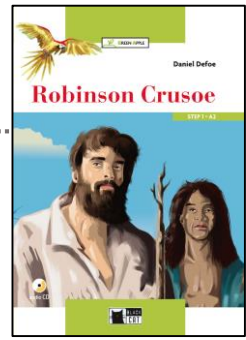


LESSON PLAN

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DANIEL DEFOE • ROBINSON CRUSOE

Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to develop reading skills• to expand vocabulary• to predict the continuation of a story• to identify a literary genre• to compare similarities and differences with films inspired by
books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to encourage the pleasure of reading
Level	B2.2
Time	50-60 minutes
Materials:	1 front cover illustration of the graded reader <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> 2 a worksheet

Introduction

This lesson plan introduces *Robinson Crusoe*, a novel by Daniel Defoe (1719), an exciting classic about the world's most famous castaway. The short extracts chosen will draw students into the plot, encourage them to ask questions, develop their vocabulary and predict what will happen next. Invite them to watch the short trailer on the web with highlights from the film, *Cast Away* (2002), directed by Robert Zemeckis. Then they will be able to compare the story with the film, which was inspired by *Robinson Crusoe*. However, since the trailer does not reveal much of the plot, you can tell them more about it.

Background notes on the story

The story was written in the first person. Robinson Crusoe was a young man from York, England, who grew up in a middle-class family, with a strict religious upbringing. In this story Robinson Crusoe often mentioned God and the Bible, because he interpreted many events as messages from God. Robinson Crusoe's father wanted him to study law, but he wanted to go to sea. Therefore, he ignored his parents' advice and in 1651 went to the port of Hull, where he went on board a ship for the first time. His first voyage at sea was stormy and frightening. But his love for the sea made him forget the storm and its dangers and he continued his sea voyages. For eight long years Robinson sailed on different vessels and had many adventures. He traveled to the west coast of Africa and then to Brazil, where he became a successful sugar planter. At that time in history, the slave trade was a very profitable business for Europeans and Robinson was well aware of this.

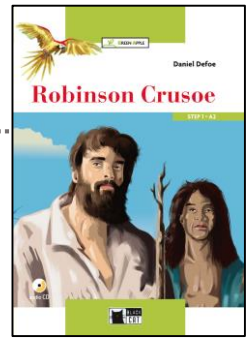
DISCUSSION - At this point, there are some questions that need to be answered.

1. Did Robinson Crusoe ever regret his decision to go to sea?
2. Did the slave trade ever conflict with his religious beliefs?
3. Was he satisfied with his economic status as a successful planter in Brazil, or was he looking for something else in his life?



LESSON PLAN

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PROCEDURE

Before the lesson

- make a copy of the worksheet (one per student)
- download a photo of a 17th- century sailing vessel
- tell your students you're going to be speaking about a book called *Robinson Crusoe*
- read the background notes on the story to the class

First Step (10 minutes)

Ask the students to comment on their first impressions and ask them these questions.

- What genre do you think it is? Why?

Show the students the cover illustration and asks them these questions:

- How old is the man on the cover?
- What impression does he give you?
- Where is he?

Second Step (30 minutes)

Give students the worksheet and explain that the text comes from Chapter 1 of story.

- Ask them to do EXERCISE 1, *Before you read*.

[KEY: 1b, 2e, 3d, 4c, 5a]

- Read EXERCISE 2, *Extract Part 1*. You could read it out loud to make it more dramatic.

- Then ask students to read it alone or in pairs for a more detailed understanding the second time.

- Ask students to comment with their opinions, predictions, feelings and observations.

- Ask students to read EXERCISE 3, *Extract Part 2*.

Last Step (10 minutes)

- Ask Students to do EXERCISES 4 and 5. If there isn't enough time in class, this exercises can be done as written homework.

If none of the students have seen the film *Cast Away*, you can tell them a bit about it, so that the discussion can go on.

