

**"The Beach" : A Movie Lesson Plan**  
by Simon Howell <www.simonhowell.com>

**Topics / Themes in this lesson.**

Travel, Strange Food and New Experiences.

**Class Level & Timing.**

Pre-intermediate or higher.

The lesson usually takes about 2 x 90-minute class periods.

**Materials.**

A copy of the movie "The Beach". (Starring Leonardo DiCaprio).

1 copy of each worksheet per student.

- Worksheet 1 : "The Beach" : Watching The Movie
- Worksheet 2 : "The Beach" : Snake Blood & New Experiences
- Worksheet 3 : "The Beach" : Different Experiences

**Lesson Overview.**

Activity 1 : Travel Talk

Activity 2 : Describing the Movie to a partner.

Activity 3 : First Listening

Activity 4 : Listen & Fill in the Blanks.

Activity 5 : Speaking Questions.

Activity 6 : Snakeblood Sequence.

Activity 7 : Strange Food. "Gross & Yummy".

Activity 8 : Experiences Find Someone Who

**Activity 1 : Before watching the movie : Travel Talk**

Write the topic "**Travel**" on the blackboard. Divide students (Ss) into groups and give them a few minutes to make some questions related to the topic "Travel". Give some examples first. Possible example questions :

*Do you like traveling ? Why ? Why not ?*

*Have you ever been abroad ? Where did you go ?*

*Have you ever done a homestay ? Did you enjoy it ? Why ? Why not ?*

*Where have you been in Japan ? Which place did you like the best ?*

*Where is the best place you've ever been (in the world) ?*

*Why do you like it so much ?*

*If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why ?*

After the Ss have had some time to make their own questions, ask a student from each group to write some of their questions on the board. All Ss can then use any of the questions on the board to interview their partners / group members. Remind Ss to ask follow-up questions !

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As the movie is set in Thailand, you might want to find out if anyone has been to Thailand. You could ask them to share some of their experiences.

### **Activity 2 : Describing the Movie to a partner.**

Divide Ss into groups or pairs. Ask Ss to 'janken' or flip a coin to decide who is the "Teacher". **Ss who are not teachers must turn around and look at the back of the classroom. They may not watch the movie.**

"Teachers" may watch the movie and will later have to tell their partners as much as they can about what they have seen.

**This activity can be quite challenging depending on the level of your students.** To make it easier, you can divide Ss into bigger groups and increase the number of "Teachers". The "Teachers" can then help each other to explain the movie to the Ss who have not seen it. You could also skip this activity if you feel your Ss would not be able to handle it.

Switch the **SOUND OFF.**

Play the first part of the movie, from the beginning up to the point where Richard (Leonardo DiCaprio) finishes drinking snake blood.

Stop the movie, switch off the monitor and ask the teachers to tell their partners as much as they can about what they've seen. Monitor and be ready to help.

After finishing this activity, play the movie again with no sound so that everyone can see it.

Ask Ss to quickly ask each other "Does this movie look interesting ? Why ? Why not ?".

### **Activity 3 : First Listening**

\*\*\*\* Don't give the worksheet to the students yet \*\*\*\*

**SOUND ON.**

Play a very short section from the movie, just Richard's introduction speech - the same speech you'll see on the Listen and Fill in the blanks worksheet.

Ask the Ss to quickly note down any key words they hear.

They can choose their own key words - whatever they feel is important. Ss compare keywords with a partner. Play the movie sequence again to give Ss another chance to collect keywords.

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**Variations :** You could also set some listening questions.

Possible Questions :

*What is the man's name ?*

*What are 3 things that he is looking for ?*

*How long was he on the plane ?*

*Where is he now ?*

**Activity 4 : Listen & Fill in the Blanks.**

Give Ss a copy of Worksheet 1.

Ask Ss to listen and fill in the blanks. Remind them that some of their keywords may help them. Ss can work together to check their answers. You'll probably need to play the movie more than once.

Notes : Ss usually have trouble with the words "**dumb**" and "**plastic meals**". You'll need to explain the vocabulary.

**Option if you are using DVD.** Switch the English subtitles on.

Play the section of the movie again and Ss can check their answers from the subtitles. This is also an excellent chance to point out that Ss can use DVDs to help learn English from their favorite movies.

**Activity 5 : Speaking Questions.**

Ss do the speaking questions on Worksheet 1.

**Activity 6 : Snakeblood Sequence.**

Give Ss a copy of Worksheet 2. Play the rest of the movie sequence up to the point where Leonardo has finished drinking snake blood. Ss can follow part of the conversation on their worksheets if they wish.

Ss then do discussion questions on their worksheet.

You'll probably need to explain the expression "outstay your welcome".

**Activity 7 : Strange Food. "Gross & Yummy".**

Strange Food is usually a very interesting topic. Ask the Ss to write some of the strange foods they've eaten on the blackboard. It's also a good chance to introduce some of the "unique" foods from your own country. I'm Australian, so I usually talk about "Vegemite". You can also introduce vocabulary such as : "gross" and "yum" / "yummy".

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Ask Ss to ask each other :

"What is something gross you've eaten recently ?"

"What is something yummy you've eaten recently ?"

**Activity 8 : Experiences Find Someone Who**

Give Ss a copy of the "Experiences : Find Someone Who" Worksheet. Ask Ss to add 3 questions of their own into the last 3 boxes. Ss need to talk to as many different Ss as possible and should use follow up questions to get more information for each question.

## Worksheet 1 : "The Beach" : The Beginning...

### • Listening : Please Fill in the Blanks.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ . So what else do you need to know ?  
stuff about my family or where I'm from. None of that matters.  
Not once you \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, and cut yourself loose  
looking for something more \_\_\_\_\_, something more  
\_\_\_\_\_ and yes, I admit something more \_\_\_\_\_.  
So after \_\_\_\_\_ hours on the back of an airplane, three \_\_\_\_\_  
movies, two \_\_\_\_\_ meals, six \_\_\_\_\_ and absolutely  
no \_\_\_\_\_, I finally \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

### • Speaking Questions

Have you ever been on a plane ?  
If **yes**, where did you go ? Did you have a good flight ? Do you like flying?  
If **no**, Where would you like to fly to ? Why ?

How do you think De Caprio feels about flying ? Why do you think so ?

Which do you prefer, traveling by bus or traveling by train ? Why ?

Would you like to go somewhere dangerous ? Why ? Why not ?

Would you like to be a flight attendant or pilot ? Why ? Why not ?

Would you like to be a travel agent ? Why ? Why not ?

When you travel, what kind of places do you like to go to ? Why ?

Which do you prefer, traveling alone or traveling with a group ? Why ?

Would you like to go to Bangkok ? Why ? Why not ?

When was the last time you had absolutely no sleep ?  
Tell your partner about it.

## Worksheet 2 : "The Beach" : Snake Blood & New Experiences

### • From the Script...

Man            You wanna drink snake blood?  
Richard        Wait a minute. Did you say snake blood ?  
Man            Oh Yeah,  
Richard        No thanks  
Man            What is wrong with snake blood?  
Richard        I just don't like the idea  
Man            Maybe you're scared. Afraid of something new.  
Richard        I just don't like the idea.  
Man            Like every tourist. You want it all to be safe.  
                  Just like America.  
Richard        So never refuse an invitation (\*)  
                  Never resist the unfamiliar    (\*)  
                  Never fail to be polite         (\*)  
                  **Gentlemen, that was excellent**  
                  Never outstay your welcome (\*)

### • Speaking Questions.

Would you like to try snake blood ? Why ? Why not ?

Why do you think people drink snake blood ?

In the beginning, Richard didn't want to drink snake blood.  
Why do you think he changed his mind ?

Is he telling the truth when he says "**Gentlemen, that was excellent**" ?  
Why do you think so?

What's the strangest food you've ever eaten ? Talk about it.

What is the most delicious food you've ever eaten ? Talk About it.

What is the most dangerous thing you've ever done ? Talk about it.

What is something dangerous that you'd like to try ? Why ?

What are you afraid of ? Why ?

Have you ever outstayed your welcome ? Talk About it.

Richard gives you some travel advice, marked (\*) in the script above.  
Do you think this is good advice ? Why ? Why not ?

List 3 more items of travel advice.

### Worksheet 3 : "The Beach" : Different Experiences

• **Find Someone Who...**                      **Name**                      **More Information**

has been overseas recently		
has been to a lot of places in Japan		
would like to be a flight attendant		
is afraid of snakes		
has eaten a really strange food		
has done something dangerous		
has been to Thailand		
has done a homestay		
has overstayed their welcome		
has said "it's delicious" even though something tasted really bad		