

Unit 1

Defining who you are

Tell students they are going to research the life story of Nelson Mandela.

Students should find information about:

- his family and childhood
- his adult life and career

Task: Students explore what characteristics defined Mandela's character and interests.

They create a timeline of important influences, people and events in Mandela's life which they think played a part in shaping his identity.

Web search words: *Nelson Mandela biography*

Unit 2

More than a job

Tell students they are going to research the volcanologists, Maurice and Katia Krafft.

Students should find information about:

- how and where they met and their early careers
- their attitude towards volcanos and the dangers they present
- their contribution to the field of volcanology

Task: Students find out about the life and work of the volcanologists and discuss their passion and their attitudes to risk and danger.

Web search words: *Maurice and Katia Krafft*

Unit 3

Four walls

Tell students they are going to research iceberg homes in London.

Students should find information about:

- what they are and how they get their name
- who builds them and why
- possible problems and future developments

Task: In groups or pairs, students research iceberg homes and discuss the issues involved. Then groups debate the pros and cons.

Web search words: *iceberg homes London*

Unit 4

Innovation

Tell students they are going to research Theo Jansen's Strandbeests.

Students should find information about:

- how they are made and how they work
- how they 'learn'
- two other inventions by Theo Jansen

Task: Students find out as much as they can about the Strandbeests. They discuss or write about the relationship between art and engineering and debate whether the Strandbeests are art or whether they could have some practical application in the future.

Web search words: *Theo Jansen Strandbeests*

Unit 5

Adventurers

Tell students they are going to research the National Geographic Adventurers of the Year.

Students should find out information about:

- this year's candidates
- their life and work
- their greatest adventure

Task: Each student chooses one of the adventurers and prepares a profile of them and lists the reasons why they think they should win. The class debate and choose a winner.

Web search words: *National Geographic Adventurer of the Year*

Unit 6

Exercise regimes

Tell students they are going to research laughter yoga.

Students should find out information about:

- the history of laughter yoga
- the ideas behind it
- the benefits it is believed to bring
- where it is popular

Task: In groups or on their own, students research laughter yoga and write up their findings. They should discuss their opinion of this type of exercise.

Web search words: *laughter yoga*

Unit 7

Microhistory

Tell students they are going to research the Museum of Childhood in London.

Students should find information about:

- current exhibitions, events and activities
- the kinds of toys in the collection
- the oldest objects in the collection

Task: Students research the museum and select the things they find most interesting. They discuss whether they recognise anything from their own childhoods and describe what they would put in a museum of childhood in their own country.

Web search words: *Museum of Childhood London*

Unit 8

Popular food blogs

Tell students they are going to research food blogs. Students should find information about:

- the ten most popular food blogs
- the themes of the blogs and the types of people who blog about food
- what the blogs have in common and what the differences are between them

Task: Students explore the blogs and compile a list of the important ingredients for starting a food blog. In groups, they design their own food blog and plan their first blog post.

Web search words: *most popular food blogs*

Unit 9

Music and culture

Tell students they are going to research national musical instruments. Students should choose national instruments from three different countries and find information about:

- what they are, their history and what their names mean
- what they look and sound like

Task: Each student presents their instruments to their class or group.

Web search words: *national musical instruments*

Unit 10

Social living

Tell students they are going to research the social behaviour of meerkats.

Students should find out information about:

- meerkat social groups
- three types of evidence that suggest that meerkats are altruistic
- other surprising facts about meerkat behaviour

Task: Each student writes up their notes on what they have found out. They debate whether there is sufficient evidence to prove that meerkats are altruistic.

Web search words: *meerkat behaviour*

Unit 11

How we decide

Tell students they are going to research the decision-making game, rock-paper-scissors.

Students should find out information about:

- the game's origins and history
- how it is played and the possible strategies for winning
- variations of the game in different countries

Task: In pairs, students research the game. They each invent two yes/no decisions they need to make and then play the game, taking it in turns to decide what they will do.

Web search words: *rock-paper-scissors*

Unit 12

Landscapes

Tell students they are going to research landscape painting. Students should find out information about:

- some famous landscape painters
- when they painted and their favourite landscapes to paint
- examples of their work

Task: Each student chooses two landscape painters who painted different landscapes and selects one example of each painter's work that they like. They tell the class about their two painters and describe the paintings they have chosen.

Web search words: *landscape painting*