

Classroom Pack

Teacher's notes

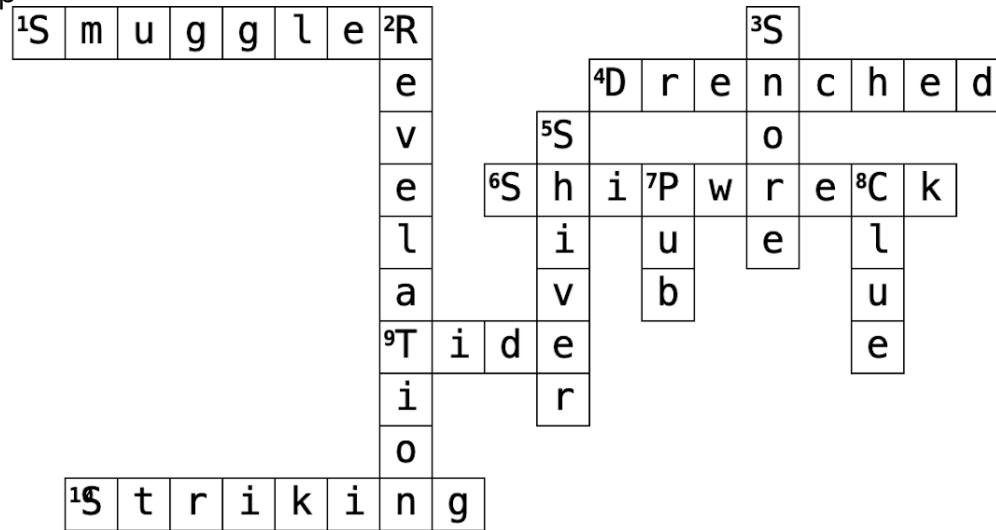
1. Vocabulary Exercises
2. Multiple Choice
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Fish and Ships - Classroom Pack
Teacher's notes



1. Vocabulary Exercises

PART A : Complete the crossword using the clues for help



Across

1. Someone who brings something into a country illegally
4. Very wet, soaking
6. The remains of a broken ship
9. The rising and falling of the sea
10. Refusing to work as a form of protest

Down

2. A surprising, important discovery
3. The noise you make while sleeping
5. To shake from cold or fear
7. A place where people go to share drinks and relax
8. A piece of evidence

PART B : Complete the sentences with the missing words:

Hip Flask, Cargo, Wharf, Shanty, Gossip

1. I won't let you drive, I saw you having a drink from your **HIP FLASK** earlier.
2. We will meet at the **WHARF** tomorrow and start the protest!
3. You're supposed to be on strike - if I see you moving any **CARGO** I'll be furious.
4. Work goes a lot faster when you sing a little **SHANTY**.
5. You shouldn't listen to **GOSSIP** like that, it's not reliable.



2. Multiple Choice

This activity can only be done AFTER having seen our show.

You have now discovered the plot of the play "Fish and Ships" and its different protagonists. Let's see what you can remember.

Read the sentences and mark the correct answer.

1. Who is the first character to mention the "Ghost Ship"?

B. Lorcan

2. What was Patrick O'Leary's role on the island?

C. Fisherman and union leader

3. Why does Chief Batista send Mike to Great Island?

C. No one else was available

4. What does Mary Callaghan do on the island?

D. She controls the port and boat traffic

5. What strange mistake does Mike make during his investigation?

B. He decides to wear Patrick's coat

6. Who is Lisa Harris?

C. The manager of the Fishermen Isle Company

7. What does the "FIC" note in Patrick's cabin actually stand for?

C. Fishermen Isle Company

8. What is the suspected connection between Patrick's death and the sea?

C. He was taken by the Ghost Ship

9. What secret does the pub owner hint at?

C. There was a love triangle involving Patrick

10. What does the Ghost Ship turn out to be?

D. A real French smuggling boat

11. What object provides the key clue to solving the mystery?

C. Patrick's notebook

12. At the end, who is arrested for their involvement in the crime?

B. Mary Callaghan



5. Culture

The Aran Islands

Comprehension Questions

1. What are the names of the three Aran Islands? Inis Mór (the largest), Inis Meáin, and Inis Oírr (the smallest)
2. What are some jobs people do on the islands? fishermen, farmers
3. Why do young people sometimes leave the islands? Many young people leave to find work or study elsewhere.

True/False

- The Aran Islands are near Dublin. F
- People speak Irish on the islands. T
- There are no schools on the islands. F

Social Justice

Discussion Questions

- **What are some problems people on small islands might face?**
 - People who live on small islands often face special problems. One big problem is isolation. If there is bad weather, boats and planes may not come. This can make it hard to get food, medicine, or go to school or hospital.
 - Another problem is jobs. There may not be many opportunities for work and many people work in fishing or tourism, which are very seasonal industries. Young people often leave the island to find work on the mainland, causing the population to decrease.
 - Small islands also have fewer services. There may be only one shop, one doctor, or one school. If something breaks, it can take a long time to fix. Combined with the isolation and lack of competition, this can cause a high cost of living because fuel and groceries need to be brought across by boat or plane.
 - Even with these problems, many islanders love their home. They have strong communities and a deep connection to nature and tradition.



- **Is it easier or harder to solve problems in a small community? Why?**

- Solving problems in a small community can be easier in some ways and harder in others.
- It can be easier because people often know each other well. They may trust each other and work together quickly. If someone needs help, neighbours are more likely to support them. Decisions can be made faster because there are fewer people.
- However, it can also be harder. In small communities, there may not be enough money, resources, or experts to fix big problems. People might be afraid to speak up if they disagree with others, especially in a close-knit place.
- Sometimes, old arguments or traditions can stop change. If a few people have power, it may be difficult to do something new, especially if those local leaders are trusted and followed by the community. Ironically, the very fact that these communities are so strong is what can make changing things difficult.

- **What are examples of social justice in your own country?**

- One important example of social justice in the UK is the NHS (National Health Service). It was started in 1948, after World War II. The idea was to give free healthcare to everyone, no matter how rich or poor they were.
- Before the NHS, many people could not afford to see a doctor. Poor families sometimes had to choose between buying food or paying for medicine. The NHS changed that. Now, people can see a doctor, go to hospital, or get medicine without paying for it directly at the hospital. This helps make life fairer, especially for people who are sick, elderly, or living in poverty. Everyone pays for the NHS through taxes, so the cost is shared.
- The NHS is a strong example of social justice—it gives people the help they need, when they need it, not just when they can pay for it.



5. Culture

Critical Thinking Prompt

In our story, as in many crime stories, there is a conflict between what is right and what is legal. Mary is involved in smuggling and illegal fishing, but maybe she just wants more money for the island and their fish. It is up to us to decide her motives. Sean is portrayed as an ill-tempered and violent man, but he fights for his community against corporate interests. Lisa Harris never breaks the law, but she also doesn't seem to care about her workers very much. What do you think is more important, doing what you believe is right or doing what the law says you should do? If someone does the wrong thing for the right reasons, does that make it okay or are their motivations not important?

Exercise: Split into groups of two and pick a character from the play. You can also pick a character from outside of the play if you prefer, but it should be from a story you both know. Spend a few minutes discussing their actions in the story and then each write a short speech, one of you defending their actions and one of you arguing that what they did was wrong.

Extension: If you like, you could even make a little court. Deliver your speeches in front of the class, one after the other, and at the end, there can be a vote on whether to forgive them or punish them for what they did.

Research/Extension (Optional)

- Look up the story of the Buyout of the Isle of Eigg in Scotland. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-40258975>
- **Compare:** How is the Isle of Eigg similar to the Aran Islands and how is it different? How has their quality of life changed since the buyout and how effectively do you think it has addressed the problems they were trying to solve?
 - The Isle of Eigg in Scotland and the Aran Islands in Ireland are both small, remote islands with strong communities. People on both islands live close to nature and often work in fishing, farming, or tourism. They also share problems like isolation, bad weather, and young people leaving to find jobs.
 - But there are differences too. The Isle of Eigg is smaller and had a land buyout in 1997. Before that, the island was owned by private landlords who did not care for the community. The people of Eigg worked together to buy the island and take control. Since then, life has improved. The island now has clean energy, better housing, and a stronger local economy. People feel proud and more hopeful.
 - The buyout helped solve many problems, like poor services and bad housing. It also showed that small communities can work together to create real change. In my opinion, while it is difficult to say what the future would have looked like if the Isle of Eigg buyout hadn't occurred, I do think the buyout was a success and has allowed the islanders to address many of their problems without sacrificing what makes them unique as a community.



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5. Culture

Detective story

Challenge:

We used a phrase earlier "*stranger things have happened at sea*". Here it is in the context of a conversation.

Alice: Did you hear that Alex quit his job and moved to a different country? I think he was involved in something criminal and had to escape the police.

Bob: Alex?? Doing something criminal?? That could never happen.

Alice: Stranger things have happened at sea.

What do you think the idiom means? Try to come up with a definition and confirm it with your teacher. Once you have agreed on a definition, try to use it in a sentence.

- "Stranger things have happened at sea" - This phrase means that something surprising or strange might happen, but it's not impossible. People use it to say, "It sounds unlikely - but even weirder things have happened before!"
- Example: "Do you really think Sarah could become class president?" "Why not? Stranger things have happened at sea."

