

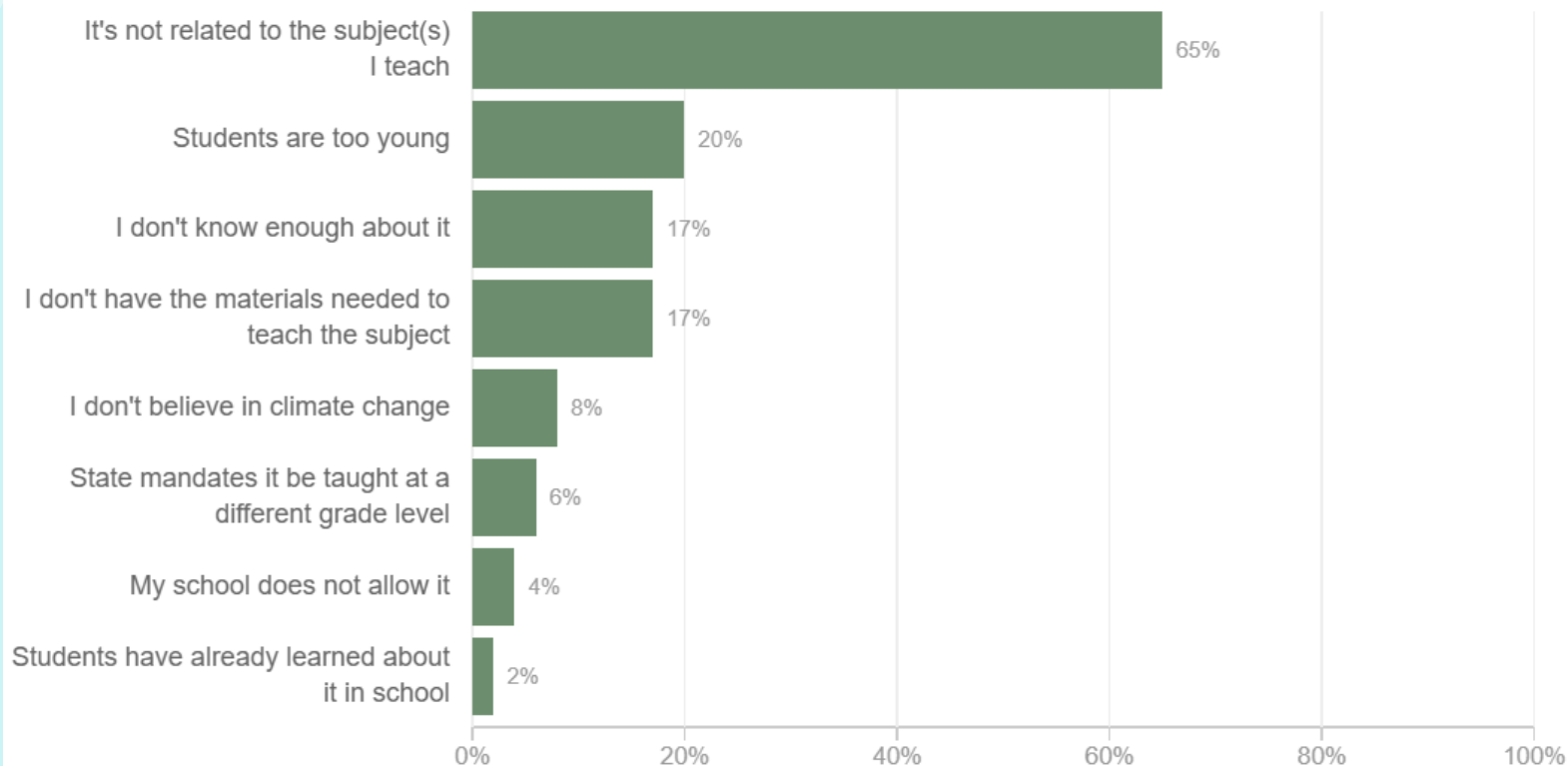


Social justice in the language classroom: Climate change

The need for climate change awareness

Umida Hikmatilla, EDD
2026

Reasons Teachers Don't Teach Climate Change



Source: NPR/Ipsos polls of 505 teachers conducted March 21-29. The credibility interval for the overall sample is 5 percentage points. This question was asked of the 55% of teachers who said that they do not teach climate change. Respondents could select up to three answers. "Other" and "Don't know" responses not shown. **2019**

[Link](#)

Sustainability in your classroom: Audience with diverse needs and goals

Audience needs:

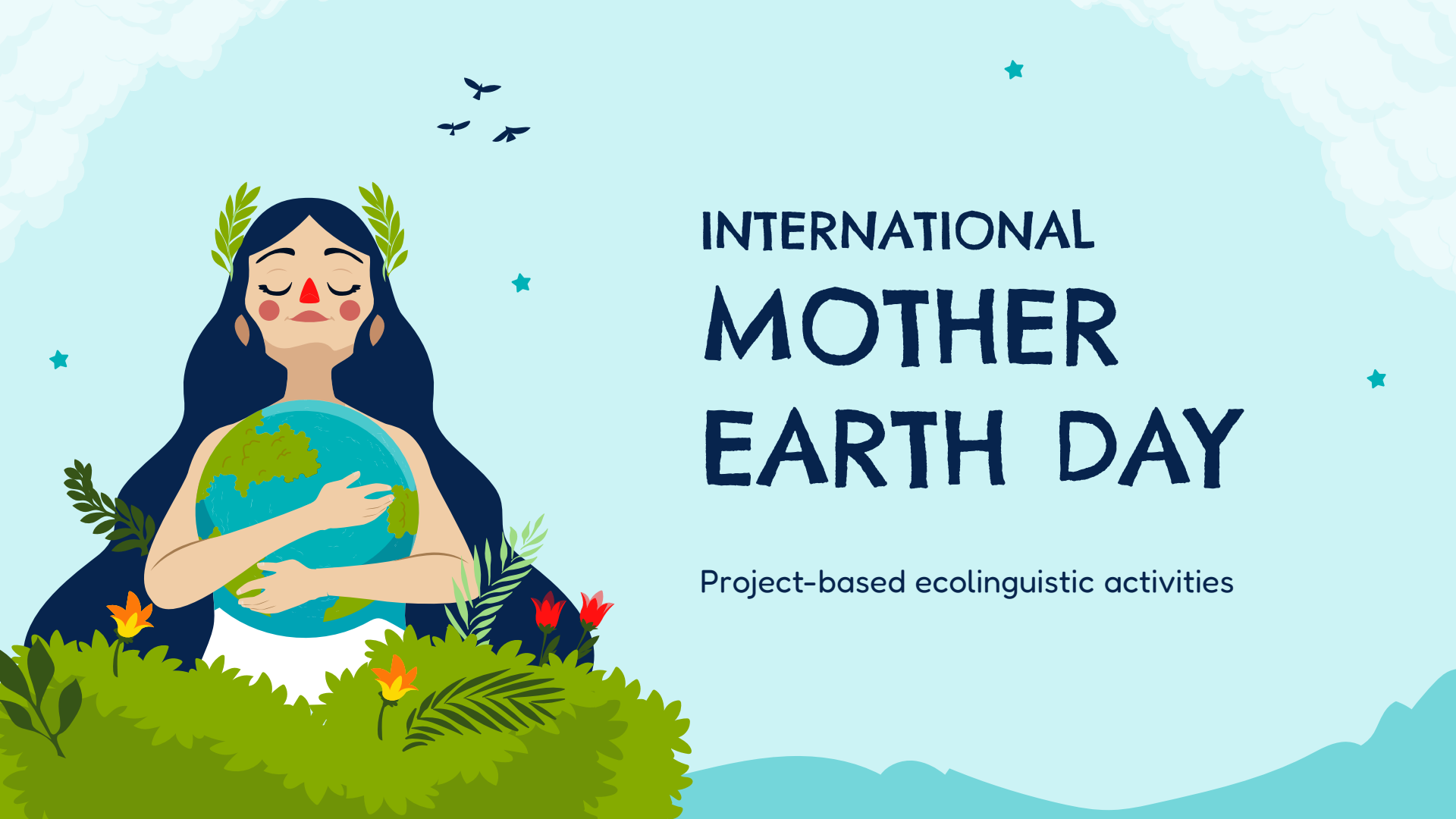
- Heritage language teachers
- K-12 teachers
- Higher Ed teachers

Differentiation

- All levels
- Different interests
- Different interests

Ways to teach climate change in almost any classroom





INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY

Project-based ecolinguistic activities



Our power, our planet

01

ARTWORK TIME

Make a wish for our planet and share it with the community.

03

(E)-BOOK PROJECT

Create a book as a team.
Share it with classmates or the world,

02

POETRY TIME

Write a poem about the animals, yourself, and/or nature.

04

GAMES AND STORYTELLING

Practice the language and read a story.

1. E-BOOK ABOUT OUR PLANET



Let's create a graphic novel together. It should be a short story about our planet. Depending on your level of language proficiency, you will create a short story. You select your genre and topic.





HOPES FOR OUR PLANET (5 min) ★

Write a powerful message to show your
love for our planet.



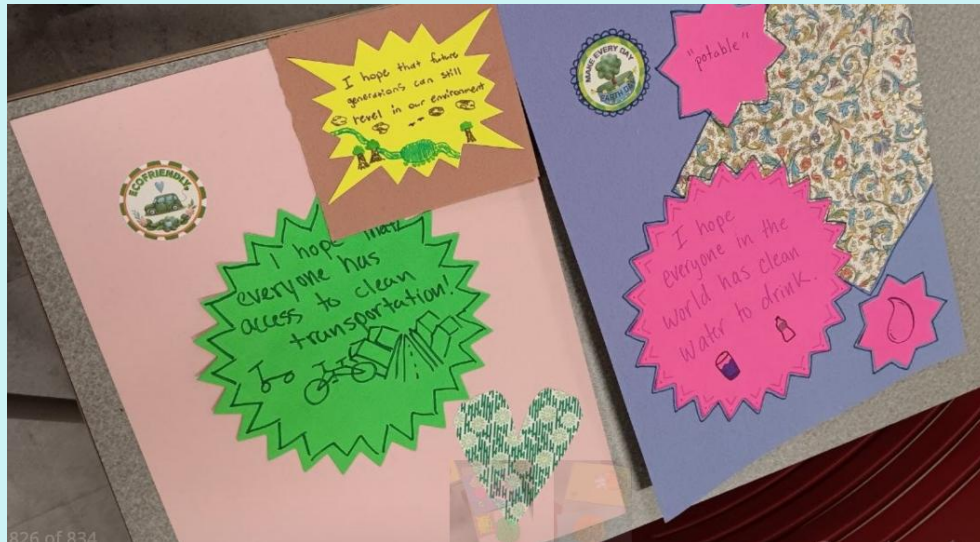
Why artwork?

- Makes complex climate ideas visual and emotional.
- Encourages participation and creative expression.
- Builds vocabulary, communication skills, and cultural connections.
- Promotes community awareness and sustainability habits.

Source:

[Britishcouncil.org](https://www.britishcouncil.org)

[Teachingenglish.org.uk](https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk)



**LET'S IMAGINE:
★ AWESOME WORDS AND
FEELINGS (1 min)**



Umid

HOPE

Hayot

LIFE

Suv

WATER

Dengiz

SEA

Awesome words



Proverbs and aphorisms (5 min)

Share proverbs or short, memorable wisdom words from your country that show love for our planet.



ECO Project examples: My favorite words/ proverbs about nature
Book pages, posters, proverbs, facts, questions, such as do you know this?
Display artwork in a "Climate Corner."



“

Adopt the pace of
nature. Her secret
is patience.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Southern Living



Biopoems Ecopoems (5 min)

Create a short, memorable poems.



SIX DIFFERENT IDEAS

SEASONS/TREES

Winter,
Frosty, long,
Freezes, snows, blows,
Cold, lonely, delightful, lovely.

AS I AM

Harold,
Smart, neat,
Plays, works, fights.
No-good-for-nothing, mean,
good.

AS I WISH

Darya,
Works hard,
Happy, intelligent, exciting.
Good, mad, happy, wonderful.

I AM A (BIRD/ANIMAL)

I am an eagle,
I like to fly high,
High over the tree, right through
the sky,
I live in the tree and hunt all day.

HAIKU 5-7-5

Good morning, sparrow,
Writing on my clean veranda,
With your dewy feet - Shiki.

LOVE IS GREEN (Colors)

It smells like incense,
It tastes like coffee,
It sounds like water,
It feels like sunshine...



Thomas J. Rillo (2020). Extending language arts
through outdoor and environmental education.

BIOPOEMS



Line 1: Your first name only

Line 2: Your traits that describe you

★ Line 3: Friend of... (X)

Line 4: Lover of... (3 animals or plants)

Line 5: Who feels... (3 items)

Line 6: Who needs... (3 items)

Line 7: Who gives... (3 items)

Line 8: Who fears... (3 items)

Line 9: Who would like to see (3 items)

Line 10: Resident of ... (your city, your road name)

Line 11: Your last name only.



Thomas J. Rillo (2020). Extending language arts through outdoor and environmental education.



EKOPOEMS

Write a class poem on “Our Earth...” or

Write a class poem on “My Green Dream.”

Use rhymes or acrostic poems
(E-A-R-T-H).



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Game design time

Formative assessment: Reading, Listening, and
Speaking

Earth Day

NUMBERS/DATES	GAYLORD	ACTIONS	RANDOM	VOCABULARY	SILENT SPRING
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500



+

\$0

-

BROCCOLI

✓

✗



+

\$0

-

WATERMELON

✓

✗



+

\$0

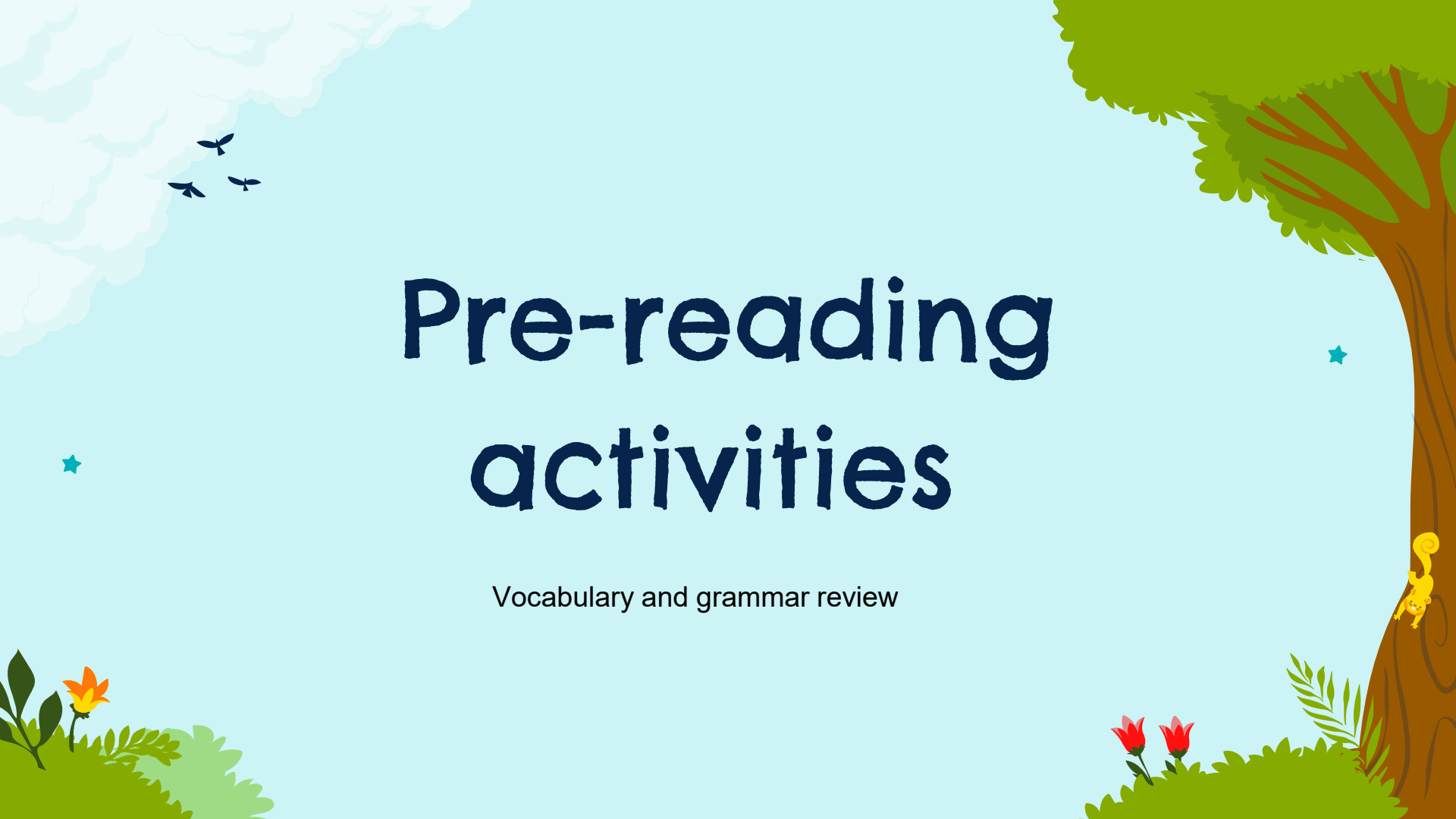
-

PINEAPPLE

✓

✗



The background is a light blue sky. In the top left, there are white, fluffy clouds. Three small black birds are flying in a V-shape. A small blue star is on the left. On the right, a large green tree with a brown trunk is partially visible. A small blue star is near the tree. At the bottom left, there is a green bush with a yellow flower. At the bottom right, there is a green bush with red flowers. A small yellow squirrel is climbing the tree trunk.

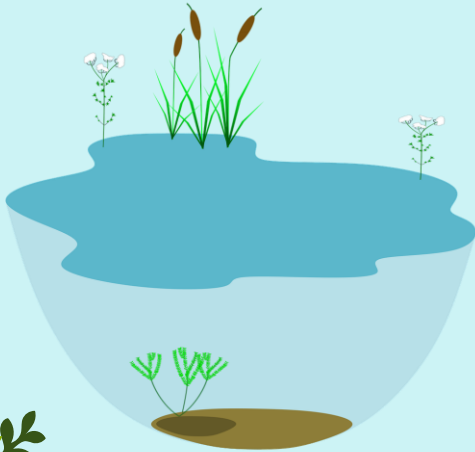
Pre-reading activities

Vocabulary and grammar review

THREE SIMPLE SENTENCES



BU SUV.
This is water.



BU QUM.
This is sand.



BU BALIQ.
This is a fish.

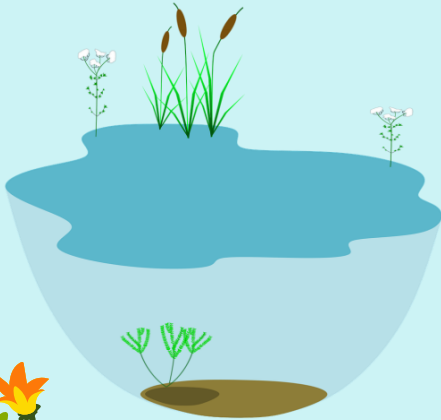


THREE SIMPLE “YES” SENTENCES



HA - yes

BU SUVmi?
Is this water?



BU QUMmi?
Is this sand?



BU BALIQmi?
Is this a fish?

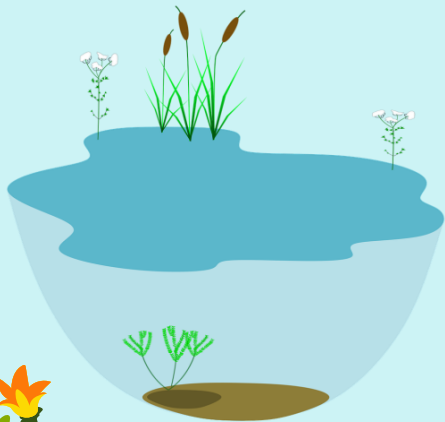


Ha, bu

SIMPLE “NO, it is not” SENTENCES

Yo'q-no ...emas – is not

BU SUVmi?
Is this water?



BU QUMmi?
Is this sand?



BU BALIQmi?
Is this a fish?

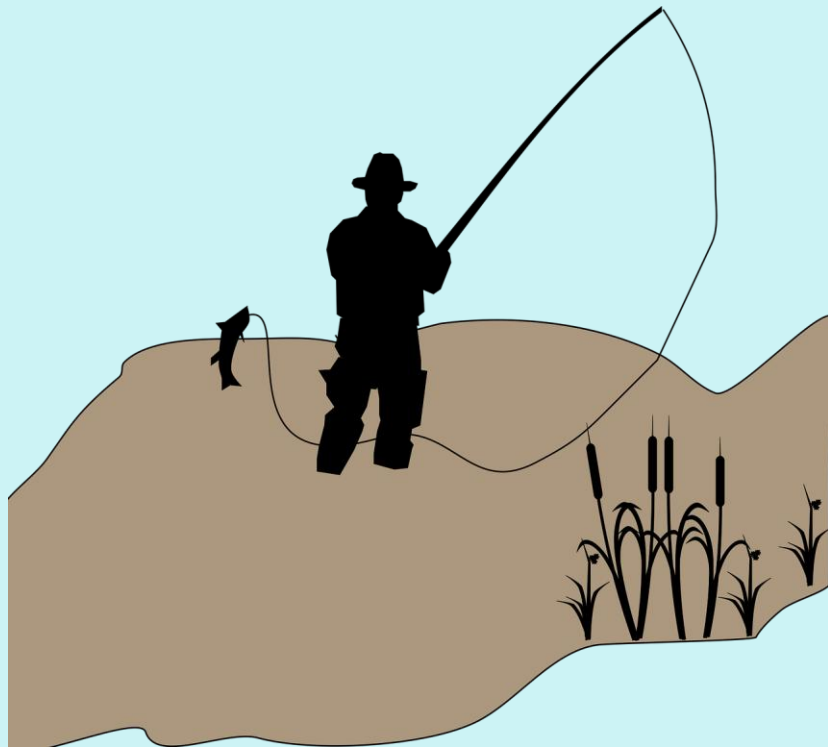


Yo'q, bu qum emas, bu **kema**. No, this is not sand, this is a ship

The background is a light blue sky. In the top left, there are white, fluffy clouds. Three small black birds are flying in a V-formation. A small teal star is on the left. In the top right, there is a large green tree with a brown trunk. A small teal star is near the tree. A yellow squirrel is climbing the tree trunk. In the bottom left, there is a green bush with a yellow flower. In the bottom right, there is a green bush with two red flowers.

Speaking activities

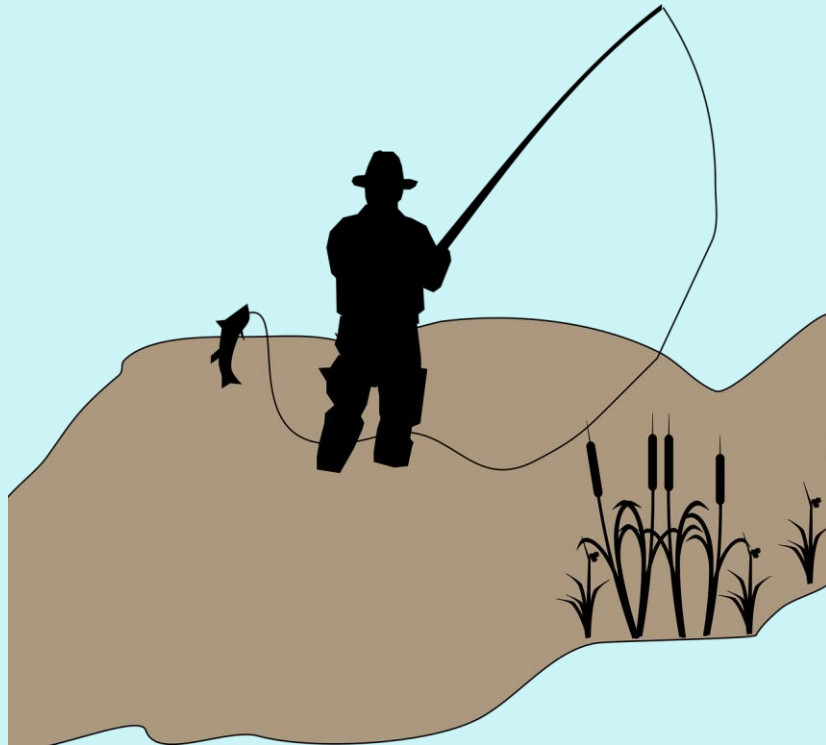
Bu Alisher. This is Alisher.
Alisher baliqchi. Alisher is a fisherman.



Bu-this
Baliqchi – fisherman

Bu Alisher**mi**?
HA- yes
Ha, bu Alisher.

Bu Alisher. This is Alisher.
Alisher baliqchi. Alisher is a fisherman.



Bu-this
Baliqchi – fisherman

Bu Johnmi?
YO'Q –no
Emas- is not
Yo'q, bu John emas.
Bu Alisher.

Bu Orol dengizi. This is the Aral Sea.



Orol-Aral
Dengiz-sea

Bu Orol dengizimi?
Ha, bu Orol dengizi.

Bu qummi?
Ha, bu qum.



Bu Orol dengizi. This is the Aral Sea.



Orol-Aral

Dengiz-sea

Orol dengizida- in Aral Sea

Orol dengizida qum bor.

Orol dengizida suv yo'q.

Orol dengizida baliq yo'q.

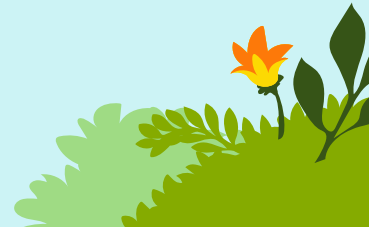


Bu Orol dengizi. This is the Aral Sea.



Orol-Aral
Dengiz-sea
Kema - ship
Orol dengizida- in Aral Sea

Orol dengizida kema bor.
Orol dengizida kema bormi?
Ha, Orol dengizida kema bor.





Reading activities

The last fisherman of the Aral Sea

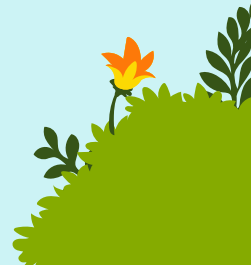
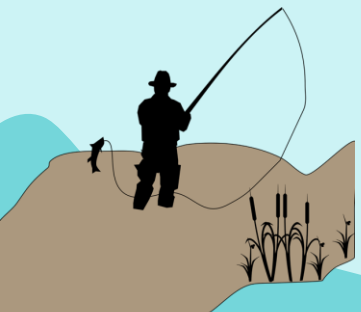
Bu Alisher. Alisher baliqchi.

Lekin Orol dengizida suv
yoʻq. Alisher baliqchi, lekin
dengizda baliq yoʻq, **faqat**
qum bor.

Alisher **oxirgi** baliqchi.

This is Alisher. Alisher is a
fisherman. **But** there's no water in
the Aral Sea. Alisher is a fisherman,
but there are no fish in the sea, **only**
sand.

Alisher is **the last** fisherman.



TWO OPPOSITE SENTENCES

Orol dengizida - in the Aral Sea

BOR - there is

Orol dengizida qum bor.
Orol dengizida kema bor.

Orol dengizida kema bormi?



Ha, Orol dengizida kema bor.

HA- yes



YO'Q - there is not

Orol dengizida suv yo'q.
Orol dengizida baliq yo'q.

Orol dengizida suv bormi?

Yo'q, Orol dengizida suv yo'q.

YO'Q -no





Post-reading activities

Vocabulary and grammar expansion

METAPHORS FOR IMPACT

A metaphor is a figure of speech that directly compares two unrelated things by stating one thing is the other, rather than using "like" or "as".

Formula	Target	Source
N+N	Tabiat (nature)	ona (mother)
N+N	Ona yer (Mother Earth)	hammamizing uyimiz (our home)
N+N	Toza suv (clean water)	suyuq olmos (liquid diamond)
N+N	Yashil o'rmon (green wood)	tabiat o'pkasi (lungs of nature)
N+N	Suv (water)	hayot manbai (source of life)

The last fisherman of the Aral Sea

Bu Alisher. Alisher baliqchi.

Lekin Orol dengizida suv yo'q. Alisher baliqchi, lekin dengizda baliq yo'q, **faqat** qum bor.

Alisher **oxirgi** baliqchi.

Alisher **tajribali** baliqchi.

Alisher **ekologik inqiroz** guvohi.

This is Alisher. Alisher is a fisherman. **But** there's no water in the Aral Sea. Alisher is a fisherman, but there are no fish in the sea, **only** sand.

Alisher is **the last** fisherman.

Alisher is an **experienced** fisherman. Alisher is **a witness to the ecological crisis**.



THANKS!

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

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