Lesson 1: Explore London

UNIT: England Expeditions

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne.

Recently, my friend Brenda sent me this video that she had discovered. It shows this really cool web tool called Google Earth and how it can be used to see incredible places all around the world.

Wow! That's really incredible. With just a few clicks, you can explore ancient ruins like the Acropolis in Greece, fly over the tallest mountains like Mount Everest in Nepal, and visit the historic landmarks, like the Himeji Castle in Japan.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Using a tool like this, what's a place on earth that you'd like to explore?

HOOK 2

I don't know what you said, but there are so many incredible places to see—old castles, ancient monuments, and other incredible locations.

My friend, Brenda, has always loved watching videos about cool places, and she now uses this tool to help her create her own earth exploration videos, which she uploads to her channel—*Brenda's Virtual Expeditions.*

Whether it's a big city like New York or Paris, or a country like Monaco or Japan, Brenda has discovered that it's the script—the words she uses to tell the story—that seems to make her videos really connect with her viewers. For each video, she uses her script to narrate, or talk about, the places she explores, teaching viewers all about the different locations.

Here's a clip from one of Brenda's videos.

In this virtual expedition, we're headed to the largest city in the United States, New York City!

It's home to over 8 million people, and there are many famous landmarks to see like the Brooklyn Bridge... and the Empire State Building!

Brenda has decided to make her next video about two incredible places located in the country of England. She wants to explore the historic city of London, which is known for its world famous landmarks and big city energy, and the southern coastal area called Cornwall, famous for its rugged cliffs, pristine beaches, and old fishing villages.

Brenda's really excited to make this video. And for this one, she wants to try something new. She usually writes and records all her scripts by herself, but this time she wants the script to come from a new writer, like you.

Blending her creativity with a script coming from a fresh new writer will help make her video on England extra special. Brenda has already found some great sources all about London and Cornwall that you can use to research and take notes before writing your script.

Today, you'll start by watching and reading all about London and taking notes on any interesting facts, cool places to see, or fun things to do. And then later, you'll research and take more notes on Cornwall.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

For this new video on England, Brenda has collected some videos and infographics describing what makes London and Cornwall so unique.

Today, you'll be researching and taking notes about the city of London.

When Brenda creates a script about a location, she likes it to be full of interesting facts, cool places to see, or fun things to do.

Watch this video about London.

> London, England has amazing places to visit, each one special for different reasons.
>
> The Tower of London has stood next to the Thames River since 1078, more than 900 years. Built by William the Conqueror, it was England's strongest fortress, designed to protect and show power. Today, it holds the crown jewels, keeping them safe as an important symbol of the monarchy.
>
> The London Eye is one of the largest ferris wheels in the world. Each enclosed pod, or car, holds around 20 people and the full rotation takes about 30 minutes. Because it moves slowly, you have plenty of time to enjoy the stunning views of London's landmarks from the very top.
>
> Elizabeth Tower is its official name, but most people simply call it Big Ben. The deep gong sound comes from a massive bell inside that weighs as much as two

elephants. Even though the bell has a crack, it chimes every day, marking time for London in a way that has become iconic.

The London Zoo has something exciting for everyone. Gorillas have a specially designed habitat for them, while penguins waddle around and enjoy their meals during feeding time. In the reptile house, you find snakes and lizards, and there's even a walk through spider exhibit for the bravest visitors. One of the Zoo's biggest attractions is the tiger. If you're lucky, you might catch a close view of this majestic animal.

If you'd like to watch this video again, replay this step. Otherwise, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Get your London Notes worksheet. This is where you will write your notes. When taking notes, think about how you want to organize your notes as you write them. Some people like to create groups of notes, while others might simply create one long list. The way you organize your notes is totally up to you.

Think about how you want to organize your notes and then set up your page. When you're ready, move to the next step.

STEP 4

Find Source 1. This is a transcript of the video you watched about London.

As you read through the transcript, you might find words that are in bold. These words are featured below the transcript in the Glossary—this is where you can find certain words and their definitions.

Using your London Notes worksheet, read the transcript, and when you find something interesting—like a cool place to visit or an interesting fact or figure—use just a few words to make a note about it. Your teacher will tell you how long you have to take notes.

STEP 5

Nice! You've taken notes using Brenda's first Source on London.

Find Source 2—this is an infographic listing more great information and facts about the city of London. For now, let's just read it. You'll take notes on it later.

If you'd like to read the Source on your own, pause the video now or keep playing to hear me read the Source aloud.

1078 - Tower of London built.

1828 - London Zoo opened.

1859 - Big Ben completed.

2000 - First ride on the London Eye.

London Zoo:

- Home to 650 types of animals
- Harry Potter movie filmed in the reptile house
- Oldest scientific zoo in the world.

Tower of London:

- Ravens live at the Tower
- Over 20 different towers inside its walls.

London Eye:

- Height 135 meters (443 feet)

- Views up to 40 kilometers (25 miles)

Big Ben:

- Chimes every hour

- Over 1100+ rooms, 100 staircases, and 11 courtyards

- Has never stopped ticking - except for repairs

If you'd like to hear me read this Source out loud again, replay this step. Otherwise, move on to the next step.

STEP 6

When taking notes, you can always add new notes to the ones that you already have, or you can create a new section—it's completely up to you.

Read Source 2 again quietly to yourself. As you read, take notes on Source 2.

STEP 7

Review what you've written so far. Do you have lots of notes, specific facts, names, and numbers? Is each note specific enough to help you remember the important information?

If you want, reread the Sources again and add to your notes, or make changes to the notes that you already have.

STEP 8

The papers you've used so far are V.I.P.s—very important papers. Your teacher will tell you where to put them, so you'll have them for the next lesson.

WRAP UP

Fantastic job, writers! You researched the city of London using two different Sources and took detailed notes that will help you write a great video script.

Brenda's process for writing a new script is always the same. She takes notes, makes a plan, and then writes a first draft. After that, she edits or revises it to create a final script. Once the script is ready, she records it, adds all the videos, and makes her final video before sharing or uploading it to her video channel.

Since Brenda won't be writing the script for this video herself, this is your chance to showcase your writing skills. Right now, you're here in Brenda's script writing process, but soon, you'll take notes about Cornwall and then plan your writing by creating an outline.

I'll see you next time.