



# TESOL and Population Education

Content-focused lessons from Population Education provide an excellent opportunity for ESOL students to explore English language concepts and vocabulary that will occur in their science and social studies classrooms and beyond.

## Population Education lesson plans offer TESOL educators:

- Combination of visual, kinesthetic, and auditory learning tools to help students explore new vocabulary without relying on rote memorization.
- Scaled methods that are suitable for a variety of ages and levels of English proficiency, and make the lessons teacher-friendly.
- Hands-on activities that allow students to practice their productive language skills in environments that focus on communication and collaboration.
- Activities can be entirely student-driven or paired with more extensive teacher guidance, depending on the needs of a class.

## Activities Relate to Students' Lives

Perhaps most critically, Population Education lessons provide ESOL learners an opportunity to work with concepts that will be relevant to them for the rest of their lives. Students equipped with the language of environmental education have the tools to advocate for themselves and their communities in ways that have profound effects on our world. Through Population Education lessons, ESOL learners not only practice vital language skills, but integrate ideas that have real relevance to their lives.

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Earth: The Apple of Our Eye

## Sample TESOL Lessons

### More or Less

- Students create a word web starting with the concept of “more people.” The printable lesson plan contains a set of cards with nouns representing both concrete and abstract concepts, like “birds” or “friendships,” along with cards that say “more” or “less.” Students pick one noun card and one “more” or “less” card to add to the word web until the class has created a map of concepts that relate to more people on Earth. Noun cards have accompanying pictures to help students learn vocabulary.

### What's Up in the Air?

- Students use a case study to learn about air pollution with a guided listening activity and worksheets to practice writing skills. First, students view images of a historical air pollution event in the United States and work in pairs to write descriptions of what they see in the images. The teacher then reads out loud an adapted story about that air pollution event to further explore the causes and health consequences of air pollution. Finally, students review images of air pollution around the world and individually write sentences describing what they see.

### Earth: The Apple of Our Eye

- Students explore geography vocabulary by examining how much land on Earth is used for agriculture. An apple serves as a model of the Earth. The apple is cut into pieces proportionate to what covers different parts of the Earth's surface until they reach the fraction of the Earth used for agriculture. Students follow along with the teacher's description of the model while listening for vocabulary words to fill in on a worksheet, and then use an adapted reading to consider soil health.

*“These lessons are hands-on and practical, making them directly applicable to the classroom.”*

*- Teacher at the WA State TESOL conference*