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development.
- Tell students they are going to talk about their school time and their favourite teacher.
- Give each student a copy of **My favourite teacher**.
- Give students time to read the questions.
- Give model answers: (1) *My favourite teacher was Mr Evans and* (2) *he taught at Moorside Junior School.* (3) *There were 41 children in my class.* (4) *He taught everything except needlework.* (5) *He was about 40 (and he seemed very old!) and* (6) *he was bald, he wore glasses and he had a Welsh accent.* (7) *I was eight or nine when he was my teacher.* (8) *I liked him because we often did some interesting activities in his lessons. One day we went to the sports field and we did an experiment to show that light travels faster than sound. And he took us bird watching.* (9) *Not all the children liked him because he had a very loud voice and sometimes he shouted at the boys.*

- Tell students to answer the questions on the Worksheet and then to talk about their favourite teacher to their partner.

Activity 2: School subjects (level A2, 15+ mins)

- On the board write *First World War*, *Romans*, *Ludwig II* and ask students which school subject these words belong to. (History.)
- Ask students to look at **School subjects** on the Worksheet.
- Tell them to match the school subjects in the second column with the words in the fourth column.
- Help with unknown vocabulary.
- Check answers together in class.
Key: 1d, 2g, 3a, 4j, 5i, 6b, 7h, 8f, 9c, 10e
- Students discuss the two questions with a partner.

Worksheet



Activity 1: My favourite teacher

Answer these questions about your favourite teacher.

- 1 What was the name of your favourite teacher?
- 2 What was the name of the school?
- 3 How many children were in your class?
- 4 What subject did he/she teach?
- 5 How old was your favourite teacher?
- 6 What did he/she look like?
- 7 How old were you when you had this teacher?
- 8 Why did you like him/her?
- 9 Did the other children like him/her as well?

Now tell your partner about your favourite teacher.



Activity 2: School subjects

Match each school subject with the correct words.

	School subject		Words
1	maths	a	rivers, mountains, countries
2	history	b	tennis, athletics, hockey, volleyball
3	geography	c	drawing, painting, Van Gogh
4	biology	d	numbers, addition, geometry
5	English	e	Goethe, Rilke, <i>der/die/das</i>
6	sport	f	Mozart, piano, singing
7	chemistry	g	wars, empires, kings and queens
8	music	h	oxygen, carbon dioxide, hydrogen
9	art	i	grammar, Shakespeare, USA, UK
10	German	j	plants, birds, mammals

Now ask your partner:

- 1 What was your favourite subject at school? Why?
- 2 Which subjects did you not like? Why?