ESOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THIS MONTH

Once December hits we notice Christmas decorations coming up as well! I have seen and heard of classes studying how people celebrate Christmas around the world. I even taught this when I was in the classroom. As our demographics continue to change in Coffeyville we need to update what we teach around Christmas.

Instead of Christmas around the world we should change it to Holidays around the world as not every country celebrates Christmas.

Over the last couple of years we have gained students from India who do not celebrate Christmas. Now is your chance to learn more about another culture. These students typically celebrate Diwali which actually happens in October or November depending on the calendar.



1 UPCOMING EVENTS

KELPA
Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessment

December is a slow month when it comes to ESOL happenings. However after winter break we begin thinking about KELPA. This is only K-12. Pre Schoolers will be tested again in April.

KELPA Testing Window: February 3rd- March 14th

Please be flexible with us during this time as we pull students to complete their testing.

2 DID YOU KNOW?



Assumption: All ELLs are Immigrants.

Reality: the majority of English-language learners enrolled in U.S. schools were born in the United States. The U.S. Census data found that 82 percent of K-5 grade ELLs and 65 percent of 6-12th grade ELLs are US-born.

Assumption: English it their second language.

Reality: Many English-language learners are multilingual, meaning they speak more than two languages. It's important for educators to as the ELL which language they prefer to receive translations in. Never assume that the student's strongest language is the official language of their most recent residence.

Gonzalez, A. (2024, April 8). 10 assumptions to rethink about English-language learners (opinion). Education Week. https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-10-assumptions-to-rethink-about-english-language-learners/2016/11

3 ACTIVITY TO TRY

Speaking Activity

Question of the Day

This speaking activity for ELLs is a perfect option for morning work as students arrive. Each day, choose a simple, silly, or strange question and have students answer it as they enter the classroom. This is a great activity even for ELL newcomers since all eyes won't be on them, and you have the option to ask follow-up questions or continue the conversation as much or as little as you want to.

To make this activity even more newcomer-friendly, offer a handful of questions all week long and allow students to choose the question they want to answer each day. This way they can get to know the questions better and practice their answers over time.

Tower. (2023, January 19). Writing, listening, and speaking activities for ells: Continental. Continental Educational Publisher. https://www.continentalpress.com/blog/listening-speaking-activities-ells/?srsltid=AfmBOor8G_kTdln1fUB6texOGH1oASAEO4kJjFHccxrx1ppVnfffKQUf

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