

## GOING GLOBAL IN THE ESL CLASSROOM: SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

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Today's students must be well prepared to compete in the global society. Helping students become sophisticated leaders and savvy ambassadors who are ready and competent to engage in solving global issues is every teacher's job. This is a quick overview of how ESL teachers could add global awareness to their current content.

Going global in ESL teaching is the answer to the compelling demands of internationalizing education and preparing learners for a much more complex world. To meet the demands, ESL teachers should rethink the notion that the UK and the USA represent the target cultures to learn in the ESL classroom. In this respect, ESL professionals should design and/or select teaching materials about the multicultural world and global values to promote genuine cultural awareness and international understanding of the global society. There is something old and something new that teachers can use to go global.

One of the oldest and time proven ways of teaching global values is integrating Shakespeare into the ESL classroom. Teaching Shakespeare might be a tricky thing. The language is difficult for non-native speakers to understand. Besides, students usually have no interest in reading what they call ancient stuff. Some teachers may argue that this is a good reason not to introduce Shakespeare to ESL teaching.

However, there are a lot of reasons why teachers should bring Shakespeare into the ESL classroom. The most important reason is access to the great language. Knowledge is power. Language is a key to knowledge. Shakespeare's work, apart from brilliant, has provided an incredible context for speaking, thinking, and acting. To have access to the language, which Shakespeare had a great impact on, is an amazing experience and a privilege.

Moreover, the other important reason to use Shakespeare in teaching ESL is the universal appeal of his works. Shakespeare's themes still resonate in today's world. His works deal with love, devotion, loss, treachery, respect, honor, jealousy, obsession, despair, contempt, fear, anger, and many other feelings. He addressed big and serious questions such as questions of politics, faith, wealth, morality, life, and death. Analyzing Shakespeare's plays helps students understand the past more deeply and recognize such issues as injustice, inequality, and intolerance in the present. Shakespeare is a cultural phenomenon that is not exclusive to the modern era.

Even with all the educational objectives we already have, there are a lot of other opportunities to help students become globally aware and realize that they are a part of an interconnected world. Global awareness is about understanding some region's geography, resources, history, economy, culture, religion, and language in order to gain insight into various perspectives and ways of thinking global. The understanding that students are a part of a large community could ignite their curiosity to become more culturally sensitive and responsible citizens.

While trying anything new takes time for teachers, there is something simple to start with. For example, they can start with using new technology. Since students enjoy working with technology and prefer it to learning in a traditional way, using apps in the classroom is a great way to spice up students' learning and help them learn more about the world and global problems.

For example, National Geographic World Atlas application features statistics and facts about every country on Earth. It's a good source of information for projects or just simple world exploration.

Another application, Historypin, allows students to view and share historical photos from around the world and from different periods of time. This resource is good for projects, in-depth research, and classroom discussions.

With the Google Field Trip or Google Earth applications, students can use the map feature or search by area of interest to find great places to explore.

Using these apps, students can learn more about the setting of the novel they are reading at present or explore any geographical area. Using some of these apps will help ESL teachers add a new dimension to their teaching. It will also give students a shift from traditional classroom activities focusing on British and American cultures to activities focusing on global cultures.