

A Day Around the World Lesson Plan

The song *A Day around the World* is written to assist in your study of World Time Zones and World Geography.

It begins with the chorus which counts from 1 to 12. This is an inroad to the fascinating history of timekeeping.

*Why do we have a 12 hour clock?
How did it come about?
How do we measure the passage of time?*

Open up the history calendars, sundials, stone circles (like Stonehenge), stone dagers (like Chaco Canyon), water clocks, hour glasses, the Mayan Pyramids and Sun Calendar...the Western history of timekeeping all the way up to the Atomic Clock!

What about the celestial bodies (the sun, moon and stars) and timekeeping?

*What other methods of timekeeping can you think of?
(This happens to be a very good math thinking exercise!)*

Note: For the younger ages (PK-1st grade), the *Calendar Song* is a brilliant complement to *A Day Around the World*.

The song travels through the world time zones in 3 hour intervals beginning in Guatemala at 6 a.m.

*What do a.m. and p.m. stand for?
What are the World time zones?
Are the 24 standard meridians straight lines?
Where is the International dateline?
Where is the Prime Meridian?*

And then the adventure begins:

*It's six in the morning
The sun is calling
Let's make tortillas
In Guatemala*

If you ever wake up in a Central American village at six in the morning, you will likely smell tortillas being fried on an open fire.

*It's nine in the morning
The jungle quivers
Let's go to school
On the mighty Amazon River*

Imagine living amongst the *Yanomani* or *Waura* peoples of the Amazonian rainforest. In spite of being threatened by large scale mining, logging, grazing and plantations, these people are finding ways to defend their way of life by incorporating Internet technologies with jungle smarts! Discover and value the precious ‘*resource*’ indigenous people around the world *are* to all humans!

*It's twelve o'clock noon
The sun is high
Ben Ben strikes twelve
On London sky*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

This very reliable time piece has been ticking for how many years?
The hour hand is 9 ft. (2.7 m) long.
The minute hand is 14 ft. (4.3 m) long.
The clock's diameter is 23 ft. (7 m.) in length.
How about making a diagram of Big Ben on your classroom floor?
What time is it on *your* Big Ben?

*It's three in the afternoon
My friends
A hot wind is blowing
Across Saharan sands*

Some of the names for the hot Saharan winds are: *Sirocco* (Italian/Greek), *Haboob* (Arabic), *Khamsin* or *Hamsin* (Arabic), *Simoom* (Arabic)!

*It's six in the evening
The Sun is setting
Let's bring marigolds
To an Indian wedding*

Why Marigold flowers?
The rich orange/gold color brings the qualities of warmth, hope and strength to the wedding. Marigolds are also a symbol of creation and regeneration and are believed to bring good luck and happiness! So why not?

Did you know that marigold flowers planted around your vegetable garden will keep many kinds of insects out?

*It's nine at night
Listen to the tune
Shakuhachi flute
Under Japanese moon*

These traditional bamboo flutes produce rich and haunting tones. They were originally used by Zen Buddhist monks as a meditation breathing tool.

*It's midnight now
On New Zealand shores
Whales delight
In whale song and lore*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

See the movie “*Whale Rider*”! - Based on Maori legends that celebrate the human spiritual bond with the natural worlds and the vital role of *the feminine* in tribal transformation.

What do whales sing about?

*It's three in the morning
On arctic floes
Polar bear floats
Where only polar bear knows*

These wonderful bears, native to Arctic Ocean habitats are the world's largest carnivorous bears along with the Kodiak. They are increasingly more and more vulnerable because their natural habitat and range are rapidly disappearing due to global warming. The photo that inspired this verse shows a Polar Bear floating across the vast Arctic waters on a tiny ice floe.

*Come with me
Around the world my friends
Counting the hours
In other lands*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Enjoy teaching *the geography of the world time zones* through this special song!



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