

## Theme: Famous Voyages

Focus:	Grammar	Vocabulary	Comprehension	Writing
	Conditional sentences	Using context to find out the meanings of words	Answering questions based on a passage	Writing a story based on pictures using guiding questions

### Lesson Objectives

Students are able to

1. use context to find out the meanings of words,
2. answer questions based on a passage.

### Resources

*(Preparation to be done before the lesson)*

1. Learning English Workbook 5
2. Picture cards of Zheng He and his fleet
3. Video of Zheng He's Voyage to the West episode 1
4. Sheet of paper with sentences used by the characters in the video
5. Visualizer projector
6. A short passage on one of Zheng He's voyages

### Introduction / Warm-up Activity (10 min)

1. Show the students the picture cards of Zheng He and his fleet. Elicit from the students if they know who the person in the picture card is and his occupation. Get the students to briefly tell you what they know of Zheng He if they have read up on him before.
2. Provide a map of the world and show the students the voyages undertaken by Zheng He and his fleet. Remind the students that the voyages then and now are different. You may want to discuss with the students the perils that the explorers may experience during that time.

### Lesson (20 min)

1. Tell the students that you are going to show them a video of Zheng He. Play the video of Zheng He's Voyage to the West episode 1. Then, discuss with the students how Zheng He got started on his voyage as seen in the video.
2. Tell the students that you have picked out a few sentences used by the characters in the video. Place the sheet of paper with the sentences on the visualizer projector.

**Example:**

- You can direct all your questions to Zheng He.
- Your ancestors depended on these two treasures to traverse the seas and trade with many other kingdoms.

Go through each sentence and elicit from the students the meaning of the underlined word based on the context of the video they have just seen.

3. Next, let the students read a short passage of one of the voyages by Zheng He. Place the sheet of paper about the passage on the visualizer projector. After reading, highlight some of the

words in the passage. Get the students to find out the meanings of the words that you have highlighted. Allow the students to explain how they derived the meanings of the words.

### **Additional Activities / Closure (15 min)**

1. Put the students in pairs. Provide each pair with an information text on Zheng He's life. Get the students to underline any words that they may not be familiar with. While the students are reading the text, draw a table with 4 columns on the whiteboard. Label the columns: Words, What I know, Clues in text, What I infer. After the students are done with their reading, ask them to tell you the words that they have underlined. Fill in the words that the students call out in the column 'Words'. After filling about 8 of the words, discuss with the class the other three columns. Always get the students to refer to the information text given to them before writing their responses on the whiteboard in the respective columns.
2. Tell the students to turn to [pages 134 – 136 of Learning English Workbook 5](#). Get the students to complete their work and hand it in to you. You may want to walk around the class to do a random check on the students' work.

### **Homework**

1. Ask the students to complete [pages 137 – 140](#) as homework. Read the passage together with the students. Explain to them any words or phrases that may be unfamiliar to them. Go through at least three questions with the students and elicit the answers from them. Get them to tell you where or how they derived the answers.
2. Students should either write their homework details in their student handbooks or fold the pages of their workbooks.

### **Optional Activity**

1. Get the students to work in groups and do research on one aspect of Zheng He. They can research on his childhood, the different voyages he took, the size of the ships he had, his influence in each of the countries he visited, etc. Let the students come up with powerpoint slides on their research and share them with their classmates.