

Lesson Plan: Tourism

Ages 9 - 16

This lesson takes a community of inquiry approach to the concept of tourism. There are references to the *Learning Pit*, an overview of which can be downloaded from: www.sustained-success.com/index.php/488

Stage 1: Identify the concept

Show a selection of pictures of tourists, landmarks, travellers, local people in unfamiliar places, airports and so on. Include some pictures that could be open to a range of interpretations. Use questioning to identify the theme of tourism. Suggested questions:

- What do these pictures show?
- What gives you that impression?
- What else do they have in common?
- Please explain why you think that ...
- What alternative explanations are there?

Once the group are focussing their ideas on 'tourists' or 'tourism' then ask: 'What is a tourist?'

Stage 2: Challenge students' understanding of the concept

Drawing on ideas from the following dialogue, see if you can unpack and even unsettle the students' concept of what a tourist is.

TEACHER: What is a tourist?

ADAM: A tourist is someone who visits other places

TEACHER: If I were to visit the bank this afternoon, would that make me a tourist?

PAUL: It would if you were to change money into a foreign currency

TEACHER: So, every time I change money from one currency to another, am I a tourist?

RACHEL: No because you might have been changing money for work reasons

ANDREA: A tourist is someone who visits another country for a holiday

TEACHER: OK, so if I were to take a holiday in the UK then would I not be a tourist?

ANDREA: No, you would be a tourist. OK, so it's if you visit a place you haven't been before

PAUL: But my family go to Spain every year. Does that mean we're not tourists when we go to the same place?

STEPHEN: You go every year? To the same place?!

PAUL: Yes, same place, same time, every year

STEPHANIE: I know! A tourist is someone who goes to any place, except their home, for leisure purposes

TEACHER: Excellent answer

STEPHANIE: Thank you

TEACHER: But ... what about the school trip to Alton Towers last term? Were we all tourists then?

MOLLY: A tourist is someone who goes some place for leisure for at least a few days

TEACHER: How many days?

MOLLY: I don't know, about seven or more

PAUL: But what if you go away for a long weekend? Aren't you a tourist then?

Further questions

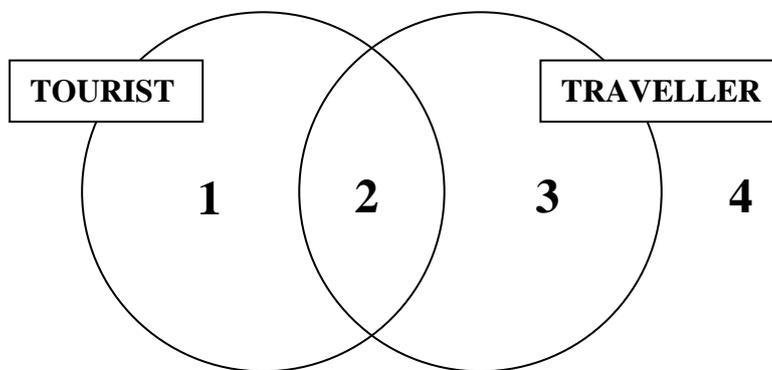
- Can I be a 'virtual tourist'? In other words, if I visit a place online then am I classed as a tourist?
- Do I have to travel to be a tourist?
- Do I have to spend money to be a tourist?
- Do I have to intend to be a tourist to be a tourist? If yes then are babies incapable of being tourists?
- If I visit a place on business then am I a tourist?
- Am I a tourist every time I'm on holiday? What if I spend my holiday at home?
- What's the difference between a tourist and a traveller, or are they the same thing?

Stage 3: Construct a working definition

Split the class into groups. Have them come up with a definition of a tourist. The following strategies and prompts may help:

Venn diagram

Place the pictures used at the beginning of the lesson into the correct category then think of other examples to go into Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4



This table may also help your students to identify the essential characteristics of tourists

A Tourist ...	Choose between: Always/Normally/Sometimes/Never	REASON
Travels		
Travels to other countries		
Is a on person on holiday		
Visits tourist attractions		
Thinks of themselves as a tourist		
Pays for accommodation		
Takes photographs		
Uses public transport		
Dines Out		
Works whilst travelling		

Applying the working definition

Once a working definition has been agreed by the class, apply this concept to your theme or topic. For example:

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of tourism to Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDC)?
- How could a country encourage more tourists to visit?
- How could a town encourage more tourists?
- Should there be limits placed on the number of tourists visiting national parks?
- Is tourism good for the planet?
- Is tourism good for world economics?
- What do tourists learn about other cultures?

Stage 4: Consider the learning journey

Questions to ask your students to encourage them to reflect on their thinking:

1. What was your initial response when asked what a tourist is?
2. What challenged this idea?
3. What were the strengths and weaknesses of your (first) idea?
4. What thoughts did you have when in the learning pit? (Having difficulties sustaining your definition.)
5. What strategies did you consider?
6. What helped to clarify your thinking?
7. How accurate do you think your working definition of a tourist is?
8. What do you think a tourist is?

Link to the next lesson

To link this lesson to the next stage of the topic, or to the next lesson, invite the students to think of key questions that they would like to answer.

Here are some examples from 13 year olds (paraphrased for clarity):

- Would the world be a better place if there were no tourists?
- What are the benefits and disadvantages to tourism?
- How do tourists differ from travellers?
- Which country in the world receives the most tourists?
- Which country in the world produces the most tourists?
- How many people are employed in the tourist industry in our country?
- What is the approximate value of tourism to the world economy? Is this possible to identify?