

CLIL lesson – Geography

The Atlantic Ocean

This activity is a running dictation ([see here](#)) using a text based on the Atlantic Ocean. The text has been written for elementary/pre-intermediate learners of English, but if you have higher level students you can follow the same procedure with a harder text such as [this](#), from Wikipedia.

Aims:

- Content – basic information about the Atlantic Ocean
- Language
 - Grammar reconstruction
 - Lexis – geography terminology
 - Skills – speaking, reading and listening

Preparation

Print out a copy of the text (see below) for you and, if you want, one for each student. You might need to pre-teach some of the key geographical vocabulary if you haven't covered it before.

Procedure

1. Ask the class what they know about the world's oceans. Ask how many there are. The answer is four or five, depending on whether or not the Southern Ocean is counted (it's not totally officially recognised).
2. Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 students each.
3. Put the copy of the text either on a wall or on your desk.
4. Arrange the groups of students so that they are all sitting a similar distance from the text, if possible. Make sure that no groups are too close to each other or the text.
5. Tell students to choose a writer. The writer in each group takes a pen and paper.

6. Explain the rules of the game:

- The aim of the game is to copy the text. The first group to finish accurately is the winner.
- One student at a time per group comes and memorises part of the text, runs back to the writer and dictates to the writer. Then the next “runner” goes to the text and does the same.
- The runners must not write.
- All runners must go to the text in turn.
- Only one student per group at a time. (Make sure you repeat this).
- No cameras to take a picture of the text. (Watch them carefully - they often try anyway!)
- No pens and paper for runners.

7. When the students have understood the rules say “go”.

8. Monitor carefully so that students don't cheat.

9. When several sentences have been written tell the groups to change writers. Do this two or three times so that all students have been writers.

10. When one group finishes stop the game.

11. Either tell the winning group to read out their text and check for accuracy or give students the original text and get them to check themselves.

Extension

This activity can be followed by further reading about the Atlantic or the other oceans. For homework students can write what they have learnt about the Atlantic Ocean.

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Running dictation text

The Atlantic Ocean

The Atlantic Ocean is the world's second largest ocean after the Pacific. Its area is about 106 million square kilometres, covering about one-fifth of the Earth's surface. It is surrounded on the west by the Americas, the north east by Eurasia and the south-east by Africa. To the south east it meets the Indian Ocean and to the north is the Arctic Ocean. Some say that it goes as far south as Antarctica, but others say that it meets the Southern Ocean to the south. The equator splits the Atlantic in the middle into the North and South Atlantic Oceans.

The average depth is about 3.3 kilometres and the deepest point is the Puerto Rico Trench which is about 8.6 kilometres deep. There is a mountain range (the Mid Atlantic Ridge) along the bottom in the middle which runs from north to south. This is the longest mountain range in the world.