

1. Bullfighting

This week's lesson is on the subject of bullfighting, which was recently banned in the Spanish region of Catalonia but continues in other parts of Spain and also in Portugal, parts of France, and some countries in Latin America.

Level

Pre-intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2–B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm on the subject of bullfighting. What does it consist of? In what parts of the world does it take place? Why do some people oppose it? What might be the arguments in defence of it? What are the students' own opinions on the subject? Can they think of other activities, anywhere in the world, that some people regard as cruelty to animals but others see as important traditions? Are there any such activities in their own country?
2. Give each student in the class a copy of Worksheet A and give them sufficient time to read through it, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell the students it is important that they try to remember as much of the information as possible.
3. Tell the students they are going to prepare a quiz for each other. Then divide the class into two teams, A and B.
4. Cut Worksheet B into two halves and give each member of each team the corresponding half. Explain that each team has to work together in order to formulate the questions that produce the answers given, based on the text on Worksheet A. Note that it is possible for there to be slight variations of each question, so be flexible where possible.
5. When both teams have finished preparing their questions, ask them to turn over Worksheet A and the glossary so that they can't see them.
6. The two teams now take it in turns to ask and answer the questions. Encourage the teams to confer before answering, but make it clear that once they have given their answer they cannot change it. You should only accept answers given in correct English. Keep score on the board; the team with more correct answers at the end of the quiz wins.
7. Cut Worksheet C into two halves. Divide the students into pairs, Student A and Student B, and hand out the halves of the worksheet so that Student A's grid has the words that Student B's grid is missing, and vice versa. The idea is for the students to *describe* the words they have in their grids, so that their partners can guess what they are and fill them in. It is therefore vital that they don't show their grids to their partners. Tell the students to describe the words one by one, and to take it in turns to speak. You could let the students carry on describing the words for as long as it takes for their partners to identify them, or as a fun alternative you could impose a time limit for the description of each word. Before the students begin, point out that all the missing words feature in the text on Worksheet A.
8. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

Team A

1. When will the ban on bullfighting in Catalonia begin?
2. What does *torero* mean?
3. Where in Europe will bullfighting continue?
4. When was the last bullfight in Catalonia/Barcelona?
5. What is the capital of Catalonia?
6. What do many people believe about the colour red / the red cape?
7. How many bullfighters are women?
8. What did 180,000 people in Catalonia do / How did people get bullfighting banned?

Team B

1. Who voted/decided to ban bullfighting?
2. Where is Catalonia?
3. Where in Latin America will bullfighting continue?
4. What does the bull try to do?
5. How does the bullfighter usually move around the arena?
6. Why doesn't the colour red make bulls (especially) angry?
7. What weapons do the bullfighters often have / What do bullfighters use to kill the bull?
8. How many bulls died at the arena in Barcelona on 25th September?

Exercise 2

1. myth 2. weapon 3. exciting 4. entertainment 5. cruel 6. petition 7. attack
8. horn 9. skilful 10. tradition 11. parliament 12. brave 13. aggressive 14. arena

When the crossword has been completed correctly, *Mexico* and *Colombia* will read from top to bottom.

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/static/find_out/specials/newsround_extra/2004/bullfighting/html/default.stm

A section of the BBC Newsround website on bullfighting. Aimed primarily at children and younger teenagers. Accessible to Pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-15050706>

An article from BBC News (September 2011) on the bullfighting ban in Catalonia. With links to related articles, including reactions from members of the Spanish public. Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jul/28/bullfighting-countries-list>

An article from *The Guardian* (July 2010) on bullfighting around the world. Challenging for Pre-intermediate level.